

## **Description of Workshops:**

### **"Differ We Must": Steps to engage congregations in overcoming differences.**

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

The phrase above comes from Abe Lincoln, who wrote this line to one of his political colleagues after finding they could not agree but could remain connected in fellowship. The political, cultural, and social differences within churches in our own century are stark and can, at times, divide congregations. How are we to talk with one another in times of polarization? What are some tactics for engaging members in deep conversations around sensitive topics? This workshop will include ideas for enabling conversations as well as individual soul-work for leaders in preparation for engaging with those who differ on important issues.

### **The Spiritual Life of the Church Choir**

Ms. Caroline Dunleavy

The choir fulfills a variety of functions in the church, but none more important than serving as a small group within the congregation. Singing together creates strong bonds. In contrast to secular musical groups, church choir members not only produce music with technical artistry, but also encourage faith formation in each other and the congregation. This workshop will examine the spiritual life of the church choir and the best practices that encourage faith formation within and through this small group, leading to enhanced congregational vitality.

### **Sharing Leadership**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond

Further discussion with our keynote speaker on a United Church of Christ way of being community.

### **The Keystone Conference: what is it and why does that matter to the people in the pews.**

Revs. Bill Worley and Kevin McLemore

For the last year, leaders from the four Pennsylvania UCC Conferences have met monthly to determine why and how a merged Conference might better serve UCC congregations in the Keystone state. We will share what has been discussed and debated to date and the plan for decision making that will come to a conclusion this November.

### **Why Telling Our Faith Story Matters**

Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman

Sharing our faith in worship can be scary, but it can also be empowering and life affirming. In this workshop we will learn ways to move past the fear and into the freedom of telling our story of faith.

## **Accompanying Our Aging Selves: Being Present with Older Adults**

Rev. Susan Scott

No matter your age, lay ministry with older adults is a gift that gives both ways! Come learn some practical approaches to being a more effective visitor with older congregants. We'll also consider how our experiences of being with older adults stir reflection on and feelings about our own aging.

## **Small Sunday School**

Ms. Betsy Majewski

Yes, Sunday School attendance is getting smaller, but Sunday School can still be vibrant, meaningful, and educational. Let's take time to explore ways we can do that including One Room School House model, adjusting lessons for large groups to ones for smaller groups, and sharing all the ways your church's Christian Education ministry is meeting the needs of smaller classes.

## **Engaging the Fringes of the Church**

Rev. Dr. Charles Maxfield

How do we engage with our inactive members, whether on an official active or inactive roll, or long removed.

## **How Does the UCC Work**

Rev. Bill Worley

Covenant polity, Associations, Conference, national; special offerings, the UCC alphabet soup.

## **Stewardship & Generosity Impact**

Rev. Bill Worley

This workshop is designed to walk you from the very basics of financial stewardship to the 10 Principles of a thriving ministry at your church. Rev. Bill Worley will walk you through an easy to grasp (but hard to practice) theology of money and generosity and show you how a stewardship ministry functions effectively to inspire trust and faith (the keys to an effective ministry) in church leaders, the faith community, and in God.

## **Churches Sharing a Pastor: An Ancient Model of Ministry for a Contemporary Church.**

Rev. Kevin McLemore

In a time of financial scarcity, but increased need for the church to be present in the world, Pastor Kevin McLemore will share a model of ministry that has been part of Christian history for two thousands years: churches sharing a pastor between them. He will share the blessings of such a model, as well as the challenges, and how your church can move into the future with a shepherd, while also tending to your budget.