

## [Evangelism: Transforming Congregations – Engaging Communities](#)

[\(see here for Quick View of Workshops\)](#)

Fellowship Chapel UCC, 707 Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan

There will be four exciting opportunities to learn from practitioners how to strengthen your ministries or how to develop new ways of doing evangelism, stewardship and justice. Return home with tools to begin immediately in growing a more vital congregation that relates to the community.

Workshop Schedule for Thursday and Friday 3- 4 November 2011

### **Session 1 – 10:15 AM – 12:30 PM Thursday 3 November 2011**

**1-1. Justice: Church and Community** -- Rev. Chris Schwab and Karen Holcomb-Merrill -- Justice LED training can help you grow in faith while engaging with your church, community and the world to address justice issues. The vision of UCC Justice & Witness Ministries is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation. How might your congregation act toward that vision with the surrounding community? Pursuit of justice is both steeped in Christian tradition AND a faith-deepening, community-building, evangelism practice that adds vitality and purpose to congregations. Come learn about and sample new curriculum for congregations called Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED).

**1-2. "If we're not in Kansas Anymore, Where are We?"** -- Rev. Dr. Marian R. Plant – Associate Professor and Schaufler Chair of Ministry Studies, Coordinator, Design for Leadership, Defiance College -- Identifying some of the cultural contexts that have shifted around us in the secular and church-based areas, and then stepping forward into this new landscape. This is a “working” workshop so come prepared to create some forward steps for your local setting.

**1-3. R U Plugged In?** –Rev. Nancy E. Azar, Licensed Minister and PNEC Associate Conference Minister -- Exploring how we find God in our everyday life and in relationships through the use of technology, music, drama and worship. The workshop will present a design for a youth retreat which integrates the use of technology by participants and leaders in the retreat activities. John 15: 1-11 shapes the experience. Learn the theological and practical components which made this event a great new experience for the youth and

adults, as well as, the how to's of the use of technology in a retreat setting your local setting.

**1-4. Bread for Today/Bread for Eternity: *Transforming our service/outreach ministries into opportunities for faith-sharing & community building*** – Pastor Will Stuart, founding pastor of Nu-Vision UCC, Toledo, OH -- In this workshop, we will explore how congregations' direct-service ministries can become vehicles for evangelism, discipleship & expressions of intentional community (both among current church members and those as-yet outside of the church). Seeking to move beyond mere charity into authentic & practical justice work, we will evaluate our missions In light of staffing-models, goals/outcomes for the program(s) & the pervasive culture/environment/atmosphere surrounding our service ministries.

**1-5. Immigration: A Church Ministry** -- Rev. Rosa Frias, Senior Pastor First United Church of Christ, Juliet Illinois and a Licensed Clinical Social Work describes how immigration policies and procedures affect churches and communities. Learn what undocumented parents need to know to prevent their children from becoming wards of the state in a case of deportation. Your church can learn to be a safe place for immigrants in your community.

**1-6. Who are Our Neighbors?** Rev. William Kyle, Youth Outreach Minister for Ministries For the Night Ministry Program and Veronica Kyle, Congregational Outreach Coordinator for Faith in Place, Chicago Illinois – Learn how you too can weave a tapestry between our social/environmental justice issues in the US and how they impact our faith community abroad. Hear about the successful work that is currently being done in the Chicago land area and how you too can become involved.

**1-7. Come! Explore! Ways To Use Faith Practices to Enable Discipleship!** -- Shirley DeMartinis, Commissioned Minister, and UCC Education Consultant. Tired of sorting through printed resources to develop a program for your church? Come; explore Faith Practices as a resource for your local church programming! Experience a session. Look at a variety of experience and the how they enable faith formation. See how these can help enable disciples for your church's mission. See how versatile these resources are and how they can be used in a variety of settings in your local church. Determine what will work the best in your church.

**1-8. Evangelism Is Possible In The Smaller Church ... Naturally!** Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson, National Director of Evangelism and New Church Planting of American Baptist Churches USA -- If going door to door, preaching on the street or distributing tracts is what you think of when you think of evangelism, then this workshop is for you. Dr. Johnson will share what evangelism IS and what it ISN'T. You will discover the relational components of effective evangelism within the context of church health and spiritual vitality. Learn the various Biblical styles of evangelism, your own and those of others present in your congregation. This will be a time of inspiration, instruction, and interaction. You will leave with a knowledge of how to assess and

empower yourself and your church to do evangelism and outreach that builds meaningful relationships and flows naturally out of the way you are wired by God. You will leave this training event with things you can use right away, literally as soon as you walk out the door

**1-9. Social Media and Spreading the Good News about Your Church**-- Kim Kendrick, Director of Communications, Living Water UCC Philadelphia, PA. -- Small Church budgets can often make us feel as though we cannot spread the good news about our congregation. With a small investment and some great volunteers your church can have an internet presence. Learn how to set up your website, use free streaming tools on the internet and establish your presence outside the four walls of your church. By the end of the workshop, you will have the resources to build a social media presence for your congregation and evangelize your community and beyond.

## **Session 2 -- 2:00 PM – 4:15 PM Thursday 3 November 2011**

- 2-1. Justice: Church and Community** -- Rev. Chris Schwab and Karen Holcomb-Merrill - Justice LED training can help you grow in faith while engaging with your church, community and the world to address justice issues. The vision of UCC Justice & Witness Ministries is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation. How might your congregation act toward that vision with the surrounding community? Pursuit of justice is both steeped in Christian tradition AND a faith-deepening, community-building, evangelism practice that adds vitality and purpose to congregations. Come learn about and sample new curriculum for congregations called Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED).
- 2-2. The More You Do for These, The More You Do For Christ** – Rev. Deborah Savage, Pastor, Hope Outreach UCC, Philadelphia, PA – Using scripture for the vision for ministry, explore ways to develop and operate outreach programs in the urban setting by stepping out on faith to assist the community, using the resources available within the congregation and partnering with others. A welcoming environment shows Christ's unconditional love and meets the needs of the community and changes the lives of the people.
- 2-3. Worship, Theology and the Arts** -- Rev. Dr. Todd Farley, Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church of Saginaw, Michigan. Todd's PhD is in Theology and Culture with a focus on the Arts. In this workshop you are offered a professorial, ministerial and artistic perspective from practical experiences spanning 30 years of international ministry through the use of the performing arts. This workshop will explore the potential of the arts to be used in worship, ministry, evangelism or entertainment. It's also a cautionary tale of how the arts can be as

good and constructive as they can be bad and destructive! Come explore the biblical, historical and ecumenical history of the arts, and find out how they can be a force...for today's good.

- 2-4. Stewardship From a Faith Perspective --** Rev. Kermit Newkirk, Senior Pastor, H. O. Davis UCC, Philadelphia, PA—Stewardship is not about finances, but about our faith. Look at how we see God. How we see ourselves. What we think about stewardship. And how all of this relates to a financially solid church in the postmodern age.
- 2-5. Marketing Your Church: From Bridal Shows to Websites –** Brenda Waleff, Commissioned Minister and Minister of Communications, Penn Central Conference -- We'll look at simple, easy ideas to get your church noticed by the community including group advertising, entry points, websites and social media.
- 2-6. Effective, Affordable, Entrepreneurial Ministry –** Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, founder and senior Pastor of City of Refuge UCC and the Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship -- “Prophetic, relevant and authentic ministry is critical but comes with a price and is often not supported through typical funding sources Let’s discover together ways to move from ‘church as usual ‘to ‘church unusual’ and how to afford to do it.”
- 2-7. Offering Christ: The Heart for Youth Ministries --** Dr. Coni Simon -- The church on many fronts is considered obsolete and ineffective to meet the needs of the youth today. Much of which is proved by statistics that show the negative impact that society presents our youth. The role of the Church is imperative in providing avenues of hope, love, and restoration without compromising the Gospel. Youth ministry is a theology of liberation in action to seek the souls of the marginalized, and the disenfranchised. This workshop will present a framework for youth ministries and examine the elements of recruiting, restoring, and reviving youth in a challenging world.
- 2-8. Becoming Bilingual: Learning to Tweet and Love our Tradition --** Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister is the Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults in the Connecticut Conference -- How does the Church communicate the faith in a new age? This workshop explores several new mediums for communication and their implications on building intergenerational community within congregations.
- 2-9. Moving from death's door to abundant life,** Rev. Jamesetta Ferguson, Pastor St. Peter’s UCC, Louisville, KY. -- In Matthew 25:21 Jesus tells the servant 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Many times God doesn't bless us with more, because we don't take care

of the little that was given to us. As the church, when we begin to take care of the "little", God can move us from death's door to abundant life.

### **Session 3 – 10:15 AM – 12:30 PM Friday 4 November 2011**

- 3-1. Speaking Church to Our Communities.** Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Professor of Systematic Theology Neal and Ila Fisher Chair of Theology Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary --This workshop will explore the importance of speaking in the language of the Church as we evangelize in urban communities. A significant goal of this exploration is to understand how giving a religious language to the issues and struggles that many in our communities face can create a unique identity for our churches in the midst of many civic and social organizations.
- 3-2. Social Media and Spreading the Good News about Your Church-** Kim Kendrick, Director of Communications, Living Water UCC Philadelphia, PA. -- Small Church budgets can often make us feel as though we cannot spread the good news about our congregation. With a small investment and some great volunteers your church can have an internet presence. Learn how to set up your website, use free streaming tools on the internet and establish your presence outside the four walls of your church. By the end of the workshop, you will have the resources to build a social media presence for your congregation and evangelize your community and beyond.
- 3-3. Powerful Voices: Leading the Way to the Liberating Jesus,** Rev. Gwen Thomas, Coordinator of the African American Roundtable for the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies in Religion and Ministries, Pacific School of Religion. Taking the Gospel to a 21<sup>st</sup> culture, requires ways to communicate that message so that it is clear, credible and convincing; in short, comprehensible and understandable to the people in that context. A challenge of evangelism in the twenty-first century is that older methods of sharing the gospel don't make sense in light of the current worldview. Larger questions about life and circumstances call for a practical Gospel with a real savior where the cross of Christ makes sense.
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**Session 4 – 2:00 PM – 4:15 PM Friday 4 November**

- 4-1. Why is stewardship green?** Dr. Alan Hoback, Chair and Professor of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering University of Detroit Mercy and Rev. Dr. Steven Archer, Pastor, Trinity-St. Marks United Church of Christ. Green stewardship gets congregants excited, especially younger ones. It makes buildings healthier for the users, and makes them last longer. It shows how our own actions can make a real difference in peoples' lives across the world. Also, it will save money when well-planned. The session will show how unique strategies need to be used for each congregation. The workshop will help each attendee begin to contemplate how his or her own situation suggests different actions. Customized suggestions will be made for each attendee with possibilities for follow-up.
- 4-2. Bridging Divides and Making Connections –** Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, Executive director of CLUE-CA (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, California). -- Focus on bringing people together across different faith traditions, political/social/economic perspectives; rural-urban differences, etc...in search of common concerns. Cribbs experience in working successfully with diverse groups to achieve common goals will be the basis of the discussion.
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