

PNEC Community of Practice – 2024

Licensed Authorized Ministers COP (LAM-COP) - Facilitator: Rev. Dennis Schappell

This is a safe place for licensed pastors to share the joys and challenges of ministry openly... without judgement. Presently, we are engaging with Susan Carol Scott's book, *Still Praying: After All These Year* as our meditation and reflection time. We also review and discuss the scripture readings for the fourth Sunday of the month. Here, everyone shares their understanding and their favorite commentary's point of view as we interpret the text and gain a deeper meaning. This year, we will begin a book study on topics related to the challenges of ministry today and the topics our congregates struggle with today. **LAM-COP meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.** Email Pastor Den Schappell at denschappel@gmail.com to join LAM-COP.

Reading Various Theological Books - Facilitator: Rev. Heather Kurtz

Our COP gathers by Zoom only. When we meet, we discuss a book that has been picked by a member of our group. The book topics range from Biblical History, Spiritual Renewal, or general ministry topics. We usually spend 2 group meetings reading one book. We have space available for 1 more person. Email Rev. Heather Kurtz at revzionucc@gmail.com

Retired Pastors - Facilitator: Rev. Cliff Herring

Not soliciting new members

Choose Your Own Adventure - Facilitator: Rev. James Robison

Normally meet on a Thursday afternoon in Allentown with participants suggesting topics that would be of interest and helpfulness. Participants would volunteer to share a case study on one of the particular topics and then lead that discussion. Looking for other energetic and creative Authorized Ministers who engage in "out-of-the-box" ways of thinking as we enter the church of tomorrow today. Email Rev. James Robison at jamdarrob@gmail.com

New Models of Church - Facilitator: Rev. Jeff Brinks

Our community of practice currently consists of four members. When we began, our focus was on exploring ways to encourage congregations to engage in mission beyond the boundaries of our buildings. We began working on a plan to bring community transportation back to the Bath area. COVID changed all that. We then turned to studying books that we were interested in as they related to ministry. We have explored the following works:

Think Like a Filmmaker – Marcia McFee;

How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going – Susan Beaumont;

Becoming a Hybrid Church – Daubert/Jorgensen;

Using Our Outside Voice – Public Biblical Interpretation – Greg Carey

In January of 2024, we will negotiate a new book to study and discuss. We usually rotate on the leadership of a particular chapter or unit. Our goal is understanding, and possible implementation is our settings, so our discussions are thorough. Books we are considering for our next study include, but are not limited to:

Glorify; reclaiming the heart of progressive Christianity by Emily C. Heath

Forgive; why should I and How Can I by Timothy Keller

Preaching in the Purple Zone; ministry in the red-blue divide by Leah D. Schade

When Church Stops Working; a future for your congregation beyond More Money Programs and Innovation by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand

We are open to additional colleagues joining us. We meet via ZOOM usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9:30 – 11:30AM. Email Rev. Jeff Brinks at pastor@sjuccnaz.org

Spiritual Disciplines & Practices – Facilitator: Rev. Al Bastin

Not soliciting new members

General Ministry - Facilitator: Rev. Nancy Hardy

Utilizing case studies provided by the participants, this Community of Practice explores real-life, timely issues of ministry in a supportive and prayerful environment. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:00 AM -12:00 Noon. Most of our meetings are by Zoom. We do have room for one more person in our group. Email Rev. Nancy Hardy at nancylg51@yahoo.com

Local Church Ministry - Facilitator: Rev. David Charles Smith

Meets typically monthly at Jordan UCC, Allentown with a summer picnic at Waldheim Park in South Allentown and a Christmastide party with guests included at the parsonage. Usually meets Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursdays depending on participant's schedules. Currently using the book, Pastoral Imagination: Bringing the Practice of Ministry to Life by Eileen R. Campbell-Reed. Have also done case studies, other book studies, and member presentations on topics of interest. Currently has four participants plus the facilitator and is open to new members. Email Rev. David Charles Smith at therrev@aol.co

Pastors Serving More Than One Local Church - Facilitator: Rev. David Charles Smith

Meets typically monthly by Zoom, although in person as schedules allow. Usually meets Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday daytime hours. Currently discussing how to best equip others who might be serving in, or considering serving more than one local church, each setting part-time. Have also done book studies, case studies, and members have presented on topics such as confirmation and continuing education classes they have taken. Currently has four participants plus the facilitator and is open to new members. Email Rev. David Charles Smith at therrev@aol.com

Practices of Ministry & Church's Legacy - Facilitator: Rev. M. Jane Hess

When you take a moment and think about it, everything has a birth, life and death..... not just people but also businesses, organizations, and yes even churches. It is the natural order of creation. Our community of practice looks at the life of our congregations...where are they on the bell curve? How do we pastor this particular congregation at this particular time? What practices of ministry do we need individually - more ideas ... competencies? Currently we are 5 Pastors that meet once a month always on Zoom Thursdays at 6:30 PM. We are welcoming any new members. Please call Jane Hess with questions. 570-401-2239.

Pastors Who Serve Churches Who Are Currently ONA or Are Seeking to Become ONA

Facilitator: Rev. Laura Oesterle

A Community of Practice for Pastors who serve churches who are currently ONA or are seeking to become ONA is forming! In the process of forming this COP, we also discovered a desire for a COP for Queer Clergy. If you are interested in either COP, please email Rev. Laura Oesterle (they/them) at pastor@forksucc.org