

FRIDAY, MARCH 5 WORKSHOPS

Connecting COVID, Trauma, and Mental Health

2020 has passed, and we will continue to experience the impact of its realities. 2021 and beyond will be a time of reckoning with the convergence of loss, trauma and violence that are hallmarks of the last 365 days. In those 365 days, over 400,000 people have died from COVID. This traumatic experience deserves our recognition and a multi-layered response to the convergence of loss, trauma and violence resulting from the ongoing and overlapping pandemics. We will consider the power of recognition to deepen our understanding of and commitment to engage in collective action to mitigate the impact of trauma.



Stephanie Crumpton and Barbara Wilson, leaders

ROOM
1

De-Colonizing Wealth—Steps to Re-Invest, not just Re-Brand

If you are tired of slapping new labels on old paradigms, Edgar Villanueva, Indigenous writer and philanthropist, decenters western financial systems and points the way to create wealth and wellness by focusing on relationships rather than transactions. Colonized money has been the enemy of creating wealth in communities of color and the poor. Too often economies simply rinse and repeat the same altruistic façade thinking a different outcome will appear. To avoid this trap, he offers a new paradigm of Seven Steps: to Grieve, Apologize, Listen, Relate, Represent, Invest, and Repair. Decolonizing will help you discover how money becomes medicine to heal our divides.



Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley, leaders

ROOM
2

Everything You Thought You Knew About Racial Reconciliation Is Wrong

In times of racial unrest, words like "healing" and "reconciliation" come up often. But what do they really mean? In this workshop, we will take a hard look at scripture and the first-century church's postures and practices around reconciliation. With a better understanding of the hard (but not impossible) work of reconciliation, we will dream together about reconciliatory practices for the 21st century and challenge ourselves to move beyond "Christian quietism".



Denise Anderson, leader

ROOM
3

Help! What Do We Do With Our Building?!

Church buildings can be a wonderful gift. And a huge burden. They can be hubs of meaningful activity. Or vastly underutilized. They can be a drain on our finances. Or generate revenue. Since the pandemic began it has become even more clear that the church is not a building. But what do we do with our buildings now and into the future!? Are there different ways we can put our property to use to better serve our neighborhoods and our mission? Can church buildings help sustain our ministry rather than drain it?



Mark Elsdon, Shannon Hopkins and Mark Sampson, leaders
This workshop is sponsored by [RootedGood](#)

ROOM
4

How to Run an Effective Meeting (Not Just an Efficient One)

We all know what makes for a poor meeting, but do we know how to create a truly great one? Do we know whether this meeting even needs to happen? How often are we more loyal to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, or an easy to find email list than to results we claim to pursue? Many church leaders over-control or abdicate control over one of God's most precious gifts to us: our time, and the result is burnout and anemic churches. Instead of taking minutes, let this workshop animate you to energize the hours on Zoom or around a table to something that advances God's mission.



Clyde Ellis and Becca Messman, leaders

ROOM
5

It's All Transitional: Lead with Insight. Discover New Purpose. Act with Courage.

Finding yourself sucked time and again into the vortex of church maintenance mode? Or maybe you're 100% up for transformation - but wondering "where do I start when I don't know what to do"? Or, "what do I do when I have an inkling, but really don't know how to do it?"

Welcome to the 21st Century, Church!

It's all transitional, it's all change, all the time. And maybe more than just a little paralyzing. So now what?

We have no tricks, no easy steps, no money back guarantees. We may have a modicum of wisdom and guidance to share. Hear us out on the Three Movements of Intentional Change: Lead with insight; Discover New purpose; Act with Courage. Sounds a little pedantic... sure, but it just might get you going!



Heidi Armstrong, Scott Lumsden, and Eliana Maxim, leaders

ROOM
6

Ministry Beyond the Binary

Ideas of gender beyond a binary have begun to transform the way we understand our identity, community, and theology. Yet, binary thinking continues to dominate how we see ourselves, one another, and God. This workshop invites participants to investigate the interconnectedness of such pernicious binaries as race and gender, and to imagine ministry beyond a binary and toward a more abundant vision of God's beloved kingdom.



Jess Cook and Alex McNeill, leaders

This workshop is sponsored by [More Light Presbyterians](#)

ROOM
7

Post-Pandemic Youth Ministry

Along with everything else during the pandemic, the roles of professional youth worker, volunteer and parent have changed in order to meet the needs of the youth in our care. As ministry programs moved online, we have had to re-center ourselves and reshape our ministry to meet the critical needs of the moment. What have we learned is most important in our role as youth worker or volunteer? Where have we found allies in parental relationships? How can churches seize the opportunity to let things go, take things with us, and see the gifts of a re-centered youth ministry?



Christy Williams and Brittany Porch, leaders

This workshop is sponsored by [Presbyterian Youth Workers Association](#)

ROOM
8

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 WORKSHOPS

Decolonizing Worship: Where Do We Begin?

While worship is one of the most formative pieces of our life together, it can be one of the most unexamined places. Whose voices and bodies, whose visual art, music, prayers, and liturgical forms have been privileged or centered in your community? Have you ever taken time to peel back the layers?

We'll explore some of the first steps a community can take, sharing practices and first-hand experiences of ways to start decolonizing worship.



Paul Vasile and Sonja Williams, leaders



ROOM
1

What Side Are You On, My People? Searching for the Church in the Black Lives Matter Movement

In this pivotal social and political moment, we are seeing an upsurge of community engagement around the Black Liberation Movement – a level of engagement perhaps not seen since the Civil Rights Era of the 50's and 60's. But where is the Church in the movement for Black lives? In this workshop we will explore what it means for faith leaders to be on the front lines and struggle with understanding why young Black movements leaders are fleeing from the church.



Tanya Watkins, leader

ROOM
2

Igniting Our Holy Imaginations: How to Think about What the Church Might Look Like Next

So many of the issues facing churches today feel complicated and unwieldy. They fall down our To Do Lists because making progress on them feels futile. The longer we prolong attempting solutions, the bigger the issues seem to grow. Come hear stories of churches who have made strategic progress in seemingly impossible situations and learn techniques to help your leadership do the same. Churches with adaptive strategies are the ones most ready for what comes next.



Carmelle Beaugelin and Victoria White, leaders

ROOM
3

Longing for Normal at the Expense of Resurrection: White Supremacy Values and the Church

Participants explore how longing for normalcy in times of pandemic, political upheaval, and racial injustice opens the door for white supremacy values to narrow the church's imagination. Additionally, participants will discuss how cultivating an ethic of maladjustment to the ways of white supremacy gives validity to our witness of the resurrection.



Jessica Vazquez Torres, leader

ROOM
4

Qualities and Actions of a Leader

What will leadership look like in the post-pandemic church? Answering this question is critical if we are going to effectively address issues of racial and economic justice, grapple with political polarization, and discern the shape of the church's mission in a broken and fragile world. This workshop will facilitate reflection on leadership development, considering questions such as these: How will we define leadership on the other side of the pandemic? What are the qualities of an authentic, effective leader? And what do such leaders do? The practice of community organizing has important bearing on such questions. The workshop leaders, experienced pastors and facilitators of the church's engagement with public practices of community organizing, will guide collective reflection on the shape leadership can take on the other side of the pandemic.



Joe Daniels and Roger Gench, leaders

ROOM
5

What's my role? Understanding and Living into our Roles in the Collective

We each have different gifts and different points of access to power, privilege, and change-making. How do we understand each of our roles in the common work of justice? How do we work together towards our collective goals of liberation and freedom? In this workshop, learn about the different types of community gifts and roles necessary for co-creating communal and societal change in dismantling white supremacy, Christian hegemony, and other systems and structures of oppression. Consider your own anti-racist work, learn about your roles and gifts, and pinpoint the embodied roles and gifts to look out for in your community.



Christine Hong, leader

ROOM
6

So What is NEXT for our Church Culture - Looking to our Youth to Create and Define Sacred Spaces

In this workshop we will explore and discuss the following questions and topics:

- Flipping the question of what to do when the youth in the pew look different than the church. How can we learn from the youth that are already doing what is NEXT and waiting for us to catch up?
- How do we embrace and create a culture that is accepting of Diversity?
- Things to avoid
- Naming hard things
- Working towards a space where vulnerable conversations can happen.



Christian Antwi and Pepa Paniagua, leaders

This workshop is sponsored by Presbyterian Youth Workers Association

ROOM
7

A White Pastor Reads “Letter From Birmingham Jail” in 2021

In 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr penned an open letter to eight white clergymen who had criticized the practice of nonviolent direct action in the Civil Rights Movement and urged King and his associates to patiently wait for change to come through the courts. King’s response then would be his response now: “Wait” has almost always meant “Never.” The PCUSA has begun consideration of adding the “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to the Book of Confessions, so a close reading of the text once again merits our attention.



Landon Whitsitt, leader

ROOM
8