



IL Conference Annual Celebration & TPIRC Educational Summit

Workshop Descriptions & Schedule

Thursday

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Grant Writing Workshop - Presenter: Dr. Mariann Jordan
 - This workshop is for people new to grant writing or those who need to brush up on their skills. Learn the basics needed, review actual grants, and leave with a toolkit for grant writing.

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Boundary Training - \$30
- COM Training - No Cost (Rev. Melanie Oommen & Rev. Anissa Glaser-Bacon)

Friday

Group A Workshops -11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

- Taste and See Presented by Rev. Annisa Glasser-Bacon (A only)
 - This experience of a community of practice for colleagues in ministry where they find encouragement, discern direction, share stories of experience, as well as being in a place for stimulating focused learning among peers is open to pastors, MID's, and lay members.
- Manual on Church Presented by Rev. Melanie Oommen (A only)
 - This workshop will explore the purpose, structure, and practical application of the Manual on Local Church. Participants will learn how the Manual on Church helps clarify relationships between congregations, associations, conferences, and the national setting of the UCC, while supporting healthy and faithful congregational leadership.
- Leading Well: An Inside-Out Approach to Self-Care Presented by Dr. Jeanne Porter King (A&B)
 - In a culture that often celebrates constant activity and sacrifice, many pastors and ministry leaders find themselves caring for others while neglecting their own well-being. Yet sustainable ministry and effective leadership begin with caring for the whole person. Participants will explore common stressors and "peace disruptors," assess their current stress levels, and discover practical ways to strengthen five foundational practices that support resilience, well-being, and sustainable service.



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Friday

Group A Workshops -11:15 AM – 12:00 PM (Continued)

- Faithful Stewardship in an Age of AI Presented by Zakiya N. Moton (A&B)
 - Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how the world communicates, organizes, and makes decisions. For pastors, administrators, and ministry leaders, the question is not whether to engage it. The question is how to do so faithfully.
- The Male Spiritual Journey Presented by Rev. T. Michael Rock (A&B)
 - A necessary step to become better men, spouses, fathers, brothers, and friends. Come and explore the power of humility and vulnerability. This workshop is for anyone who would like to know more about approaches to the Male Spiritual Journey. We will also be seeding the possibility of a men's retreat at Tower Hill Church Camp in March 2027.
- Honest and Honorable Conversations: Conflict Resolution and Communication Integrity for Ministry Teams Presented by Minister C. Terrell Wheat (A&B)
 - Honest and Honorable Conversations is a professional development that equips pastors, ministry leaders, church staff, and volunteers with a practical framework for communicating and acting with integrity in ministry.
- Faith in Place Presented by Rev. Brian Sauder (A&B)
 - Faith in Place is an environmental non-profit that works with communities of faith across Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.



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Friday

Group A Workshops -11:15 AM – 12:00 PM (Continued)

- Metamorphosis: Supporting Churches in Seasons of Change Presented by Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley & Rev. JJ Flag (A&B)
 - Transitions are a natural part of the life of every congregation. The time between the ending of one pastoral leadership change and before the beginning of new pastoral leadership is a time for reflection, visioning, and new beginnings. Some may call this time period the liminal phase. During this liminal time, your Conference can play a vital role! This workshop will initiate discussion and shared learning around: congregational support (lowering of anxiety), navigation of the search and call process (for search committees), and discernment techniques to aid in engaging with potential candidates (the interview process). Faithful engagement and strategic use of the Metamorphosis resources will help churches embrace new possibilities for mission and ministry.



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Group B Workshops ~ 1:15 – 2:00 PM

- Leading Well: An Inside-Out Approach to Self-Care Presented by Dr. Jeanne Porter King (A&B)
 - In a culture that often celebrates constant activity and sacrifice, many pastors and ministry leaders find themselves caring for others while neglecting their own well-being. Yet sustainable ministry and effective leadership begin with caring for the whole person. Participants will explore common stressors and "peace disruptors," assess their current stress levels, and discover practical ways to strengthen five foundational practices that support resilience, well-being, and sustainable service.
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- Community Renewal Society Presented by Rev. Dr. Waltrina N. Middleton (B Only)
 - CRS is a faith-based, community organizing and public policy organization that works with congregations in and around Chicago to address issues of racism and poverty.



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- Faith in Place Presented by Rev. Brian Sauder (A&B)
 - Faith in Place is an environmental non-profit that works with communities of faith across Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.
- Creation Care Camp Presented by Rev. David Russell (B only)
 - Join us for an informational preview to learn all about our upcoming Creation Care Camp, happening this August 3–6, 2026. This camp is a unique invitation for generations to come together, immerse themselves in nature, and learn how to serve as the Land Defenders and Water Protectors God's Creation needs right now.
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