

List of Continuing Education Opportunities...

(**CC**=Cultural Competency Training; **AR**=Anti-Racism; **BT**=Boundary Training;
ABT=Advanced Boundary Training)

(**ALL Authorized Ministers, please note:** We will be identifying these kinds of continuing education opportunities – The policy was effective starting January 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact the Penn Northeast Conference Office at 610-826-3113. Thank You!)

- The **PATHWAYS Theological Education -- PATHWAYS Website Addresses:**

Website: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>

Course Calendar: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/calendar/>

Our Stories: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/our-stories/>

Online Boundary Training: To date, we have trained over 450 clergy and worked with 15 regions to offer online boundary training at an affordable price and on a convenient platform. Our course includes boundary training regarding pastoral relationships, finances, self-care, children and youth, and social media. **If your conference/region is interested in offering this to your clergy at a discounted price, please reach out to Gregg Carlson at gregg@convergenceus.org.**



[Click Here for Webinars](#)

Development; chhsmpublic@chhsm.org

2024

Sign up for book study with the Racial Justice Initiative (Anti-Racism Training)

The PSEC Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative is offering a six-week book study on *Faithful Antiracism: Moving Past Talk to Systemic Change*, by Christina Barland Edmondson and Chad Brennan. This book speaks directly to Christians who may feel ill-equipped to recognize and respond to racism. The authors use research analysis, theology, history, and social-political ethics to create interventions that challenge and resist racism in our institutions and everyday lives. There are two different time slots available for this exciting six-week book study:

- **Thursdays from 7:00-8:00p, Feb. 1-March 7 (hosted by Rev. Ann Therese Ortiz and Liz Brunton)**
 - **Tuesdays from 2:00-3:00p, Feb. 6-March 12 (hosted by Rev. Geneva Butz and Rev. Stephen Ohnsman)**
- Anyone is welcome to participate. To register, [click here](#).

February 14 (**AR**)

UCC Webinar—Black History: Unsung Heroes of the Environmental Justice Movement

(**Note: Authorized Ministers, this is an Anti-Racism Training - submit a paragraph to patty@pnec.org about what was learned from this webinar to receive credit.**) For Black History Month, the UCC will be celebrating past environmental justice leaders and their historic contributions to the movement. We will lift up and reflect upon the lives of champions for justice such as Dana Alston, Damu Smith, Hazel Johnson, and others. To fully appreciate their impact and legacy, we will hear from those in the movement who knew them. Featured speakers will include those who have been at the forefront of the movement: Robert Bullard, Vernice Miller-Travis, and Peggy Shepard. **Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on February 14th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it.**

Register now!!

https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/3317054434730/WN_-paE15N7Ty2lmsfnXuFQ3A

Eden Community Notes - January 2024

NEW: Starting February 2024-

Ministry Formation Cohorts - Ministry Formation Cohorts are education based on the UCC Marks for Ministry, with different themes each semester. The format allows you to complete digital content in your own time, and meet online monthly four times with your cohort and an experienced facilitator. Bring examples and applications from your ministerial setting while learning from your colleagues.

This semester's theme: Contextualizing the New Testament - Section 1: This cohort is for licensed ministers, those with lay ministerial standing, chaplains who occasionally lead worship, and anyone who regularly provides pulpit supply. Facilitated by **Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman**. **Section 2:** This cohort is specifically for faith formation leaders, to support their work with children, youth and young adults. Facilitated by **Rev. Rebecca Johnston**.

Digital content by Eden faculty member **Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome** for both sections.

Scholarship available for first 20 registrants in each section. Use code cohort2024 when registering to receive \$125 off. [Click here](#) for more information, class dates, and to register for either section.

Feb. 21, 2024, 5-6pm Online and on campus - Community Gardening: Ministry in the Soil an Eden Amplify Event. This seminar will focus on the importance of community gardening as a faithful way to respond to community needs, discussing both why it's so necessary, and how to start a garden at your church or organization. The **Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie** will be the presenter. Dr Leslie is the Co-Director of the Eden Gleaning and Garden Project, an effort focused on ending hunger, shrinking food waste, and connecting communities. This is an Eden Amplify event, a series of free seminars covering a broad range of ministry topics for clergy, congregation members and the general public. Eden Amplify is about empowering today for impact tomorrow. Please [click here to register](#).

January 23 (CC)



Leveling Up: From Building Intercultural Competence to Practicing Cultural Humility

January 23, 2024, 9am-12pm, Zoom



This workshop will build upon the tools learnt in 'Building Intercultural Competency' and will challenge participants to expand their self-awareness and develop cultural humility by admitting things that they might not know or may need

to cultivate. Individuals will gain a strong understanding of the cultural humility process and learn strategies for practicing cultural humility in their lives.

All participants will receive a workbook that includes assessments, reflections, and supplemental readings. They will also have an opportunity to schedule a 45-minute debrief session with the facilitator, Dr. MaNesha Stiff to solidify learnings and applications to their own organizations.

Register for Leveling Up: From Building Intercultural Competence to Practicing Cultural Humility!

Workshop Trainer

Dr. MaNesha M. Stiff



Dr. MaNesha Stiff is a seasoned diversity, equity, and inclusion practitioner known for her bold approach to transforming hearts and minds around DEI. She believes there is no "cookie-cutter" path to advancing DEI and strives to create unique experiences that meet organizations and individuals where they're at, while working alongside them, challenging them and supporting them to continuously grow along their journey.

MaNesha holds a Ph.D. in Education, with a concentration in Higher Education Leadership from Capella University, demonstrating her DEI leadership in senior positions within global organizations.

A detailed learning designer and a powerful facilitator at all levels, MaNesha brings a deep lived experience with knowledge of organizational strategy, and the all important wisdom of how people need to feel as they learn and change. Her intercultural work also plays a role in how she approaches this field.

In July of 2022 MaNesha completed her term as President of the Illinois chapter of the Association of Black Women in Higher Education and is a racial equity coach, mediator, and Peace Circle facilitator. In her spare time, MaNesha enjoys working with her mentoring group for young Black and Brown girls, and playing with her dogs, Honeychick, Velvet, and Cocoa.

Clients



Both trainings will be led by Dr. MaNesha Stiff, [Metanoia Solutions](#). Thank you, Dr. Stiff and Metanoia Solutions!

- Specialist areas**
- Interactive DEI Workshop/Training Development and Facilitation
 - Fostering Authenticity in the Workplace
 - Climate Assessment and Benchmarking
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Development
 - Embedding DEI into Decision Making
 - Intercultural Development
 - Navigating Internal and External DEI Crises
 - Cultural Restorative Practices

Our deep thanks to [PA Link](#) for sponsoring these trainings to be free and open for all in our community!





Early Registration Saves \$100

Until January 13, 2024

Registration Is Now Open for the Pastor Training Event of the Year!

Five days of learning, growing, and reflecting through a combination of formal information sessions, individual and small-group exercises, and whole group discussion.

Join VitalChurch Ministry online for a training event designed to equip interim pastors, denominational leaders, and anyone else interested in helping churches in some kind of transition. Our training flows from a theology that places Christ, and His purposes, at the center of genuine church revitalization.

[Learn More](#)

Dates and Location

Monday, February 12 Through Friday, February 16

Held daily on Zoom from 12 pm to 4 pm (EST)

During this five-day event, participants will discover strategies to diagnose real problems, facilitate change, resolve conflict, manage destructive powerbrokers, and deal with the idols at the root of many congregational issues. You will be exposed to a flexible and workable model of church governance, the use of transition teams, and a proven method for strategic planning.

Early bird pricing is valid until January 13, 2024. Space is limited to ensure productive networking opportunities.

Grab Your Tickets

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About VitalChurch Ministry

VitalChurch Ministry is one of the nation's leading organizations in the fields of interim pastoring and church diagnostics. They have worked with hundreds of Christian churches throughout the United States, and in other parts of the world, and have produced some of the most well-regarded interim pastor training materials, used by denominations around the country. VitalChurch team members are regularly called upon to be featured speakers at denominational conferences on the topic of interim pastoring.

Our mailing address is: VitalChurch Ministry 507 Calle Luego San Clemente, CA 92673 USA

January 8, 15, 22, 29

Leadership & Hybrid Ministry in the New Media Landscape with the Rev. Dr. Angela Gorrell -

Zoom | 11 am - 1 pm Eastern | 4 Sessions - Living in a new media landscape is as daunting as it is exhausting. You may be feeling fresh out of resilience, creativity, and agility. This course will help you to lean into your expertise while attending to what matters most for ministry in a new media landscape. This course is based on my book, *always on: practicing faith in a new media landscape*, which draws on the research of media scholars (e.g. Jenkins, Campbell, Rheingold, Baym), religious scholars (e.g. Volf, Tanner, Smith, Bass), and educators (e.g. Palmer, Freire, Brookfield) to equip people like you to lead communities toward flourishing in a new media landscape.

Participants completing this course will gain:

- Deeper understanding of the new media landscape, especially its theological and cultural implications
- Space to explore, imagine, and reflect on hybrid ministry (online + in-person ministry)
- Practical ways to do hybrid ministry well
- Concrete actions to help others flourish in a new media landscape

Register at: [Leadership & Hybrid Ministry in the New Media Landscape](#)*

*The cost of this class is on a sliding scale at \$75, \$125, and \$175. There is a limited number of full scholarships available. Contact [Brandon Nappi here](#) regarding scholarships.

Jan. 11 – Feb. 29

The Sequel: Jesus Continued in the Book of Acts – with the Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton – 7:30PM Eastern – zoom – 8 sessions - Luke's intro to the Book of Acts summarizes his whole 24-chapter Gospel – Jesus' birth, childhood, teaching, preaching, wonder-working, passion, death, and resurrection – as "all that Jesus began to do and teach." (Acts 1.1) To our author, the brilliant life and ministry of Jesus was just the beginning – a start that the church would continue as Christ's body in the world. The well-told stories of Acts recount the ways a small group of Jewish men and women in Jerusalem grew and expanded to move the Way of Jesus into cities around the Mediterranean Sea and, ultimately, beyond. This class will offer a close reading of this fascinating and faith-forward account. Free of charge. **Register at:** [The Sequel: Jesus Continued in the Book of Acts](#)

January 24 (BT)

[Advanced Boundary Training: Boundaries for Part-time Pastors](#) on Zoom

January 24 **Minister as Coach – a workshop for clergy – [click here for more info](#)**

Jan. 31/Feb. 1 **(BT)** **2024 Boundary Training For Clergy and Commissioned Lay Pastors**

January 31/February 1 -- 9:30AM - 12:30PM -- Register by Jan 15th

May 7/8 -- 1:00PM - 4:00PM ET -- Register by April 20th

October 15/16 -- 10:00AM - 1:00PM ET -- Register by Sept 29th

Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training is tailored to focus on strategies to foster clergy emotional resiliency and well-being. While we still cover the "requirements," we believe the best prevention involves encouraging leaders to take steps to manage their stress in order to maintain balance and perspective when temptation to violate boundaries arises. This live online boundaries training is 5 total hours split over 2 consecutive days (2.5 hours each day). Following the first session, participants are asked to engage in a bit of reflection work in preparation for the second session. This online boundaries training will be conducted via secure Zoom video conferencing.

[Click Here](#) for detailed flyer and registration information.

February 7 **Developing Your Praxis for Building Diverse Youth Communities** with Dr. Brian Ragsdale, Ph.D. – zoom – 12 Noon to 1:30PM Eastern – In this interactive presentation and dialogue, we explore youth identity development from understanding the synergies between holding multiple identities, for example, Black, neurodivergent, LGBTQIA. Geared toward youth leaders, layperson, and youth ministers we develop approaches of how oppression, power, and privilege may operate across systems. The overall goal is to develop approaches of how to create safer spaces for youth in their relationships and community building efforts. Free of charge.
Register at: [Developing Your Praxis for Building Diverse Youth Communities](#)

February 20, 27 **Intro to Progressive Christianity – Five-Part Series Lent 2024** - All workshop times listed are

March 5, 12, 19 in PST - (Pacific Standard Time) – 4-6PM PST - This five-part workshop series is once a week during the season of Lent. It is online on Zoom. Each workshop will last approximately 1.5-2 hours. - \$75 per person for all 5 workshops. - [Workshop Registration \(google.com\)](#)

March 6 **Teaching Holy Troublemaking: Resources for Progressive Christian Formation** with Daneen Akers and Wendy Claire Barrie – zoom 12 Noon to 1:30PM Eastern - Join author Daneen Akers and Christian educator Wendy Claire Barrie as they talk about progressive faith formation especially through the lens of the middle-grades anthology Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints and its companion curriculum. Hear ideas for how the stories of people like Bayard Rustin, Wangari Maathai, Thich Nhat Hahn, Mr. Rogers, Valarie Kaur, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, Rev. Gafney, Rumi, and more can connect with adolescents. Free of charge.
Register at: [Teaching Holy Troublemaking](#)

March 14 **(BT)** **[Thursday, March 14, 1:30 – 4:30pm ET, Retired Minister Boundary Training with Rev. Tara Barber](#)** - Maintaining healthy boundaries is challenging at any stage in ministry and it is particularly tender and difficult attending to boundaries as we transition out of our last call, and while in retirement. "A Sure Foundation", "The Ministerial Code" and Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly's new book, "The Jubilee Years" along with case studies, will provide the content of this training. Rev. Tara Barber will offer this focused Boundary Awareness Training for those entering and living in retirement.

May 7-8 **(BT)** Basic Boundary Training with Lehigh Presbytery (**[Register](#)**)

Others...

-Communities of Practice – participation qualifies for ½ of the continuing education requirements

-Crossroads Lay Leadership Program at Moravian Sem. – <https://www.moravianseminary.edu/academics/crossroads>

-Moravian Seminary – 610-861-1512 - - <http://moravianseminary.edu/academics/continuing-education>

This site gets a person directly to continuing education programs. The calendar is on the same page.

-Center for Family Process – www.centerforfamilyprocess.com

-Lehigh Conference of Churches – <https://lehighchurches.org>

-Institute for Islamic Christian Jewish Studies – <https://icjs.org/> - usually (CC) qualified