

INSIDE OUT: SHARING GIFTS WORKSHOPS

Round One: Inside Workshops

focused on the church, the issues and challenges of congregations

Workshop A: Creating Community in Your Congregation

Presenters: Robert Buckner, Rev. Patrick Daymond

Explore ways to create community through uncovering culture and reclaiming lost value from the pews. We will focus on the foundational life of the congregation, while giving practical tools and strategies for bringing clarity to the mission and vision of the church. By creating community, you will create an environment where the church can resemble the best of the Acts 2 church, finding a place to be together and have things in common that can extend to the surrounding community.

Robert Buckner has served the youth, young adults, singles and pastoral care ministries at a number of incredible ministries including Covenant United Church of Christ. Rev. Dr. Patrick Daymond serves as Pastor of Covenant UCC in South Holland under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr. He previously served as Pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Roosevelt, New York.

Workshop B: Ministering to Wisdom Folk Presenters: Dr. Sammie Dortch, Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers

Share in discussion about transformation in an increasingly off kilter society. Workshop was developed out of Off the Pews: Faith In Action, launched in 2014 by the CMA, where faith and secular communities with compatible missions collaborated to reduce violence and resulting trauma. As a justice seeking faith community, we believe the existence of systemic challenges in broader community, e.g. racism, poverty, under-treated mental and physical health, are at the core of violence. Although the ministry is intergenerational, "Wisdom People" are central to any success in this call to action. Needless to say, we do not believe that age and wisdom are mutually exclusive. An examined life with the willingness to make changes from learned experience is necessary for the development of wisdom.

Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers is Associate Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference. Dr. Sammie Dortch is the retired chair of a five-discipline department where she also taught Social Work. Her consultancy work involves organizational development and curricula design.

Workshop C: Extravagant Welcome Is Just for Some. Creating Extraordinary Communities of Welcome

Presenter: Rev. Justo González

The church always says, "Everyone is welcome." But does our welcome reflect our spoken and written words? We say we want EVERYONE yet the reality is we often seek those that look like us, act like us, submit to our "authority" and really don't mean welcome to "those people." What people?

Rev. Justo González is Interim Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ.

Workshop D: UCC Everywhere Web Technology

Presenter: Christopher Gabriel

UCC Everywhere is a web development initiative being piloted by the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communications (OPTIC) in response to the technical needs of local churches. More than a website, UCC Everywhere gathers information from publishing channels to add consistent and fresh content to your website. UCC Everywhere websites come equipped with Online Giving, clear

Call-to-Actions, prominent display of address, worship times and services as well as built-in search engines for positioning your church in front of faith seekers within your locality.

Christopher Gabriel is the Web & Digital Strategist at the UCC National setting. He worked for Google and Apple on applications and website projects and with advertisement funds managed through Google Adwords and various media purchase providers with the goal of increasing revenue and retention.

Workshop E: Evangelism for 2019 & Beyond

Presenters: Pastor Jamie Frazier and Lighthouse Church of Chicago UCC members and leaders

Participants will learn five concrete ways to attract first-time visitors and grow church membership through: 1) monthly creative sermon series, 2) eye-catching print media, 3) an effective website, 4) out-of-the-box music offerings, and 5) social justice activism.

Pastor Jamie Frazier founded and pastors Lighthouse Church, a five year old UCC Northside church start that has recently launched a second site on the Southside. The heart of the church's mission is clearly expressed in its motto: "Passionate about Jesus. Serious about justice." It is a predominately Black LGBTQ-inclusive church that welcomes all people! Learn more at www.lighthousechicago.org.

Round Two: Outside Workshops

focused on the world and how church engages social justice issues

Workshop F: Setting Captives Free: Use of End Money Bond Presenter: Dr. Christophe Ringer

Workshop presents the use of end money bond as a matter of economic injustice that our faith calls us to change. Participants will engage the way in which the practice of money disproportionately affects the least economically advantaged in black and brown communities. Participants will also develop their own voice in articulating their faith as it related to this violation of human rights.

Christopher Ringer is Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics and Society at Chicago Theological Seminary. He serves on the boards of A Just Harvest and Community Renewal Society.

Workshop G: Church as Agent of Change – Intro to Community Organizing

Presenters: Rev. Jason Coulter, Rev. Samuel Paul

Our churches are not ivory towers. They exist in communities that are challenged and need good schools, quality jobs, safe streets, access to health care and clean air and water. Learn how your congregation can get involved in community organizing and become an agent of change. Workshop provides an introduction to the tools and tactics of community organizing and helps you connect to organizations doing the on-the-ground work in the Chicagoland area.

Trained as a union organizer, Rev. Jason Coulter is pastor of Ravenswood UCC and active with Community Renewal Society and Arise Chicago. Rev. Samuel Paul is Associate Pastor of Greater Pleasant Green MB Church in Morgan Park and serves on the Community Renewal Society Board.

Workshop H: Co-Sponsoring Refugee Families with RefugeeOne Presenter: Kim Snoddy

Since 1982, RefugeeOne has welcome refugees from every major world crisis in history including Cambodia, Rwanda, Servia, Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Syria. Learn how the United States resettlement

program works and what challenges it faces due to current administration policies. Find out ways your congregation can help RefugeeOne welcome newly arrived refugees and the efforts you can take to ensure the United States resettlement program remains strong.

Kim Snoddy helps refugees build new lives of safety, dignity, and self-reliance in the Chicagoland area. She serves as Manager of Co-Sponsorships and Housing at RefugeeOne, helping to secure housing for refugee families. She forms partnerships between RefugeeOne and other interested communities.

Workshop I: Mental Health and the Church

Presenter: Rev. Catherine Watkins

This workshop will be an introduction to common mental health needs of our churches, ways to support congregations and our communities, as well as provide additional resources for continued learning and referrals.

Rev. Catherine Watkins is an ordained minister in the UCC and works as a therapist at SamaraCare Counseling on the North Shore.

Workshop J: Combating Racism in Boystown and Beyond: Lighthouse Foundation

Presenters: Pastor Jamie Frazier, Lighthouse Church of Chicago and Lighthouse Foundation members and friends.

Come learn how your church can deepen your LGBT welcome by partnering with a new organization that is supported by the CMA, Lighthouse Foundation (LF). LF advances justice for Black LGBTQ+ people across Chicagoland through empowerment, education and entertainment. Allies of Black LGBTQ+ folks can participate by joining LF's direct action/organizing arm, CARE – The Coalition of Allies for Racial Equality. CARE is open to individuals, faith communities and other nonprofits. Workshop participants will learn about the racism Black LGBTQ+ people face through Chicagoland, as well as CARE, its work, how to join, the responsibilities as well as benefits of membership.