

2018 Annual Meeting
June 1-2, 2018
Workshop Descriptions

Friday 10:00 – 3:15

“Reconciling Past and Future”

Presenter: Rev. Bill Worley and others

We are experiencing an incredible shift in American church life and it's impacting us all. Our response may be to wish we could go back to the way things used to be, to blame something or someone, to live in resignation, or to discover that God is sharing glimpses of “making all things new.” Join us Friday as Conference Minister, Bill Worley, hosts a conversation for laity and clergy to both experience and engage the possibilities beyond attempting to “fix” the church to an orientation of God unfolding new possibilities before us.

Saturday 1:00 – 3:00 only Workshop

Disability Reconciliation

Presenter: Kristin Kondratowski

What does inclusion mean in the Church? How can we work to restore relationships with those affected by disability? What skills does my church need in order to welcome and include everyone into our worship? How can we spur on change as unique images of God in the Body of Christ? This workshop is designed for learning and requires participation. We will utilize a variety of hands on activities and role plays to assist in understanding inclusion. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions and “play” with sensory materials commonly used in ministries designed with special needs in mind. The workshop instructor worked as the Special Needs Ministry Director for a local church in Lancaster, PA, and is currently employed as an Associate Director for residential homes in Lancaster County, PA, where she oversees group homes of individuals with developmental disabilities. She has trained camps, schools, and churches on inclusive ministries and welcomes every opportunity to help leaders gain insight on disability as it relates to the local church.

Saturday 1:00 – 3:00 AND 3:30 – 5:30 Workshops

Immigration Reconciliation

Presenter: Philippe Weisz, Esq. and Beth Walker, Esq.

There is a lot of talk about immigration these days. This workshop will address the legal, moral and practical aspects of immigration, legal and otherwise. Attorney Philippe Weisz of HIAS Pennsylvania will dispel myths about legal aspects of immigration. He will address issues like how the process works for those trying to immigrate legally, and what happens when people immigrate illegally. Litigation attorney and long-time active member of Old First Reformed UCC, Beth Walker, will discuss justice based and care based ethical approaches to policies and laws to immigration and how people “not in compliance with the law” are treated. Peter Pedemonti, or another staff

member of the New Sanctuary Movement will be on hand to answer questions about what it means when people seek sanctuary at churches.

Political Reconciliation

Presenter: Lee C. Barrett

The nation is politically divided into blue states vs. red states, and that division is reflected in families and congregations. The animosity can be ferocious, with each side demonizing the other. We will explore the ways that the basic convictions of our Christian faith can be used to overcome these barriers and recover the possibility of a civil and mutually enriching sharing of perspectives. If that conversation cannot happen among Christians, it is unlikely that it can happen anywhere.

Racial Reconciliation – “From Black Face to Black Panther: How Pop Culture Mediums Offer a Framework for Repair and Reconciliation”

Presenter: Shayna Watson

In this workshop we will explore how pop culture mediums of comic books and film adaptations offer fictional depictions of reality, and how this alternate universe may offer us answers on how to heal and repair.

Racial Reconciliation – A South Africa Model

Presenter: Felix L. James, Esq.

A talk about the purpose and benefits as it pertains to a specific situation. How the process works and what are the mechanisms that allow the process to work. Who should be involved in the process? Who should be mandated to participate in the process in order to receive amnesty? Who should be excluded and granted amnesty prior to the proceedings and why? Attorney Felix James was a law clerk for the some of the hearings of the South African Reconciliation Commission. He will discuss models of racial reconciliation and suggest best practices.

Saturday 3:30 – 5:30 only Workshop

GLBT/Conservative Reconciliation

Presenter: Jeff Chu (Guest presenter on Saturday evening.)

Jeff will talk about his book “Does Jesus Really Love Me?” and enter into a Q & A session.