

# Better Than AverageTraining

*An Event for Children and Youth Ministry Volunteers and Staff*

You know that feeling when you're surrounded by people who get you? Who understand what you do and why you do it? There's nothing like it, and this February we want to give you the chance to connect with others from around Pittsburgh who share your passion and commitment to ministry with children and youth.

The Better Than AverageTraining event seeks to connect leaders to one another and equip them for their roles in ministry with the next generation, whether you're a veteran full-time staff person or a brand-new volunteer and whether you're working with preschool or high school, there is something for you and every member of your team.

**We hope to see you on February 28th**

## **Schedule:**

4:30pm - Afternoon Workshop: *What Matters Most: Core Values in Next Generation Ministry*

6:00pm - Dinner

6:30pm - Evening Workshops

- A. Making the Most of Small Group Discussions with Tweens and Teens
- B. Designing Safe Church Guidelines for Your Worshipping Community
- C. How Firm a Foundation: Strategies for Ministries in the Early Years
- D. Cradle to Grave: Strategies for Intergenerational Ministry
- E. Strategies and Boundaries When We are Helping Hurting Kids

7:45pm - Keynote Address

8:30pm - Wrap-up and Closing Prayer

**Afternoon Workshop Leader and Keynote Speaker: Rev. Lindsay White**



Our afternoon workshop leader and keynote speaker this year is Rev. Lindsay White. Lindsay serves as the Associate Pastor for Youth at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, SC, where she balances responsibilities in directing the youth programming of the congregation and providing pastoral care to a large church community. She grew up in Pittsburgh and has been a member of both Hiland Presbyterian Church and Ross Community Presbyterian Church, is a die-hard Penguins fan, worked at Crestfield as a counselor, and has served several Pittsburgh churches in both children and youth ministries. Lindsay is a graduate of Westminster College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; she serves on education and camping ministry teams in her

Presbytery and on the Planning Team for Trinity Youth Conference. Lindsay lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband, Alex, and two sweet cats, George Hairyson and Freddie Purrcury. She loves knitting, Oscars season, cooking, and hiking.

*For more information contact Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister @ [bwallace@pahpresbytery.org](mailto:bwallace@pahpresbytery.org) or 412-323-1402*

## Registration Information

**Better Than Average Training is designed for both staff and volunteers.** The idea is for staff members (and volunteers who are able) to attend the afternoon session, and then be joined by the rest of their teams for dinner, evening workshops and keynote. Dinner will be buffet style so those with dietary restrictions can customize their meal and dinner is optional.

### **Step 1: Select a Plan for Your Church**

- Large-Group Plan (\$100, unlimited attendees) - If you choose to register your church as a large group, you'll be charged a flat fee of \$100 regardless of how many people attend from your church plus \$8 per person for dinner. Example: If you bring 5 people, you'll be charged \$100 + \$40 (dinner) for a total of \$140. If you bring 10 people, you'll be charged \$100 + \$80 (dinner) for a total of \$180. This is the best option for groups of 7 or more.
- Small-Group Plan (\$15 per attendee) - If you choose to register your church on the small group plan, you'll be charged \$15 per person who attends plus \$8 for dinner.
- Under-resourced Community - If your community lacks the resources to pay for registration, you can bring your group without a set cost and simply pay what you are able for the training itself and \$8 per person for dinner.

**Step 2: Register Your Church** - Go to [church.pghpresnextgen.org](http://church.pghpresnextgen.org) and register your church. No payment is due at the time of registration. All that is needed is the group leader's contact info and which plan you'll be registering on. Churches must register first before individuals will be able to sign up.

**Step 3: Register Individuals** - For each person from your group who will be attending, go to [individual.pghpresnextgen.org](http://individual.pghpresnextgen.org) and register them, selecting the workshop they'll be attending and whether they will be eating dinner. You can either do this for each member of your team or send them the link and let them register themselves.

**Payment Information:** Churches will be invoiced at the conclusion of the event. If your team members are paying for dinner themselves, they should give that money to the group leader as we will not be collecting payments for dinner that evening. *Because we need to confirm our meal numbers with the caterer in advance, you will be billed for dinner based on the number of people who are registered rather than by the number who attend.*

**Deadline:** Registrations are due by Friday February 22nd.

**Questions:** Contact Brian Wallace @ 412-323-1402 (Call/Text) or [bwallace@pghpresbytery.org](mailto:bwallace@pghpresbytery.org)

## Location and Transportation Information

### **Better Than Average** Training

February 28th, 2019

Pittsburgh Presbytery Office (901 Allegheny Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15233)

Main Entrance is located at the corner of Western and Allegheny Avenues, across from the 7-11

**Parking:** On-site parking is available with lots next to and across from the main building itself. As parking is limited, car-pooling is encouraged.

**Mass Transit:** The Presbytery Office is within walking distance of the Allegheny Station T-Stop as well as the Route 14 and 18 bus stops.

## Afternoon Workshop Descriptions

### **What Matters Most: Core Values in Next Generation Ministry (Rev. Lindsay White)**

On any given day in ministry, we are capable of worrying about a laundry list of things: attendance at youth group, enough chaperones, the perfect games, the most clear communications. Together, we will explore the core values and what matters most in our quest to serve, teach, love, and inspire children and youth. Placing these values first will provide for us a sense of peace and clarity as we serve in our current roles.

## Evening Workshop Descriptions

### **A. Making the Most of Small Group Discussions with Tweens and Teens (Rev. Brian Wallace)**

Small group conversations can be - and often are - a frustrating experience for everyone involved. The kids won't talk, the leader feels uncomfortable, and everyone just looks at one another awkwardly. This workshop will explore time-tested strategies for moving your conversations from blank stares toward meaningful discussion and relationship building.

*Rev. Brian Wallace* currently serves on the staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery and has been in ministry for over 15 years. He spent 10 years as a youth pastor and now volunteers in a variety of roles including high school small group leader, confirmation small group mentor, and tween VBS leader.

### **B. Designing Safe Church Guidelines for Your Worshipping Community (Rev. Sharon Stewart, Tamara Grant, and Karl Hudson)**

In today's world where abuse statistics are on the rise, it is important to provide a safe environment in order to nurture the spiritual development of all age groups. Developing appropriate practices are essential to ensure safety and to build trust. As Safe Church advocates, we will share and discuss the necessary elements for best practices to train and protect children, youth, and adults and all church leadership.

*Rev. Sharon Stewart* has served in Children's Ministry since 1983. She is currently a Pastoral Associate for Spiritual Nurture at Southminster Presbyterian Church. *Karl Hudson* has served as the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at Southminster for 6 years. He is a speaker, youth

advocate, and worship musician. Tamara Grant has served as a church leader for 10 years. She is currently the Director of Children's & Family Ministry at Southminster. Together at Southminster Presbyterian Church, they bring a wealth of policy and hard-earned experience to the topic of child safety.

### **C. How Firm a Foundation: Strategies for Ministries in the Early Years (Jamie Shipley)**

Humans learn more in the first five years of their life than at any other time. Come and be captivated by all the simple things we can do to ensure our youngest members are getting their best start in our church families.

Jamie Shipley was a church educator for twenty years, a pastor for ten, and has no intention of ever retiring from telling the old story in new ways.

### **D. Cradle to Grave - Strategies for Intergenerational Ministry (Rev. Laura Strauss)**

Many of our congregations find themselves without the critical mass of kids to do age-divided programming which makes the concept of intergenerational ministry natural and appealing. But too often attempts at intergenerational ministry fall short as the complexities of mixing different ages and stages together can be a perplexing task. This workshop will offer a look at strategies for making the most of the different ages in our congregations in a way that is rewarding for all.

Rev. Laura Strauss is the pastor of Clinton United Presbyterian Church where she has served since 2009. Since her arrival the church has seen a complete transformation. While the membership has remained stable (approximately 160-170), the demographics have radically shifted from an aging church to one that is truly growing young as the number of participants under the age of 25 has grown from a mere dozen to nearly 50 today.

### **E. Strategies and Boundaries When We are Helping Hurting Kids (Ed Sutter and Jane Kinter)**

Anxiety and depression are frighteningly common among teenagers today and youth leaders are sometimes the first to recommend counseling for the kids in our groups. But what then? Once we know a kid is seeing a counselor, what is our role? What boundaries do we need to keep with regard to the counselor and the parent? What should we keep confidential and what do we need to share? This workshop will help you navigate these and other difficult questions to better equip you to help kids who are hurting.

Jane Kinter is the Youth Director & Christian Ed Director at Oakmont Presbyterian Church and in private practice as a mental health therapist. Her specialty and passion is working with teenagers and their families. Ed Sutter is the Director of Middle School Ministry and Family Counseling at Westminster Presbyterian in the South Hills of Pittsburgh and has served the communities of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania in ministry and therapy for more than 10 years. Ed has a passion for the healthy growth of teenagers and loves to see them find their confidence, strength and value in Christ.