

# WORKSHOPS [updated 2/5/19]

## **Crisis Communication –**

### **How to Create a Culture of Preparedness**

Identify and report behaviors of concern and how to proceed once information is received. Learn how a simple anonymous reporting tool will allow your administrative staff to intervene before behaviors become problems by creating an intelligence network. Understand how anonymous reporting will improve the safety and security of your church, and how creating a culture of preparedness will keep your members and staff safe.

### **Leading through Adversity (Nehemiah style)**

Every leader, whether pastor or church laity, will need to lead a church through adversity. This workshop will provide key lessons on how to accomplish this.

### **Ministering with Disabilities**

A panel will lead discussion about the partnership in ministry between a church and a child of God. How are people with disabilities part of the Body of Christ and how can a church encourage that relationship for the future?

### **The Congregationalist Magazine in the 21st Century**

What is the future of *The Congregationalist* magazine in a changing religious landscape? How can the magazine promote and support the Congregational Way? Readers and donors are encouraged to share their ideas at this first-time workshop.

### **How Does Giving Affect a Giver?**

Compassion? Commitment? Obligation? Why are you generous? Are checks to charity, tithes and offerings, just like other bills that need to be paid or an expression of faith? Panelists from across the NACCC will consider these questions. Discussion will include tools for inviting your congregation to consider the relationship between faith and finances.

### **What's Working Well at My Church?**

Three NACCC churches, small, medium and large, talk about the programs that are having a major impact on the life of their congregations. Panelists are: Patty Smith, Berwick Congregational Church, Berwick, Iowa; Rev. Justin Nierer, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan; and Rev. Dr. Donald Olsen, Plymouth Church, Wichita, Kansas.

### **Plymouth Landing 400th Anniversary**

Prepare your Plymouth Landing 400th Anniversary talking points. Create your "Elevator Speech" about what is a Congregational Church and the 400th Anniversary. Hear a practical guide to Congregationalism. Why is it important that we focus on it and Celebrate! Prepare yourself when your local press asks you to comment and inform about the 400th Anniversary.

## **What Attracts Younger Christians to your Church?**

How can you train the up and coming generation to be disciples? Come hear a panel discussion about strategies you can use and opportunities within the NACCC to help your church grow stronger in coming years.

### **Social Media and Your Church Round-table**

We now live in a world where it is almost impossible to keep away from social media. As a church, where do you draw the line? Come together to discuss problems and solutions with other NACCC churches.

### **Reading Deeply:**

#### **The Spiritual Practice of Lectio Divina**

Lectio divina, or "sacred reading," developed in the early church as a way to let scripture speak to us. This involves reading the scripture out loud, hearing it read out loud, and responding to it in different ways. As the chosen text engages all aspects of a person, it will transform prayer life and spiritual practices. There will be two opportunities to participate in lectio divina, with different passages chosen from the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and New Testament at each, one led by the Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, and the other by the Rev. Dan Vellinga, both active ministers and officers of the Congregational Retreat Society.

### **Washington Gladden**

Learn about Washington Gladden whose writing and ideas on practical and applied Christianity have greatly influenced our churches and nation. Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens, his successor as the Sr. Minister of the First Congregational UCC of Columbus, Ohio, will present about Gladden, his ideas and how they are alive today.

### **Caring for Church Records**

The Congregational Library and Archives is a primary resource for local churches wondering what to do with all of their "stuff," from cancelled checks and old bulletins to property deeds and sermons. We will provide basic principles of organizing and records management, as well as tips about preservation and archiving.

### **Why the Congregational Story Matters**

Join Peggy Bendroth, a historian and executive director of the Congregational Library in Boston, in a fast, sweeping, and always interesting overview of Congregational history, how it has developed over time, what makes it distinctive, and how it is deeply relevant to the present day.

### **Write On!**

Have some quiet time to write a devotional for our Advent or Lent Devotional booklet. With writers from our sister churches, we hold the NACCC in our hands when we use and share these devotionals. Join the Growth Ministry Council as they talk about how to write a devotional and actually write one (or more) for inclusion in the upcoming devotional booklets.