



# Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

## March 19, 2022 - Virtual Super Saturday Workshops

### MORNING WORKSHOPS

#### **1 Flowers and Friends of Hope and Healing- 1 hour**

Learn new ways to use photography to create resources for hope and healing.

*Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle is a community chaplain, coordinator of the Just Peace Players and long time photographer and nature lover.*

#### **2 The Good and the Bad of Mission Trips — Standard 1.5 hours**

~~We will explore how mission trips can greatly impact ones spirituality as well as be traumatic to the participants. Models of one-on-one debriefing, as well as group debriefings will be shared. Helpful hints to think about in terms of self care before, during and after mission trips.~~

~~*Rev. Fred Meade*~~

#### **3 After the Disaster? Discovering Wisdom and Resilience in a Pandemic World - Extended 2.5**

For nearly two years, we have been living through and ministering in the middle of an extended reality that contains many of the attributes of a disaster. Disasters are associated with loss of physical and communal resources. This Workshop will provide a basic understanding of the neuroscience of traumatic stress and its similarities to prolonged anxiety. We will also explore the physical, emotional, and spiritual implications of disasters and helpful approaches to promoting long-term resiliency and well-being of individuals and communities.

*Rev. Matthew Crebbin, Newtown Congregational Church. Pastor, Facilitator of Healing the Healers - Odyssey Network*

#### **4 SNEUCC Clergy Compensation Guidelines 2022 - 1 hour**

Merging the three historic conferences into one necessitated one set of clergy compensation guidelines. The new guidelines, acknowledging new realities pertaining to ministry, use a new methodology to determine clergy compensation. This workshop will show clergy and congregational leadership this methodology.

*Rev. Quentin Chin, interim pastor, has worked with the Massachusetts Conference's guidelines for many years and was part of the team to revise the guidelines*

#### **5 Simplifying Church Structure - Standard 1.5 hours**

Participants will explore the need and opportunity to simplify church structure. This workshop is for clergy and church leaders who feel like their church structure is too complicated and in need of improvement. It is for anyone who feels the need to utilize the time and energy of church members better. It is for those who feel like their churches have too many meetings and not enough ministry.

*Doug Bixby, Pastor and church consultant for over 20 years.*

#### **6 Facing Our Congregation's Mortality - Standard 1.5 hours**

Congregations are not immortal. When and how do we have conversations about what makes congregational life worth sustaining and whether we should discuss how to complete a congregation's ministry faithfully and well? We are resurrection people and the future is never hopeless. This is not just for churches in decline. Facing mortality enriches life and paradoxically may extend and improve the quality of congregational life.

*Charlie Kuchenbrod, Church Consultant, Fluent in "business" and "church."*

#### **7 Hand in Hand-Strategies for Successful Partnerships - Standard 1.5 hours**

What is the true nature of relational leadership? Why are effective practices for collaboration and communication essential for leadership? How are these practices best employed and implemented in congregational mission and ministry? Let's discover more together!

*Karen Ziel is the Assistant Director of the Center for Transformational Leadership in the Southern New England Conference. As a Commissioned Minister has served local congregations in faith formation and leadership development, as well as the historic CT Conference, prior to joining the SNEUCC staff.*

### **8 Best Practices for Sharing Leadership** - Standard 1.5 hours

That leadership is shared among the clergy, designated lay leadership, and membership is a distinguishing feature of the United Church of Christ. Sharing leadership well among those who are different from each other -- and we are all different from one another -- requires intentionality and spiritually-grounded respect. This workshop will lift up a set of practices that can help faith community leaders work together more thoughtfully amidst a flat hierarchy.

*The Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Dean, educator, and scholar on ministerial leadership.*

### **9 The Pension Boards: Your Covenant Partner in Nurturing Vital Congregations** - Standard 1.5 hours

The Pension Boards provides benefits for those who serve the church, but so much more: leadership programs, financial assistance, fundraising services, experts on socially responsible investing, and much more to come in 2022. This PB101 session will introduce you to the mission of this vital arm of the UCC, and ways in which we do and can impact the life of your church. Our guiding theme for this session and our work every day is "Matters to you...matters to us...impacts the world."

*The Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Lee PBUCC: Director, Church Relations and Operations Jonathan is responsible for clear communication and problem-solving between the Pension Boards and all settings of the UCC. Mr. Travis Marks PBUCC: Director, Generations University Travis directs the Pension Boards educational arm, interpreting the mission of the organization and arranging topic-specific learning experiences for the varied settings of the UCC.*

### **10 I Love the Church, I Hate the Church: Paradox or Contradiction?** - Standard 1.5 hours

This workshop explores the emotions we feel and the attitudes we have toward 'the institutional church'. What might be its relevance, if any, within our contemporary culture and as we move forward into the future?

*Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle- Has served churches in UCC and ELCA as a pastor. congregations. Author of seven books, including Crossing the Street and Part Time Pastor, Full Time Church.*

### **11 Reclaiming Sabbath: The Biblical Vision for Economic Life** - Extended 2.5

The biblical vision of Sabbath is about far more than resting on Sundays. At its core are often ignored and misunderstood principles of healthy and just economic relationships that remain relevant. This workshop will (re)introduce participants to the tradition of "Sabbath economics" that runs as a central thread from the manna story, to the sabbath laws and the jubilee announcement, through the prophets, and on to Jesus and his early followers.

*Barry Shelley, former Moderator, Christ Congregational Church, Brockton, MA. Sustainable international development economist, with a seminary education, who has engaged with sabbath economics in a variety of ways for two decades.*

### **12 Searching for the Biblical Roots of Restorative Justice** - Standard 1.5 hours

Starting with a brief study of The Little Book of Biblical Justice by Chris Marshall, we will ask the questions "What is justice?" Are there restorative acts in biblical justice? Does biblical justice give us room for hope? We will also delve into concepts of ancient justice in the places where the biblical narrative originates.

*Members of the Restorative Justice Task Team Rev. Samuel Lovett, school chaplain*

### **13 Living Out the Gospel in Each and Every Election** - Standard 1.5 hours

The workshop will clearly explain why identifying and mobilizing non-voting environmentalists into a critical mass is vital. An organizational leader and voting guru, Nathaniel will describe how you and/or your congregation can make this happen. In laying the groundwork, the workshop will assist you and your congregation in learning more about and participating in the Creation Care Voter Pledge (CCVP) challenge. Pre-recorded guest speaker:

*The founder and Executive Director of the Environmental Voters Project (EVP), Nathaniel Stinnett uses data analytics and behavioral science, to effectively convert non-voting environmentalists into a critical mass too big for politicians to ignore. Rev. Dr. Jessica McArdle, is a member of the Environmental Ministries Team of SNEUCC, Co-chair of Environmental Justice at FCCW, and trained as a leader in the Climate Reality Project. She formerly served as settled and interim pastor for churches in MA, NH, and CT. Rev. Vicky Guest, is co-chair for the Environmental*

*Ministries Team of SNEUCC, Board member at Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MIP&L), trained as a leader in the Climate Reality Project, and is a retired UCC pastor with 40 years experience working with religious institutions. Guests (s): clergy from local churches who have promoted CCVP in their own congregations.*

#### **14 Theological Conversation for Dismantling Racism - Standard 1.5 hours**

Considering the contemporary climate of racial tension and divisiveness, the ministry of reconciliation, healing and unity is important. While as Christian leaders we desire justice for all in the kin-dom of God on earth, we have not engaged in deep and transformative conversations around race, privilege and inequality that fortify systemic injustice. Let's have that conversation!

*Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Price Executive Minister for Strategic Operations Southern New England Conference, UCC*

#### **15 Birthing the Queen/Kingdom - a Parabolic Practice - Extended 2.5**

The teachings of Jesus as expressed in the parables and in the prayer of Jesus invite us to a deeper, more embodied way of faith that is needed in our times. Balancing presentation and spiritual practice, this workshop will invite participants to consider anew what the Queen/Kingdom of God might be inviting us to embody and give birth to in the world through the lens of three particular parables.

*The Rev. Henry Schoenfield, PCC. Contemplative, Spiritual director, Professional Coach, Pastor, Spiritual Nomad.*

#### **16 Pursuing Financial Sustainability - Standard 1.5 hours**

The days of relying on pledges to cover church expenses are over. Approaching financial sustainability with an entrepreneurial mindset can open new sources of revenue that lead to financial vitality. Join us and explore fresh approaches to stewardship and monetizing our buildings.

*Rev. Dr. David Cleaver Bartholomew, Director of Stewardship*

#### **17 Faith in Nature - 1 hour**

Challenge the current paradigm of how church school should be! Learn about finding faith in nature for children in church school outside during a pandemic. Explore lesson plans, dynamic activities, and ways to effectively engage children, parents, and volunteers in a new way. While also, finding benefits in staying safe during a pandemic and supporting mental health.

*Lauren M. Guiditta, First Church of Christ, UCC Glastonbury, CT. Director of Children's Ministries, mental health advocate, and fun seeker with Jesus.*

#### ~~**18 Keeping Kids Safe - Standard 1.5 hours**~~

~~This workshop provides skills to, knowledge and attitudes to prevent child sexual abuse in congregations. Topics discussed include: safe environment, working with parents, prevention strategies, signs and symptoms, and responding to disclosures. This is a modified workshop with materials from the ChildrensTrust MA.~~

~~*Rev. Domenik Ackermann, West Parish Church. Minister for Education and Ph. D. Candidate at Boston College*~~

### **LUNCH WORKSHOPS**

#### **19 Proportional Giving - What is it and how do you calculate it? - 1 hour**

This workshop will explain what Proportional Giving is, what it supports, and how it is to be calculated.

*Rev. Dr. David Cleaver-Bartholomew, Director of Stewardship and Donor Relations, SNEUCC*

### **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**

#### **20 Ask a Question, Save a Life: QPR Gatekeeper Training - Standard 1.5 hours**

QPR is an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons created in 1995 by Paul Quinnett. An abbreviation for Question, Persuade and Refer, the intent is also to identify and interrupt the crisis and direct that person to the proper care." "Gatekeepers can be anyone, but include parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, ministers, doctors, nurses, office supervisors, squad leaders, foremen, police officers, advisors, caseworkers, firefighters, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide."

*Deborah Ringen MSN, RN-BC Minister of Health and Wellness, Certified QPR Instructor*

**21 Shoddy Planning or Shoddy Implementation?** - Standard 1.5 hours Incredible implementation will not redeem a poor plan and yield the desired outcomes. Yet in the face of decline, many churches focus on implementation

issues - doing better at things we have always done - instead of questioning whether we have the right plan to get the outcomes we want. Why? Perhaps because letting go of old plans is hard and new plans are hard to come by or perhaps because we are not clear about the desired outcomes.

*Charlie Kuchenbrod, Church Consultant, Fluent in both "business" and "church."*

## **22 What's Consensus Got to Do Congregational Life?** - Standard 1.5 hours

Our Congregational polity is a strength, and yet sometimes we become confused about how to discern and make decisions together. We'll explore what consensus is (and isn't) and how it can be a faithful and fruitful decision-making model for churches. \*Especially good for search committees.

*Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly, Associate Conference Minister, SNEUCC*

## **23 Churches in Transition** - 1 hour

We will discuss resources to help churches discern how to make decisions about the future of their buildings, especially if they are considering leasing/selling/sharing any part of their buildings. Partners for Sacred Places' recent guide for churches in Transition will form the foundation of the workshop.

*Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse Pastor for 40 years and Senior Director of Programs at Partners for Sacred Places*

## **24 The Pension Boards: Your Covenant Partner in Nurturing Vital Congregations** - Standard 1.5 hours (AM & PM Sessions)

The Pension Boards provides benefits for those who serve the church, but so much more: leadership programs, financial assistance, fundraising services, experts on socially responsible investing, and much more to come in 2022. This PB101 session will introduce you to the mission of this vital arm of the UCC, and ways in which we do and can impact the life of your church. Our guiding theme for this session and our work every day is "Matters to you...matters to us...impacts the world."

*The Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Lee PBUCC: Director, Church Relations and Operations Jonathan is responsible for clear communication and problem-solving between the Pension Boards and all settings of the UCC. Mr. Travis Marks PBUCC: Director, Generations University Travis directs the Pension Boards educational arm, interpreting the mission of the organization and arranging topic-specific learning experiences for the varied settings of the UCC.*

## **25 Creating Our Church's Vision for the Future** - Standard 1.5 hours

Whether your congregation is poised for a rebirth and renewal or feels it is approaching the end of its ministry, it is imperative to create and implement a strategy to successfully achieve that goal. This workshop will guide you through the Center for Transformational Leadership's resources that can help you determine your future direction and assist you on that journey.

*Karen Ziel, Assistant Director, Center for Transformational Leadership*

## **26 Customizing Faith Formation for Your Specific Congregation** - Standard 1.5 hours

With the dramatic shifts that have affected congregational life over the past two years, planning for the future has become a seemingly impossible task. This workshop will provide an opportunity for faith formation leaders, youth ministry leaders, and pastors to walk through a process of discerning the best possible practices for faith formation in their specific settings, alongside colleagues with similar hopes and visions.

*Debbie Gline Allen, Minister of Faith Formation for the Southern New England Conference*

## **27 The Power of Clemency** - Standard 1.5 hours

The workshop will examine the role of clemency at the federal and state levels in reducing mass incarceration. The federal Fix Clemency Act will be discussed, the work of the New England Clemency Coalition will be identified, and local support suggestions for those returning from incarceration will be offered.

*Danielle Metz, Clemency director; Sashi James, Lead Organizer; and Andrea James, Executive Director, all from the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated women and girls.*

## **28 A Discussion of Our Missionary Heritage and the UCC Apology to Native Hawaiians** - Standard 1.5 hours

With an eye in transforming our understanding, this workshop will concentrate on the differences in local Hawai'i and National UCC contexts in reaction to the 1993 UCC Apology to the Native Hawaiian people for the church's role in the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy. Our discussion will include a summary of interviews of Hawaiian UCC

Kahus (ministers) and retired staff and leaders of the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC (HCUCC) conducted between 2011 and 2013 as well as theologies of reconciliation as applied to this context.

*Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa, Area Conference Minister, Northwest Region, Southern New England Conference, UCC*

**29 Jesus and Justice** - Standard 1.5 hours

What was Jesus telling us about justice? You will discover/discuss the ingredients necessary for a more just world through 8-10 Gospel stories. Workshop leader will use her book, "A Challenging Peace in the Life and Stories of Jesus" to explore challenges, as well as gifts, that lead us into living the justice Jesus preached.

*Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter, pastor and artist. Previously, a pastor of Charlemont Federated Church in MA, now doing pulpit supply in NY. Lives in Hyde Park.*

**30 You're ONA. What's Next?** - 1 hour

ONA isn't a "one and done" undertaking; This workshop is designed for congregations that want to take the next step in their ONA journeys. In this interactive session, we will explore how God is calling us to move forward in our ONA covenants - to be relevant, prophetic, and transformative today and in the future.

*Kathleen Mason, South Church in Andover. Member of the Southern New England Conference ONA Ministry Team, and Co-Founder of LGBTQ+ Welcoming Communities of Faith*

**31 Just Love! Afternoon** - Standard 1.5 hours

Our play is both a celebration of ONA and an invitation to churches to become ONA! Discussion will follow the play.

*Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle is a community chaplain and coordinator of the Just Peace Payers*

**32 Opening Doors Afternoon** - 1 hour

Opening church doors to the community in a welcoming, inviting, deliciously different way. Engaging ministry that has local, simple and sharing time, space, grace and God's love at it's core.

*Elizabeth Alletto, United Parish of Upton, Thought leader for Soul Fuel Ministry Team*

**33 Communities of Faith and Mission-Aligned Housing & Community Development** - Standard 1.5 hours

As communities of faith explore options for monetizing assets and adapting under-utilized buildings or lots, there may be opportunities to do so in a way that remains mission-aligned and supports fellow community members in need.

LISC Connecticut will discuss how houses of worship in Connecticut and around the country have independently or in partnership with others, constructed affordable housing and other community assets.

*Kasey LaFlam, Program Officer of LISC Connecticut. Nonprofit professional with fifteen years experience in organizational development and community building.*

**34 Living Life - Even the End: Discover "My Values, My Wishes, My Dignity"** - Standard 1.5 hours

This important workshop, based on legal document "5 Wishes" encourages you to begin thinking about your end of life. Dying and death is a topic we would much rather avoid. Join others as we begin the conversation in a safe, non-judgmental space using stories, tools, and resources.

*Rev Lee Atherton, End-of-Life, Grief, Resilience Coach*

**35 Call Waiting for Confirmands: Listening for Direction** - Standard 1.5 hours How does God speak to me and what is my purpose? How can I bring hope to the world? Three young-adult panelists will share stories from their own faith journeys, as well as tips to help youth listen for guidance. Confirmands and their leaders are invited to explore the concept of call and think about what it means to be a disciple in today's world.

*Debby Kirk, Faith Formation Team Leader for SNEUCC, is the facilitator for the program. Panelists are Sean Amato, Emily Carle, and Xaniyah Sanders.*