



National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting & Conference

Workshop List with Presenters & Descriptions

[All Workshops will be recorded and available on our Website after the Annual Meeting]

[updated February 2, 2021]

Pre-Recorded Workshops will be available to view before the Annual Meeting

PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: The Congregationalist Magazine in the 21st Century

PRESENTER: Marianne King, Editor, The Congregationalist, First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: How to Organize a Church Group Mission Trip

PRESENTER: Jamie Bonnema, Mission and Outreach Ministry Council Chair, Member of Maple Hill Community Congregational Church, Kansas

Organizing and leading a team of volunteers on a mission trip can be a confusing and daunting task. You will receive a list of planning stages and timelines and be able to speak directly with NACCC associated missions interested in hosting groups.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Repairing A Broken Bible

PRESENTER: Rev. Ed Backell, Warden Community Church, Warden, Washington

"If your Bible is falling apart, you probably aren't." A nice sentiment, but what happens when your Bible IS falling apart? Do you have a damaged cover? Torn pages? Loose sections? Find out how to make repairs to your favorite book!

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Social Action and the Spirit of Jubilee

PRESENTER: Rev. Jacob Poindexter, First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska

The Spirit of Biblical Jubilee is Restorative Justice for the Land and its People, (Leviticus 25). Social Justice is also the basis and mission of Congregational life. A full expression of the Spirit of God in a congregation necessitates participation in the work of justice in its community. Through sharing stories of Congregational Social Action in Anchorage, Alaska, Rev. Jacob Poindexter will show how judicious, persistent engagement in social action has broadened the influence, and enlivened the spiritual life of the First Congregational Church of Anchorage in exciting and unexpected ways. This workshop will inspire churches in every community to look for opportunities to work for justice and experience the joy of Jubilee for themselves.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Self-Care in Ministry: Running the Race Through the Land of Chaos

PRESENTER: Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, CPC, ELI-MP, Volunteer Encouragement Coach for Ministering to Ministers, Encouragement Coach at Gabriel-Jones Coaching, Host of Friends for the Journey Podcast and Here’s Hoping: Conversations with Kathrin

Have you ever heard the phrase, ‘it’s important for pastors to engage in proactive self-care’? In the “before-times” – when we hadn’t ever heard of Covid-19 – self-care often became item 9 on a list of the 3 most important things to do. But during the pandemic, self-care became the last ragged item on a discarded list found in the lint trap of the dryer. So now, in the wake of 2020, what does self-care mean? In order to explore how to engage in self-care, it’s worthwhile for us to explore what self-care actually means. Remember, each of us is unique, called to ministry in service to God’s creation. Yet because each of us is indeed unique, self-care is unique for each of us. Engaging emotional intelligence, imagination, and metaphor, we will explore the radical concept of self-care while answering the call of ministry, we will entertain the possibility that self-care is not the heresy we often think it to be.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Lay Ministry Overview

PRESENTER: Rev. Doug Gray, First Church of Squantum, Squantum, Massachusetts

The Lay Ministry program has recently been revamped, changing over to a fully virtual, instructor led program. Come learn more about this amazing distance learning opportunity. It provides basic training for people who desire to serve the church more fully, either as a lay minister or as a lay leader. The program assists in the spiritual development of individuals and enhances knowledge in areas of biblical knowledge, theology, worship, Congregational history and polity, pastoral care, Christian education and others.

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Live/Virtual via Zoom Workshops will be presented during the Annual Meeting-See the Agenda

LIVE

TITLE: What is an Ecclesiastical Council?

PRESENTERS: Rev. Justin Nierer, Vitality Ministry Council Chair, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan
Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

What is the potential for Congregational Churches in engaging the process of Ecclesiastical Councils? They are not only for the very important occasions of the ordination and installation of pastors (in which they are almost always advised) but can do so much more for the local church in terms of discernment on making significant changes in programming, gaining wisdom for better stewardship of resources, working toward the transformation of situations of conflict, and so much more! Attend this workshop/panel discussion and hear from churches, lay leaders, and pastors on how they use these amazing tools to guide their churches and ministries effectively towards God's will!

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LIVE

TITLE: Reading and Praying the Scriptures with Our Ancestors

PRESENTERS: Pastor Dan Vellinga, First Congregational Church, Marshalltown, Iowa

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Lectio Divina is an ancient spiritual discipline of reading the Scriptures with the heart and the intuition. The early church fathers and mothers developed this method that has continued to be appreciated by Christians through the centuries. Practiced individually or in a group, it is a way to investigate how the Bible speaks to the individual, while complementing traditional methods of Scripture study. Participants will be able to reflect on scriptures cherished by our Pilgrim ancestors as we celebrate our 400 years of Congregational history and spirituality.

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LIVE

TITLE: Write On!

PRESENTERS: Pastor Carol Taylor, United Church of Beloit, Beloit, Wisconsin

Rev. Terry Bobzien, First Congregational Church, Pittsford, Michigan

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.

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LIVE

TITLE: Understanding and Engaging the Younger Generation in Christian Mission

PRESENTERS: Amy Kennedy, Co-Executive Director (Placement and Communications), and Dr. Darwin Glassford, Board of Directors, A Christian Ministry in the National Park

Are you looking for ways to attract younger people to your congregation? Learn more about the nuances of Millennials, Gen-Z, and Generation Alpha. Learn how they think, what they are looking for in a church, and identify ways you can more easily target these younger generations. The opportunities are endless, and you might be surprised to learn just what an asset these demographics might be to your church!

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LIVE

TITLE: Lay Ministry Class on Spiritual Formations

PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, Faith Community Church, Franklin, Wisconsin

Join us for a sample course under the new Lay Ministry program. Spiritual Formations will give you an idea of a year one-session long course. This course will provide an introduction to spiritual formation, discipleship, and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Using daily practices of spiritual reading, prayer and meditation, students will be guided to a greater understanding of God and essential pathways to experiencing God.