

# WORKSHOPS

(subject to change)

**How to Sponsor a Mission** will touch on itinerating visiting Missionaries and will include a panel discussion.

## **It Couldn't Happen Here - Or Could It?**

Once upon a time, the lack of peace and safety church leaders worried about mostly happened somewhere else; occasionally in homes, often on the street, and mostly on the other side of the world. Now, the rise in deadly shootings and other crimes has disproportionately visited churches. Join us as the Growth Ministry Council helps you understand the need for a plan and the pieces to put in place for a safe church.

## **Write it Right and Write it Now!**

Do you ever read something and think, I could write like this! Here's your chance! Every year we publish 2 devotional booklets for the Advent and Lenten seasons. Those short devotions filling these 2 booklets are composed by lay people and pastors from across our NACCC, just like you! Join our writing workshop for information, ideas, and time to write a devotion!

## **The Church and Law Enforcement**

Negative events in the recent past have created a tenuous relationship between law enforcement and the community. This workshop will present ways in which the church can become actively involved in developing a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

## **Small, Medium or Large. Thriving Congregational churches come in all sizes.**

Three ministers from NACCC churches speak on successful programs in their churches.

- Rev. Sarah Gladstone, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, MI, represents a small-size church.
- Rev. Les Wicker, First Congregational Church, Naples, FL, represents a medium-size church.
- Rev. Bill Trump, First Congregational Church Wauwatosa, WI, represents a large-size church.

## **What young parents are looking for in a church?**

Karen Massey, a professional in Christian Education, helps answer this important question. Karen is the Associate Professor and Faith Development at the McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta, Georgia. She teaches Faith Development, Worship, Church Administration, Christian Education and Women's studies. Karen is a founding member and past president of the Christian Educators' Network, a professional ecumenical organization for ministers in the field of Christian education. Her publications include Vacation Bible School curriculum series, *Under Construction*, and *Christian Education Developments in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*.

## **How to successfully resolve church conflict**

David Brubacker, a nationally respected expert in church conflict resolution, discusses what can be done when a church is in conflict. David, a member of Congregational Consulting Group, was formerly with the Alban Institute. He wrote the Alban book, *Promise and Peril*, which presented discoveries from his dissertation research on congregational conflict. David has been consulting with congregations for over 25 years and is a highly regarded professor at Eastern Mennonite University.

## **Preaching with Imagination: Preaching that Keeps the Preacher's Soul Alive**

Rev. Brett Younger, Senior Minister, Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, New York, conducts a workshop for ministers answering questions: How does a preacher keep offering a fresh and lively word? Can the preparation and delivery of sermons be a source of spiritual renewal week in and week out? Learn ways preachers can engage their own journey, the Scripture, the church and the world. Before coming to Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, Brett served for eight years as a preaching professor at the McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta, Georgia.

### **Why you should consider becoming an Ambassador to NACCC churches**

Rev. Michael Chittum, Executive Director, NACCC, discusses plans for recruiting and training volunteer Ambassadors to visit neighboring NACCC churches, bringing greetings and assistance from the national organization. The goal is to contact and visit our 350 + churches. This means recruiting and training 70 Ambassadors to each contact and visit 5 (on average) NACCC churches.

### **Exploring the History of American Congregationalism**

This workshop explains the main distinctives of the Congregational tradition, and how it changed and developed over time. It will also answer the question "Were there Congregationalists south of the Mason-Dixon line?"

### **Being a 'First Responder': How to Identify and Encourage Gifts for Ministry in the Local Church**

It was recently pointed out in an article in *The Congregationalist* that it is those pastors, lay leaders, and members of our churches that can be "first responders" in recognizing the presence of gifts for ministry and fostering a sense of vocation in those who possess them. "First responders" work to connect those who are called with the education and support required to serve our churches. Come and learn from those who have been involved in receiving or confirming a call to ministry how to cultivate the instincts and skills needed to be such a "first responder" in your church!

### **Learn about indexing your investment portfolio**

Indexing seeks to give you the most of what the markets have to offer, without the additional manager risk associated with active management. Learn about how Vanguard uses index investing in the Congregational Investment Trust (CIT), available to all NACCC member churches, and how indexing can play a key role in any portfolio. Eric Salzer is a Senior Investment Consultant from Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services and he manages the CIT portfolio with the CIT Oversight Committee. Mr. Salzer will lead the discussion, answer questions, and explain how index investing helps the CIT achieve its goals.

### **Extending Congregational and Individual Prayer Life**

This workshop, led by members of the Congregational Society of Classical Retreat Guides, will introduce the efforts of the Society to promote the devotional life within Congregational churches and among their members. Explanations of Quiet Days and Silent Retreats will be given and participants will have the opportunity to practice prayer that is typically part of Society offerings.

### **How your congregation can better serve, and make a difference in its community**

The Gospel has both a personal and social dimension. The church is called to be salt and light to the world. What contribution is your church making to the social betterment of its surrounding community? If your church disappeared would anybody in the community notice? What social gospel values guide its mission and outreach ministries? Who are you becoming as a congregation in service to your neighbors? This workshop will discuss the core biblical, human, and social values on which a vision for a dynamic social service ministry modeled on the compassion of Jesus may be built.

### **Reimagining Church**

For nearly three decades Mainline Protestant churches in the US have struggled to grow, both numerically and spiritually. It is my belief that there are multiple reasons for the exodus of Boomers and Gen Xers and the unwillingness of Millennials to join churches. I would like to focus on two factors: 1) Folks who are exiting/not participating in churches value a missional focus and 2) these same folks are community-centric. Therefore, any organization, including the church, that is perceived to be anything other than community-centric will experience a lessening of influence and participation in the coming years.