



## Day One: Education Seminar Descriptions

### Offered as a Full Day Education Seminar

#### **Storytelling to Improve Engagement**

Jennie Wolf Smith and Mitzie Schafer

There are many ways to tell a single story. How you share the impact of your ministry can inspire an increase in volunteerism, financial support, and overall engagement. This session is a hands-on seminar using the CAGA storytelling process as we work through learning how to source inspiring stories, writing for purpose and engagement, and strategically using those stories to grow engagement.

### 1/2 Day Morning Session

#### **Praying into A Flourishing Life and Leadership** *(repeated for afternoon session)* Rev. Dr. Paul Barbins

In his book *Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk & True Flourishing*, Andy Crouch makes the claim that "flourishing" in life "comes from being both strong and weak." This workshop will focus on spiritual practices and prayer methods to help deepen one's relationship with God in areas of vulnerability and authority that lead to flourishing in both life and leadership. Participants, through listening, reflecting, sharing and praying will consider areas of strength and weakness in their own lives that can be shaped by God to enhance a flourishing life.

#### **Moving Our Youth Ministries from Pandemic to Endemic**

Stephanie Caro

Ministry to our families has changed - drastically - over the last 2 years. What still works? What doesn't? What can we finally let go (and blame it on the pandemic)? Some common threads, tips, and tricks are emerging... let's discuss/share next steps together, shall we?

#### **Understanding the Root Causes of Hunger in Our Communities**

Deacon Nick Bates

Hunger is a visible symptom of many other social issues that exist in our communities. Through examples, discussion, and simulation, we will explore how hunger is interconnected to other issues and what our congregations can do to address the root causes of hunger in our communities.

#### **Depolarizing Within**

Braver Angels: Beverly Horstmann and Eugene Rutz

The Depolarizing Within Workshop helps participants look within to see how they are engaging or participating in polarizing ways. The workshop offers participants the tools to develop strategies for engaging in political discussion without demonizing the other side. It also shows how to constructively intervene in social conversations with likeminded peers. When referring to "polarization," Braver Angels is not referring to healthy disagreements over issues or philosophy. We are looking at how we as Americans regard and talk in polarizing terms about large groups of ordinary people on the other side of the political aisle.

## 1/2 Day Afternoon Session

### Praying into A Flourishing Life and Leadership

Rev. Dr. Paul Barbins

In his book *Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk & True Flourishing*, Andy Crouch makes the claim that "flourishing" in life "comes from being both strong and weak." This workshop will focus on spiritual practices and prayer methods to help deepen one's relationship with God in areas of vulnerability and authority that lead to flourishing in both life and leadership. Participants, through listening, reflecting, sharing and praying will consider areas of strength and weakness in their own lives that can be shaped by God to enhance a flourishing life.

### Thriving Youth Ministries in Smaller

Stephanie Caro

The largest percentage of churches in America are less than 100 people, so "smaller" is really "normal." Discover ways to move from surviving to thriving. Smaller churches are the new big!

### Doing Justice: Congregational Justice Ministries

Deacon Nick Bates

What does Micah 6:8 mean 'Do Justice?' We will explore different ways congregations *do justice* and the unique assets we might have in our congregations that is essential to this work. We will discuss how meaningful change happens and the role of the faith community and our congregations in making that change happen.

### Skills for Bridging the Divide

Braver Angels: Beverly Horstmann and Eugene Rutz

Skills for Bridging the Divide workshop helps you through difficult political conversations with people in your life. Learn how to talk across the divide in a constructive, empathetic ways. In our current polarized political environment, many people avoid or dread political conversations with friends, family members, co-workers whose politics differ from their own. People are concerned that any attempts at political discussions will dissolve into arguments, hostility and anger. Skills for Bridging the Divide teaches skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship.

## Education Seminar Room Assignments

### Morning Session

#### **Firestone**

Storytelling to Improve Engagement

#### **OMNOVA Solutions**

Praying into a Flourishing Life and Leadership

#### **BF Goodrich**

Moving Our Youth Ministries from  
Pandemic to Endemic

#### **Bridgestone / Firestone**

Understanding the Root Causes of Hunger  
in Our Communities

#### **Karl S. Hay**

Depolarizing Within

### Afternoon Session

#### **Firestone**

Storytelling to Improve Engagement

#### **OMNOVA Solutions**

Praying into a Flourishing Life and Leadership

#### **BF Goodrich**

Thriving Youth Ministries in Smaller Churches

#### **Bridgestone / Firestone**

Doing Justice: Congregational Justice Ministries

#### **Karl S. Hay**

Skills for Bridging the Divide