

# 2023 Annual Celebration Workshops

## BLOCK A - Friday, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

### 1 Mental Health Ministry 101: Becoming WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for Mental Health

*Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund*

Join the movement for mental health justice and learn about the UCC's covenant program WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. Learn about resources for creating ministries to help end the stigma and shame of mental health challenges in the faith community.

### 2 The Bias's Amongst Us

*Presenters: The Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton, The Rev. Dr. Terrill N. Murff*

The dismantling of racism begins with a series of conversations that is enveloped in a sacred space. This sacred space curates deep listening, honest reflection, and a willingness to share your experiences "with" and "of" other cultures. These shared experiences are nurtured in a loving and God-filled environment. In this workshop we will begin the challenging work of understanding: micro-aggressions, unconscious bias, blind spots, identity, and code switching. Cultural competency and sensitivity can serve to create a more inviting and inclusive culture.

### 3 The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ

*Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk*

The United Church of Christ has recognized a "Fifth Stream" to be included within the foundational streams of its formation. The Afro-Christian Convention was a foundational stream from the very beginning and that had been ignored until now. Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk will discuss the historical foundations of the Afro-Christian Convention which led to the United Church of Christ Historical Council acknowledging and affirming the Afro-Christian convention as the Fifth Stream of the UCC's historical legacy.

### 4 Stronger Together as the Wider Church

*Presenters: Larry McCure and Kay Quinney-Burnard*

Join us to learn how OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) dollars are put to use in the local church, the associations, the Conference, and the world. Discover the ways your church's contributions help to strengthen the church. Your support will show others Jesus's love, justice, compassion, peace, and forgiveness.

# 2023 Annual Celebration Workshops

**BLOCK B - Friday, 2:30 - 3:30 PM**

## **1 The Current Future of the United Church of Christ**

*Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson*

The United Church of Christ has called Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman of color to be the General Minister and President. Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson will share what this call means in today's times for a main-line denomination amid the growing apathy towards "The Church" post-pandemic.

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## **2 Navigating the Fishbowl: Balancing the Role of Pastor & Parent**

*Presenter: The Rev. Jill Terpstra*

Delve into the intricacies of simultaneously embracing the roles of dedicated pastor and nurturing parent, uncovering both the joys and challenges that come with it. Through candid discussions and shared narratives, we will discuss juggling responsibilities, managing expectations, and finding time for personal spiritual growth. This workshop will benefit clergy parents and those who support them (that means everyone!)

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## **3 New Ideas in Conference Governance**

*Presenters: The Governance Taskforce*

*Benna Bell, Gloria Cox, Hank Fairman, Kathy Hummel, and Mary Newcomb*

Come and share your wisdom on the renewal of our Conference's constitution and bylaws. This work has been a "by the people" process, and needs you as it continues to completion. This session will share the outcome from the Governance Team's first eighteen months, and its planned input for bringing a renewed governance to the Annual Celebration in 2024.

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## **4 Administer Justice**

*Presenter: Jill Miller, Attorney Engagement Director, Administer Justice*

Seeking Justice for the vulnerable is a call to God's people throughout the scripture but it's hard to know where to start. In the US today, 37 million low-income people are turned away from legal aid every year. To meet this tremendous need, Administer Justice equips churches with a simple model of legal ministry that empowers vulnerable neighbors with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love.

# 2023 Annual Celebration Workshops

**BLOCK C - Friday, 4:00 - 5:00 PM**

## **1 The Youth Mental Health Crisis: A Conversation for Anyone who Loves a Child or Young Person**

*Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund*

Join Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund for conversation about how the national mental health crisis is impacting youth and learn what faith communities can do to support children, teens, youth, and their families. She will share key learnings from research writing her newest book, "Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness with Children and Teens" and the "Blessed Youth Survival Guide."

## **2 Budget Presentation & Discussion**

*Presenters: Bob Poor (FAB Chair) & Cristine Vesely (Treasurer)*

We will provide an update on the status of our 2023 Income and Expenses, including our Camps and other property, and review our draft 2024 Budget. We will answer questions, provide background information on the Finance, Administration and Business Committee's Goals and Objectives, and discuss our Conference's many financial blessings and challenges.

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