

2020 Annual Meeting
June 6, 2020
Workshop Descriptions

All Workshops being offered at both time slots: 1:00 – 2:30 and 2:45 – 4:15

**Deepening Our Journey: Stepping into the Church of the Future
with Rev. Josh Blakesley and Rev. Cean James**

Description: Many years ago, Charles Wesley wrote these words in a hymn, “To serve this present age, my calling to fulfill.” We live in an ever evolving and progressing society, while the church is often considered a relic, animatedly resisting change. Effective congregations, of all varieties, have this in common; they adapt to “serve this present age.” In this workshop we will discuss how both traditional and contemporary churches can adapt to serve their community while remaining true to their core values and mission.

**Deepening Our Connection to God’s Abundance: Moving Away from the Scarcity Model
with Rev. Sara Hertzog**

Description: *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly."* ~ John 10:10b

Sometimes it’s hard to believe, much less follow what Jesus said. We live out our lives believing if we only had more money, a better job, a more fit body, we would be happier. In the church we start to believe if we only had more young families, better givers, visitors, a larger choir, all our problems would be solved. How could our lives change if we focused on what we have - instead of what we don’t have. Imagine a church believing these words from Jesus. A church, instead of dwelling on the negative, living out their abundance. The possibilities are endless!

**Deepening Our Connection with our Youth through Conversation: OWL Sexuality Education
with Rev. Kimberly Kendrick**

Description: Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith create a partnership between the family and faith community, and they help parents fulfill their role as their children’s primary educators. The curricula support and nurture four sexuality values: Self Worth, Sexual Health, Responsibility, and Justice and Inclusivity. Participants learn how to embody these values in their own decision making and relationships and how to support others’ efforts to do so.

**Deepening Our Journey: Jesus Justice
with Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman, PhD**

Description: The term "Social Justice" has been used by Christians for well over a century, but in recent years this term has been seen in political terms by the larger culture. This workshop will look at the ways in which Jesus worked for justice. By doing this, our local congregations will be able to more clearly explain why we care about justice and, in a very real way, work to continue the justice movement that Jesus so purposely worked for.

**Deepening Our Journey: Repurposing Your Church
with Jill White**

Description: What’s your congregation’s mission? What are your congregation’s distinctive gifts for ministry? What needs does your community have? In today’s world churches must understand their purpose and their “why” in order to be most faithfully effective. A “Repurposing” process can help your church make sure that your mission (your “why”), your assets (people, gifts, and property), and your community’s needs are in alignment. This workshop will describe and provide tools for an intentional process that your church can use to help ensure that alignment. Examples will also be shared of how a few UCC congregations transformed their lives, mission and community presence through the use of their buildings and campus.