

2023 Tools for Ministry

Workshops Brochure

NORTH DISTRICT

Saturday, March 11th

9 AM - 12 PM

Asbury UMC

1533 Springhouse Rd.
Allentown, PA 18104

BOTH SESSIONS

The following courses can be selected for either Session A or Session B, and will present the same content for both sessions.

1. Team Ministry: An Alternative to Church Committees

Our United Methodist Discipline prescribes a century old local church administrative framework built on a series of committees. Did you know there are alternatives to this structure? Today it seems harder and harder to fill the seats of our Staff-Parish, Lay Leadership, Missions, Worship and other working committees; yet we set out each year on an expedition within the church to find the bodies to fill these required positions. What if there was a structure that allowed the passion for ministry in your church to rise above this antiquated system and flourish? Welcome to Team Ministry. In this workshop, we will explore a Discipline approved alternative to the committee system that frees the local church to find meaning, instead of meetings.

Presenter: Rev. Tom Ebersole, a lead pastor at West Lawn UMC (South District), Chair of Order of Elders.

2. Effective Children's and Family Ministries in a Post Pandemic World

Join us as we unpack, process, and re-vision children's ministries. This two part workshop is geared towards equipping clergy, educators, children's ministers, and youth ministers. Topics covered will include:

- the latest research in children's, youth, and family ministries.
- the latest resources for use in these ministries.
- creative ways to be in effective ministry in a time such as this.
- ways to re-vision your existing ministries to be able to nurture and grow children, youth, and families.
- creative and cost-effective ways to best support your children, youth, and family ministries.
- how to make sure you are following best practices in Safe Sanctuaries.
- contacts with your colleagues in children, family, and youth ministries.

Presenter: Elizabeth Christie has worked in children's and family ministries for over two decades. She is currently serving as the director of educational ministries at Fritz UMC in Bethlehem, as well as a children's and family consultant with Practical Resources for Churches, helping with their CultivateFaith initiative. **Additional presenters: Rev. Eva Johnson**, pastor of faith formation Grove UMC; **Rev. Diana Esposito**, pastor of children, youth, and community engagement Covenant UMC; **Sally Doyle**, director of children's ministries Phoenixville UMC, Pastor Ally Rausch, pastor of children and families Hopewell UMC; and **LeeAnn McCullough**, director of children and families Cedarville UMC.

3. United Methodism 101

A brief introduction to the history, polity and doctrine of the United Methodist Church. Participants will learn the origins of the Methodist movement and highlights in the development of modern United Methodism. They will learn key distinctives of Methodist doctrine and theology, including the shape of theological diversity across contemporary United Methodism. Participants will also learn the basic political structure of the church, with an introduction to the Book of Discipline and the ordering of the UM denomination from the local church to the Global General Conference, with an overview of the contemporary setting. Participants should come prepared with any specific questions they would like answered in the session.

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Christopher Fisher, an ordained elder serving at Schuylkill Haven: First UMC since 2005. He was the Director of United Methodist Studies at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown from 2008-2018, where he taught UM History, Doctrine, and



Polity. He has also served as an adjunct professor of Christian doctrine at Asbury Theological Seminary and as adjunct professor of United Methodist Studies at United Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Human Significance in Theology and the Natural Sciences* (Wipf & Stock: 2010), along with various scholarly articles on the dialogue between science and faith, apologetics, church politics, and Christian theology.

4. Jesus Loves the Little Churches

In a world where bigger is better, does smaller mean lesser? And how do we sustain passion for ministry when our church isn't keeping up with the mega-church Joneses? How can we possibly discern a small-church future in a post-Covid world where nothing seems to be working? There aren't any easy answers to those questions, but perhaps we can learn together how to do small things with great joy. **Presenter: Rev. Helen Adams**, Senior Pastor, Mount Joy: St. Mark's UMC (West District).

5. A Time To Be Born And A Time To Die

The mission of the UMC is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We place a huge emphasis on bringing people to Christ, focusing on the hope and promise of the eternal life that awaits us in God's presence. But why do we often neglect the transition from this life to the next? This workshop will help us look at preparing people for their passing, as well as how to help people cope with the loss of their loved ones.

Presenter: Rev. Zachary Hopple is currently serving in his third year as the senior pastor at Lansdale: Christ UMC. Prior to his current appointment, he served for 10 years in the Shamokin Area. During his time in Shamokin, Zach served as a hospice chaplain for a private company for 3 years, and currently serves on the company's executive board.

SESSION 1

The following courses are available only during Session 1.

6. Introduction to the Work of the PPRC/SPRC

The workshop will review the Disciplinary requirements for the PPRC/SPRC and explore the tasks of the committee. Information shared will include an annual plan for the committee's work and activities to complete with a new pastor. New committee members will receive a thorough overview of the committee's work and continuing members may benefit from a review of the committee's role and responsibilities.

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum is a retired elder in the annual conference. She served as the District Superintendent of the Northeast District. After retirement, Rev. Yocum began working at Palmer Seminary as the advisor for United Methodist students and teaching courses on Worship and on United Methodist Polity. In her "first career", she served as a Human Resources Director for a division of CBS, Inc., and drew on that experience in her work as a DS.

7. Sexual Misconduct in the Church

When the Worst Happens, What Do We Do? It does happen. We hear the news stories. Maybe it has happened to you or someone you know. Your congregation doesn't have to go through it alone. Come learn what to do and how we in the EPAUMC are prepared to respond. **Presenter: EPAUMC I-Care Team.**

8. Technology and the Church

What tools do you use to share the message of Christ? This session will focus on communication and technology that can be used to spread the word. We will go over why you should share sermons, electronic newsletters, and I will introduce resources the UMC has available for your use. **Presenter: Sue Kiefner**, CLM, Lay Pastor, Salem UMC, Springtown.

9. Effectively Funding Your Ministries

This workshop will focus on gaining understanding of today's givers, three avenues of giving (annual campaigns, capital campaigns and legacy giving), and effectively communicating giving needs and opportunities with congregants. **Presenter: Rev. Kofi Ashley**, Pastor of East Stroudsburg UMC and Financial Leadership Academy graduate.

10. Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW): What is it and what does it do?

This session will have information about what our committee does, a video from the General Commission, a question and answer session, and some handouts regarding some of the things that the committee works with and for. For instance, there is a "Me Too" hand-out which is all about identifying, understanding, and responding to sexual misconduct.

Presenter: Rev. Deb Coulbourn, a pastor of the UMC and the Chair of COSROW for the Eastern PA Conference. Pat Wilson, a North District lay Leader and a member of the Executive Committee of COSROW for the Eastern PA Conference.

SESSION 2

The following courses are available only during Session 2.

11. Evaluation and Conflict Resolution for the PPRC/SPRC

This workshop will focus on evaluation of the pastor(s), setting goals for the pastor and the committee, and ways to deal with conflict. It will be interactive, with hands on exercises to better understand evaluation and goal setting. This workshop is appropriate for both long-time committee members and new members.

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum is a retired elder in the annual conference. She served as the District Superintendent of the Northeast District. After retirement, Rev. Yocum began working at Palmer Seminary as the advisor for United Methodist students and teaching courses on Worship and on United Methodist Polity. In her "first career", she served as a Human Resources Director for a division of CBS, Inc., and drew on that experience in her work as a DS.

12. The Ministry of Being a Local Church Trustee

In this session we will look at the Role of the Local Church Trustee both according to the "Book of Discipline" as well as according to the "Good Book" – the Bible. Reference also "Guidelines" Trustees, Managing the resources of the congregation. This session will cover the Basic Responsibilities of the Local Church Trustee, handbooks that are available, some of the paperwork involved, and working with both local church leadership and Conference requirements. We'll also discuss "building space utilization", as well as discuss some "best practices" for Local Church Trustees. This may include church buildings, social halls, parsonages, and cemeteries if you have. If you are a new Trustee, this workshop is for you. Persons who are "on going" Trustees can attend for a refresher and to share their wisdom, knowledge, and their best practices with the group. There will be a question-and-answer session afterward.

Presenter: Rev. Julian Milewski, a pastor at Ringtown Aurant Memorial UMC, a former Building Services Manager, Retired 2021 (40 years), CSM, a chair of North District Church and Location Committee, and a member of Conference Trustee Board.

13. Best uses for Social Media and Website, and why it's important to maintain them

When people search for a church, they go to two places, Google and Facebook. Learn the best information to have on both and why it's important to keep things up-to-date. If we have time, we will discuss resources for free images to use in your church messaging.

Presenter: Sue Kiefner, CLM, Lay Pastor, Salem UMC, Springtown.

14. Encountering God: Reclaiming a contemplative approach to ministry

Burnout and stress is epidemic among pastors and church leaders during these unprecedented challenging times. Even the most experienced and knowledgeable leaders can fall victim if trying to bear the burden under one's own strength and background.

Having a deep, intentional, growing personal relationship and encounter with God is the best way to combat burnout and stress. Ministry that grows organically out of our deeply intimate relationship with God will be the most healthy, fulfilling, and ultimately successful work for the Kingdom of God.

This workshop seeks to plant the seeds using a contemplative approach by briefly exploring: • Roots of Contemplative Christianity • Scriptural basis • Several Spiritual Disciplines: Centering Prayer, Lectio Devina, Guided Meditation • What is Spiritual Direction and what it is not • Challenge to join/launch Group Spiritual Direction for pastors and ministry leaders.

Presenter: Rev. John Vidal, pastor of First UMC of Wind Gap, Currently enrolled in certificate program for Ministry of Spiritual Direction.

15. Creating the Land Acknowledgement and Why It Matters

In this session participants will explore and begin to think about writing a land acknowledgement for their local Church. Discussion will center around how we are All Living on Unceded Land and as Christians what can we do to acknowledge this?

Presenters: Members of EPA CoNAM who are passionate about this issue and have knowledge and resources to share.