

# 2024 Prepared to Serve Agenda

Registration (Refreshments).....	8:00am-8:40am
Welcome and Worship.....	9:00am-9:40am
Workshop Block A.....	10:00am-11:15am
Workshop Block B.....	11:35am-12:50pm
Workshop Block C.....	1:10pm-2:25pm
Workshop Block D.....	2:45pm-4:00pm

## Registration

Register online by entering the following URL into your preferred search engine **[nhcucc.info/pts2024](https://nhcucc.info/pts2024)**. All major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted.

**\*Each registrant must have their own email. If you do not have access to the internet, or if you are doing a mass registration and do not have a unique email address for each registration, please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 for assistance.**

## Registration Fee

**Registering Before Feb 12, 2024 at 11:59pm\*:**

In-Person Attendee **\$50**

Virtual Attendee **\$25**

Youth (under 18) **\$25**

Family Price Cap (more than two members of a family) **\$100**

**Registering Day-of:**

In-Person Attendee **\$65**

Youth (under 18) **\$40**

Family Price Cap (more than two members of a family) **\$130**

## Refreshments & Lunch

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, refreshments, and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. Because the food service department doesn't have a registered dietitian available, we are unable to honor special requests.

*\*After this date you will have to wait till February 24, 2024 to register in-person.*

## Offering

The offering received during the opening worship will go to support the wider mission of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

**Along with your offering, please bring your church's 2024 OCWM Pledge Form.**

## Exhibitors

The Exhibit Area will be open throughout the day. Participants are encouraged to visit with the representatives of these local, state, and national organizations.

## Child Care

This year we are offering a Youth Pathway focused on youth involvement in our church and have created a Family Price Cap of \$100, but if you require childcare in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference is prepared to provide financial assistance. Please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 or via email at **[cbradley@nhcucc.org](mailto:cbradley@nhcucc.org)** for additional information.

## Accessibility

Pembroke Academy is an accessible facility with designated parking at the main entrance. If you require additional accommodation in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference will reimburse you for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$200. Please submit reimbursement requests to **[events@nhcucc.org](mailto:events@nhcucc.org)** with either a written estimate or receipt two weeks in advance.

# Hybrid Panel Discussions

## Watch from home or attend in-person!

**Workshop Block A (10:00am-11:15am):**

### **(A1) Youth in NH UCC Churches (Panel & Pathway)**

*Join us for a panel discussion with five youth from NH UCC churches as well as two outstanding NH UCC faith formation leaders while we cover intriguing and crucial topics like the theology of kids and youth in our churches, incorporating our whole selves into worship, and putting our faith into action.*

How are youth feeling about church? What do they love about their churches, and what are they hoping to see change? What does our incorporation (or lack thereof) of kids and youth in worship say about our theology? Come learn from five amazing youth, and two phenomenal faith formation leaders about what some churches are doing right, and what we need to know in order to make positive change going forward. We'll have fun as we learn and try new things together, and at the end you'll take away several strategies and ideas to implement in your local church!

**Room:** Auditorium

**Workshop Block B (11:35am-12:50pm):**

### **(B1) How General Synod Shapes Us**

*What happened at the United Church of Christ's General Synod? How does it affect you and your church? Join us for a panel discussion where we will share the highlights and outcomes of this exciting and historic event.*

The United Church of Christ's General Synod is a biennial gathering of delegates from all over the country who represent the diversity and vitality of our denomination. It is a time to celebrate our faith, discern our vision, and make decisions that shape our future. In this panel discussion, we will share some of the highlights and outcomes of the recent General Synod event, including the election of our new General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, and some of the resolutions that we worked on, such as calling for a world free of plastics pollution or actively affirming the human dignity of transgender and nonbinary persons. We will also discuss why General Synod is an important aspect of our church, how it reflects our core values of covenant, diversity, and justice, and how it connects us with our wider church family. Finally, we will explore how you can get involved in the General Synod process, either by attending as a visitor or a delegate, by submitting a resolution, or by following the live stream and social media updates. We hope that this panel will inspire you to engage more deeply with the General Synod and to foster our local, conference, and national connection. After the conversation, we will open up the mic for questions from the audience.

**Room:** Auditorium

**Workshop Block C (1:10pm-2:25pm):**

**(C1) Re-imagining the Church Using the Lessons from Improv**

*This discussion is inspired by a series of workshops produced by A New Thing Task Force. The panel features innovative Pastors who will talk about the lessons of improv and how they can be applied in so many ways to the church. From creative use of Scripture, building community, developing creativity, evaluating priorities, even to running meetings. It's not so much about engaging in the practice of Improv as it is applying a mindset which come out of the genius of Improv.*

Rev. Emilia Halstead is the Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Concord, UCC and Jazz Sanctuary. She is a Jazz Vocalist with a BA in Theatre. She is also the Self-proclaimed Empress of the Universe.

Rev. Gayle Murphy is a member of the Congregational Church of North Barnstead and is called to serve those outside of the church. She is active in the A New Thing Task Force which looks to help churches find creative ways of being church. She is self-proclaimed master of Slow Stitching.

Rev. Maren Tirabassi is a UCC Pastor who is this year's Life-time Achievement Award recipient from the NH Humanities Council and the former Poet Laureate of Portsmouth. Before Seminary she worked in commercial theatre. Maren regularly murders people in the pages of books.

Rev. Tim Wildman is a retired Pastoral Psychotherapist engaged in creative and innovative ministry at First Congregational Church, UCC with his Pastor, Emilia Halstead. He is also a Jazz Musician who plays the trumpet and piano. He is a self-proclaimed follower of the Empress of the Universe.

**Room:** Auditorium

**Workshop Block D (2:45pm-4:00pm):**

**(D1) Church Governance for a Changing Church**

*The world is changing, and so is the church. How can we adapt to the new challenges and opportunities that come with this change? One of the key areas that affect how we function as a church is our governance structure, our by-laws. These are the rules and guidelines that shape our decision-making, our vision, and our mission.*

But what if our by-laws are outdated, rigid, or irrelevant? What if they hinder rather than help us in fulfilling our calling as a church? How can we revise them in a way that honors Christ, serves others, and reflects our identity and values?

If you are a church leader or member who wants to learn more about this topic, you are invited to join us for this panel discussion. This is a chance to hear from churches who have successfully navigated the process of by-law revision with their congregations. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, share your own experiences, and network with other like-minded people.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to turn the tables for change in your church!

**Room:** Auditorium

# Youth Pathway

## Attend all or just a single one!

**Workshop Block A (10:00am-11:15am):**

### **(A1) Youth in NH UCC Churches (Panel & Pathway)**

*Join us for a panel discussion with five youth from NH UCC churches as well as two outstanding NH UCC faith formation leaders while we cover intriguing and crucial topics like the theology of kids and youth in our churches, incorporating our whole selves into worship, and putting our faith into action.*

How are youth feeling about church? What do they love about their churches, and what are they hoping to see change? What does our incorporation (or lack thereof) of kids and youth in worship say about our theology? Come learn from five amazing youth, and two phenomenal faith formation leaders about what some churches are doing right, and what we need to know in order to make positive change going forward. We'll have fun as we learn and try new things together, and at the end you'll take away several strategies and ideas to implement in your local church!

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees of this workshop will come away with a new understanding of how to involve kids and youth in the life of the church.

**Room:** Auditorium

**Workshop Block B (11:35am-12:50pm):**

### **(B2) Youth Perspectives on Justice**

*New ideas and perspectives on the most pressing issues from the most important perspectives: come learn from NH UCC youth about environmental justice, gender and sexuality issues, anti-racism work, and more!*

This workshop, led by youth from New Hampshire UCC churches, is sure to leave you with new understandings and perspectives. These voices are all too often pushed to the side, discredited or unrepresented at the tables. They are ready now to share what we all need to hear. Learn from each youth about topics surrounding environmental justice and the global climate crisis, gender and sexuality justice issues in this state and beyond, the importance of anti-racism work, and more. Come with your questions, leave with greater awareness.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees of this workshop will come away with valuable new ideas and perspectives on justice issues we are grappling with in today's world.

**Moderator:** Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1030

**Workshop Block C (1:10pm-2:25pm):**

**(C2) Youth Lunch with Tivvi Pare \*For kids ages 6-18\***

*All kids & youth in attendance are invited to eat lunch together with Tivvi while we have fun and get to know one another!*

Tivvi is the Executive Director of Horton Center, the New Hampshire Conference's Outdoor Ministries Site and the Conference's Christian Edu. Specialist. All children are invited to come enjoy lunch together during this time with Tivvi. We will play a few games, do some fun activities and eat our lunches together.

**Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will enjoy a fun and engaging lunch period with other youth in attendance.

**Moderator:** Tivvi Pare

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Fun and Community Bonding

**Room:** 1030

**Workshop Block D (2:45pm-4:00pm):**

**(D2) How to Build Christian Community: 10 Horton Center Strategies + Tools YOU Can Use!**

*Building loving, welcoming community: it's what Horton Center does best! Come for fun, experiential learning and take away practical strategies and tools to use in all your congregations, committees, and task forces.*

If there's one thing we know at Horton Center, it's how to build community. Every week of the summer, campers and volunteers of all ages come away to our camp to experience loving, welcoming Christian community (and super awesome adventures with friends old and new, of course!). Come join new Executive Director, Tivvi Pare, for an engaging, learn-it-by-doing-it workshop where we will cover 10 tried and true camp strategies/tools you can bring back and use with whatever group you choose (yes, even over Zoom). Turn your committee into a community! Turn your task force into a tightknit team!

**Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will leave equipped with easy-to-implement strategies and tools to enhance and grow interconnected community in the groups they are a part of.

**Presenter:** Tivvi Pare

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Church Management and Leadership Development

**Room:** 1030

# Lay Preaching Pathway

**\*Requires all 4 Blocks\***

**Workshop Block A-D (10:00am-4:00pm):**

## **(A-D) Lay Preaching**

*Spend the day with two passionate teachers as they guide non-seminary trained church folks through the wonder-filled process of sermon preparation.*

We will spend an exciting day filled with preparation and practice. Two experienced practitioners and enthusiastic disciples of Christ will provide you with tools and resources, as well as addressing any concerns or cares you may have about stepping up to a pulpit. **Each participant will sign up for "boxed lunch"**. We will eat together in our group, continuing our learning and sharing as a group.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Designed for experienced and new lay preachers, this class will run for four sessions. We will address: the sermon, how to be heard, how to find appropriate background resources, tips and tricks, and much more. By the end of the day you will be more ready to say "send me" when your church needs you.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mae Magill

**Program Area:** Worship

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive  
**Room:** 1003

# The ONA Journey – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (Pathway)

## Attend all or just a single one!

### Workshop Block A (10:00am-11:15am):

#### **(A3) Where are we?**

*Learn more about the historical context that shaped the ONA movement.*

History is knowing where we are by knowing how we got here. Lead by historian, Katie Dryer-Rowe, we will describe the historical roots of the ONA movement looking particularly at the Stonewall Riot and the UCC's response as a spiritual as well as a historical process. We will examine its progress, successes, and difficulties with some emphasis on New Hampshire.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Describe the journey of the UCC toward an open and affirming church.

**Presenter:** Katie Dryer Rowe

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1004

### Workshop Block B (11:35am-12:50pm):

#### **(B3) Our Call to the Gospel When Trans People are Being Demonized and Attacked**

*Come and consider the Gospel call to the harms and demonization the trans community currently faces.*

Lead by Rev. Renee Manning (she/her/hers) and Rev. Sammy Holland (they/them/theirs), this workshop will be grounded spiritually with two readings from the canonical bible. Our sacred texts with regard to Love are clear - all are welcome before God. However, throughout our country, trans & nonbinary people are experiencing significant demonization, oftentimes especially in church settings. Further, identity politicians at many levels are gently and overtly arguing that these folks in the LGBTQ+ community do not even exist. And so, we will ask - what is our call as the UCC and the local church?

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

To build a Christian framework and response to anti-trans notions and actions

**Presenter:** Rev. Renee Manning and Rev. Sammy Holland

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1004

**Workshop Block C (1:10pm-2:25pm):**

**(C3) What are we doing about it?**

*Find out what is being done to resist efforts to put LGBTQ+ people back in the closet.*

New Hampshire representative, Gerri Cannon is one of the first openly transgender individuals elected to a legislature. She will describe her efforts and those of others in the legislature to prevent proposed drastic anti-LGBTQ legislation.

**Goals and Objectives:**

1) Describe efforts to resist homophobic and transphobic legislation

2) Explore ways to support the LGBTQ+ community as it faces backlash from elements of American culture

**Presenter:** Rep. Gerri Cannon

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1004

**Workshop Block D (2:45pm-4:00pm):**

**(D3) Where are we going?**

*Be a part of the conversation about where we want the ONA movement to go.*

This will be a group discussion, led by members of the ONA Concerns Mission Group, about where we would like to see the NHCUCC go in the future. Participants will be asked to visualize the ONA church in 2050. We will then consider ways that we can bring that vision into reality.

**Goals and Objectives:**

1) Identify areas for growth for the ONA movement in the future.

2) Identify actions that can be taken to bring about desired outcomes for the ONA movement

**Presenter:** ONA Mission Group

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1004



# Anti-Racism Pathway

Attend all or just a single one!

## Workshop Block A (10:00am-11:15am):

### **(A4) Fostering Vital Anti-Racism Work through Relationships**

*Are you ready to disrupt and end racism through creating relationships and fostering humility? This workshop will provide you with resources in support of this work.*

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Whether you and your congregation have begun anti-racism work together, or if you're looking to build a foundation for your journey, this workshop is for you! Come ready to share. Come ready to learn. Leave with a path forward and resources to guide your work.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will have a raised awareness of ongoing anti-racism work in the congregations of the NH conference and through the Anti-Racism Ministry group. Attendees will learn about upcoming events and ways they can become involved and stay connected in anti-racism work.

**Presenter:** Kira Morehouse, Bruce Kinney, and  
Tara Bickford Bailey

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive  
**Room:** 1027

## Workshop Block B (11:35am-12:50pm):

### **(B4) Impact of Racism on Our Mental Health**

*Racism has impacted our mental health for generations. How many generations? People of color yes have been directly impact. But so have person of European descent as well. Take the time to see how racism has affected you.*

We will look historically at racism and how certain behaviors have been passed down in our DNA. To turn the tables we must understand and allow the truth in for the Spirit to transform us. We will use group activities to work thru helping each other turn the tables.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Goal 1) Racism has affected all of us we need to learn how  
Goal 2) Racism is still at work today in all of us at different levels, spiritually, physical, psychologically, ancestrally

Objective 1) leaving with a desire to turn the tables toward healing  
Objective 2) Leaving with access to tools for healing  
Objective 3) Better understanding this is a process, there is no quick fix

**Presenter:** Rev. Reneé Rouse  
**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive  
**Room:** 1027

**Workshop Block C (1:10pm-2:25pm):**

**(C4) "Intersectionality" What is that? Is that happening in Churches?**

*Come learn the basics of intersectionality. How it has impacted church life. Why it is important? Who cares? What does the Divine One have to say it? How did Jesus turn the tables to reveal intersectionality?*

Learn the painful history of intersectionality. The impact around sexism, racism in Christianity. Come learn to turn the tables as Christ calls us to and set captives free starting with ourselves then the pushed to the margins. Come, let's have some serious fun! Grow together, change together, turn tables together, laugh, cry together, let's get to it!

**Goals and Objectives:**

Goal 1) Learn what intersectionality is

Goal 2) Learn what sexism and racism are in the church setting

Objective 1) Be able to identify where intersectionality is happening in a situation

Objective 2) Be able to utilize tools learned to eliminate sexism and racism

Objective 3) Be able to identify language that supports sexism and racism and turn the table with language that builds up rather than tear down

Objective 4) Be able to identify modes of oppression in systems of churches that sexism and racism

Objective 5) Be able to leave with opportunities of paths to turning tables toward freedom

**Presenter:** Rev. Reneé Rouse

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1027

**Workshop Block D (2:45pm-4:00pm):**

**(D4) Anti-racism as a Theme for Planning Christian Worship**

*Worship is at the center of our shared Christian life. For this reason, it is necessary that we courageously confront the sin of racism in our worship.*

America was founded on the genocide of native peoples and the forced enslavement of kidnapped Africans. As Christians and as Americans, this is our "original sin" -- the way that we continue, from generation to generation, to distance ourselves from God and from our shared humanity with the Beloved Community. This workshop offers strategies for ways to use the worship of a compassionate, still-speaking God to recognize and confront the white supremacy that infects the very core of our society.

**Goals and Objectives:**

The workshop will provide some practical ideas for liturgical and homiletic development, but more than this, it will try to provoke deep introspection about the racism and white supremacy still dehumanizing us all, so that we can imagine how worship can help us find the long hoped for Balm in Gilead.

**Presenter:** Rev. Mark M Koyama, Dr. Harriet Ward, Ethel McConaghy, and Rev. John Gregory-Davis

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1027

# Workshop Block A

10:00am-11:15am (75 Minutes)

## **(A1) Youth in NH UCC Churches (Panel & Pathway)**

*Join us for a panel discussion with five youth from NH UCC churches as well as two outstanding NH UCC faith formation leaders while we cover intriguing and crucial topics like the theology of kids and youth in our churches, incorporating our whole selves into worship, and putting our faith into action.*

How are youth feeling about church? What do they love about their churches, and what are they hoping to see change? What does our incorporation (or lack thereof) of kids and youth in worship say about our theology? Come learn from five amazing youth, and two phenomenal faith formation leaders about what some churches are doing right, and what we need to know in order to make positive change going forward. We'll have fun as we learn and try new things together, and at the end you'll take away several strategies and ideas to implement in your local church!

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**Room:** Auditorium

## **(A3) Where are we? (Pathway)**

*Learn more about the historical context that shaped the ONA movement.*

History is knowing where we are by knowing how we got here. Lead by historian, Katie Dryer-Rowe, we will describe the historical roots of the ONA movement looking particularly at the Stonewall Riot and the UCC's response as a spiritual as well as a historical process. We will examine its progress, successes, and difficulties with some emphasis on New Hampshire.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Describe the journey of the UCC toward an open and affirming church.

**Presenter:** Katie Dryer Rowe

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1004

## **(A4) Fostering Vital Anti-Racism Work through Relationships (Pathway)**

*Are you ready to disrupt and end racism through creating relationships and fostering humility? This workshop will provide you with resources in support of this work.*

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Whether you and your congregation have begun anti-racism work together, or if you're looking to build a foundation for your journey, this workshop is for you! Come ready to share. Come ready to learn. Leave with a path forward and resources to guide your work.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will have a raised awareness of ongoing anti-racism work in the congregations of the NH conference and through the Anti-Racism Ministry group. Attendees will learn about upcoming events and ways they can become involved and stay connected in anti-racism work.

**Presenter:** Kira Morehouse, Bruce Kinney, and  
Tara Bickford Bailey

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive  
**Room:** 1027

**Program Area:** Social Justice

## **(A5) Taming your church's energy bills (while making all things reNEWable)**

*Making investments in your Church Facility that:*

- Reduce costs
- Improve air quality
- Improve comfort
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Pay for themselves and then pay dividends

### **Goals and Objectives:**

We all want to be good stewards of God's earth! Learn how to reduce the cost of energy for your church building both with renewable resources, such as solar power, and energy efficiency. Explore technology that will reduce your church's carbon footprint and how it can be done in surprisingly cost-effective ways. Learn about examples of successful projects and alternatives for financing them.

**Presenter:** Tom Werst

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Room:** 1012

## **(A6) Nurturing Non-Violent, Trauma-Informed Faith Communities**

*Join Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services (Nashua) staff in learning about the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities and how you can respond.*

Our conversation together will be a combination of instructional and interactive components and will include:

- 1) An overview of the dynamics of domestic violence (power & control) and common DV myths;
- 2) An interactive demonstration of obstacles that survivors face in accessing support;
- 3) Practical tips for faith/community leaders in assessing domestic violence dynamics;
- 4) What it means to be trauma-informed and how to leverage this model of care in your community;
- 5) How leaders and community members can access available resources and partnerships for additional support.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

For faith/community leaders to learn effective tips and tools for addressing the reality of domestic violence in their communities and caring for community members impacted by domestic violence.

**Presenter:** Katy Cowen and Amy Jo Muscott

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1017

## **(A7) Let's Talk About the New Hampshire End of Life Options Act**

*Our workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal aspects of the bill now before the NH Legislature to make the option of medical aid in dying available in our state.*

Members of the Board of Directors of the NH Alliance for End of Life Options (including clergy) will present details of the proposed NH End of Life Options Act now before the Legislature. With a common understanding of the Act, there will be opportunity for wide ranging discussion regarding our personal and public points of view from a faith perspective.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Become familiar with the ethical, moral, legal and spiritual aspects of the NH End of Life Options Act.
- 2) Become well informed about what the proposed Act does and does not do.
- 3) As faith leaders, explore the proposed new law in terms of our own personal and public positions regarding medical aid in dying.
- 4) Given our understanding of Jesus's compassion and love, discuss how the End of Life Options Act might offer "new tables" of care for those suffering from terminal illness.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Brown, Peter Friedrichs, and Rev. Mary James

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1018

## **(A8) Best Financial Practices for Churches**

*This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy.*

Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Will provide an overview and basic knowledge of nonprofit financial issues unique to churches.

**Presenter:** William Hoysradt, CPA

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1021

## **(A9) Protecting Your Church with a Homeland Security Grant**

*The State of NH offers easy-to-apply-for FEMA grants to enhance security in houses of worship. Based on the experience of First Congregational Church of Hampton, we will discuss the steps to apply for and implement a grant.*

The presentation and discussion will walk participants through the risk assessment process, identify eligible projects, explain the grant writing process, provide tips on how to increase the probability of success, and your obligations and requirements if you receive a grant. Adequate time will be provided for Q&A.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will have an understanding of:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) threats to houses of worship              | 3) how to apply for a non-profit homeland security grant |
| 2) how to conduct a facility risk assessment | 4) the requirements for implementing a grant.            |

**Presenter:** Donald Bliss

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1022

## **(A10) Listening to the Holy Spirit**

*God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help everyone seeking God's help in finding a path forward! Find your own burning bush!*

This workshop is hands-on. We'll work out way through a multi-step process so everyone gets a deep and personal dive on how the method works. You'll also receive material that will allow you to expand the process and repeat it for deeper and more nuanced reflection. It's ideal for folks who aren't so sure that God would actually speak to them. You'll leave with all the tools and techniques you need to establish a vibrant discernment practice of your own.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. Leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of subtle nudges or deep silences from God!

**Presenter:** Rev. Catherine Merrill

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1026

## **(A11) Delegate Like a Boss**

*Discover how to enroll others so that you can get out from underneath the minutia that bogs you down.*

If you'd like to make your church management (and your life) a whole lot easier, then this workshop is for you. You'll learn the art and science of delegation and discover how to create reliable and repeatable systems and processes that will allow your church to run smoothly even when you're not there.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will discover how to:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) delegate and communicate more effectively        | 3) create a church management operations manual that anyone can use |
| 2) create standardized systems and processes (SOPs) |   |

**Presenter:** Walt Hampton

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2002

## **(A12) Caring for each other through Lay Visitors Programs**

*Training Lay Persons to carry out the Ministry of Presence*

We will use a model of pastoral care developed to train lay persons to make visits to people on an on-going basis, in response to short term needs, or outreach to the community. This will focus on staying connected with people through the Ministry of Presence rather than solving problems. We will look at how this supplements Pastoral Care done by the Minister, the issue of praying with someone, classic “wrong things to say”, how to implement a Lay Visitor’s Program, and on-going support for the Visitors.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Helping churches develop Lay Visitors

**Presenter:** Rev. Gayle Murphy and Suzanne Allison

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Room:** 2003

## **(A13) Creative Worship at the Intersection of Scripture and Our Lives**

*Exploring the use of creative expressions in worship to deepen our understanding of scripture.*

We will be exploring strategies for creating meaningful and vibrant worship through the use of creativity. Strategies, resources, and ideas will be shared. Participants are invited to bring information about their own experiences of creative worship to share.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Introduce a method for developing creative worship services in local churches

Share examples, strategies, and resources

Discuss some of the challenges that can arise when worshipping in non-traditional ways

**Presenter:** Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Room:** 2020

## **(A14) The Work of IRSG (The Immigrant and Refugee Support Group) in Partnership with Asylum Seekers**

*Participants will understand how refugees get to the US and will hear from immigrants about their journeys and ways IRSG worked with them as they moved through the complex steps of gaining asylum and finding a home in NH.*

Participants will learn about the IRSG mission, the four components of its work, and the three ways refugees can enter the U.S. and receive asylum. They will then meet in small groups to review and discuss “An Overview of Asylum Processes”, and share their understandings, reactions, and ideas with the whole group. After discussion time, they will hear from immigrants about their journeys in getting to NH and have the opportunity to ask them questions. Finally, they will learn of the ways they can individually or within their congregations support the work of IRSG.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will:

1) Understand the work of IRSG and how the asylum process works

3) Hear immigrants tell of their journeys

2) Experience the ways immigrants enter this country

4) Learn ways to support the ministry of IRSG

**Presenter:** Cindy Nottage and BJ Lates

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Room:** 2021

## **(A15) Association Capacity Task Force Update**

*"Turning the Tables...Creating New Tables": Modifying the NH Conference Association structure.*

In response to numerous requests by COCM's over the years, an Association Capacity Task Force was formed in the Fall of '22 to imagine a new structure for our NH Associations. To date, the preliminary work of the Task Force has been officially endorsed by 6 of our 7 Associations along with the Conference Board of Directors, Association Leadership Teams, and Chairs of our COCM's. This workshop will offer an update of the Task Force's work as well as providing attendees with an opportunity to participate in the creative process of shaping this new model of "Conference Acting as Association".

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Provide an opportunity for attendees to identify the important aspects and expressions of Associations for them, so that we can maintain the good things as we move forward
- 2) Provide an update on work completed to date
- 3) Review and obtain feedback on the proposed new model
- 4) Provide a listening forum for your ideas, visions and hopes for this new model

- 5) Outline next steps to:

5A) Develop New Association By-Laws

5B) Draft a Transition/Implementation Plan

5C) Imagine how the new model integrates with current Conference Ministries

5D) Schedule a number of feedback/listening sessions to garner feedback, issues and concerns

**Presenter:** Rev. Shayna Appel, Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood, and Marcie Miller

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2025

## **(A16) On the Road - Joys and Details of Supply Preaching**

*Retired clergy, MIDs, and churches seeking guest preachers will focus on a blessing opportunity for both guest and congregation, the differences in contexts, and details that create a smooth experience. HANDOUTS and laughs.*

For retired clergy, Members in Discernment, and churches seeking guest preachers for a single or several Sundays, the focus will be on how this setting is gift-giving for both guest and congregation, the differences between contexts (vacation, illness, p/maternity leave, pastoral transition), and the many hidden and obvious courtesies on both sides that shape a smooth experience. There will be HANDOUTS, a boast-my-church game, shared stories and laughter.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Encouraging more preachers to be available and guide congregations seeking guest preachers

**Presenter:** Rev. Maren Tirabassi

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2026

## **(A17) Praying in Color**

*Did you know that our doodling can lead us to a deeper connection with God?*

Adapted exercises taken from Sybil MacBeth's book *Praying in Color*, we will use color, reflection and prayer to create new pathways in our connection to God, relying heavily upon our heart and right brain.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Those who are willing to step beyond their comfort level in prayer, may find a new way to pray that is simple and inspiring.

**Presenter:** Rev. Kathleen Alger

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2028



## **(A18) Guns In Churches? A Conversation**

*NHCUCC is committed to nonviolence and collaborative peacemaking. The purpose for love of God and neighbor is life. The purpose of guns is death. Posting at the church entrance, "This is a Gun-Free Zone," is a testament.*

The poster also witnesses to our Christian understanding that gun possession in the church negates trust in the Holy One and dishonors the name of our Sustainer and Redeemer. Let's have a conversation about the impact of guns and the most effective way to slow that end that impact.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Gather input from NH churches as gun free zones prior to preparing a resolution for the NHCUU Annual Meeting.

**Presenter:** Janet Zeller

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1014

## **(A19) Period Pack Assembly – Church World Service**

*No student should stay home from school because they can't afford menstrual products. Church World Service is partnering with the New Hampshire Conference, UCC with a goal to make 600 period packs by the end of the day.*

Join us in ending period poverty in America. With more than 32 million women and girls not being able to afford tampons and other hygiene supplies they need; Church World Service creates period packs that are sent to places after natural disasters and shelters to help families who have been displaced. A period pack costs \$25 to make. We ask that if you attend this workshop, you consider donating two period packs (\$50) when registering. This allows us to get the necessary resources to create the 600 packs. If you are unable to attend this workshop we ask that you consider making a donation so that we can make a period pack on your behalf.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Get enough donations to supply 600 period packs

2) Pack 600 period packs

3) Help end period poverty

**Presenter:** Adam Smedburg

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** Main Hallway

# Workshop Block B

11:35am-12:50pm (75 Minutes)

## **(B1) How General Synod Shapes Us (Panel)**

*What happened at the United Church of Christ's General Synod? How does it affect you and your church? Join us for a panel discussion where we will share the highlights and outcomes of this exciting and historic event.*

The United Church of Christ's General Synod is a biennial gathering of delegates from all over the country who represent the diversity and vitality of our denomination. It is a time to celebrate our faith, discern our vision, and make decisions that shape our future. In this panel discussion, we will share some of the highlights and outcomes of the recent General Synod event, including the election of our new General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, and some of the resolutions that we worked on, such as calling for a world free of plastics pollution or actively affirming the human dignity of transgender and nonbinary persons. We will also discuss why General Synod is an important aspect of our church, how it reflects our core values of covenant, diversity, and justice, and how it connects us with our wider church family. Finally, we will explore how you can get involved in the General Synod process, either by attending as a visitor or a delegate, by submitting a resolution, or by following the live stream and social media updates. We hope that this panel will inspire you to engage more deeply with the General Synod and to foster our local, conference, and national connection. After the conversation, we will open up the mic for questions from the audience.

**Room:** Auditorium

## **(B2) Youth Perspectives on Justice (Pathway)**

*New ideas and perspectives on the most pressing issues from the most important perspectives: come learn from NH UCC youth about environmental justice, gender and sexuality issues, anti-racism work, and more!*

This workshop, led by youth from New Hampshire UCC churches, is sure to leave you with new understandings and perspectives. These voices are all too often pushed to the side, discredited or unrepresented at the tables. They are ready now to share what we all need to hear. Learn from each youth about topics surrounding environmental justice and the global climate crisis, gender and sexuality justice issues in this state and beyond, the importance of anti-racism work, and more. Come with your questions, leave with greater awareness.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees of this workshop will come away with valuable new ideas and perspectives on justice issues we are grappling with in today's world.

**Moderator:** Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1030

## **(B3) Our Call to the Gospel When Trans People are Being Demonized and Attacked (Pathway)**

*Come and consider the Gospel call to the harms and demonization the trans community currently faces.*

Lead by Rev. Renee Manning (she/her/hers) and Rev. Sammy Holland (they/them/theirs), this workshop will be grounded spiritually with two readings from the canonical bible. Our sacred texts with regard to Love are clear - all are welcome before God. However, throughout our country, trans & nonbinary people are experiencing significant demonization, oftentimes especially in church settings. Further, identity politicians at many levels are gently and overtly arguing that these folks in the LGBTQ+ community do not even exist. And so we will ask - what is our call as the UCC and the local church?

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To build a Christian framework and response to anti-trans notions and actions

**Presenter:** Rev. Renee Manning and Rev. Sammy Holland

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive  
**Room:** 1004

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

## **(B4) Impact of Racism on Our Mental Health (Pathway)**

*Racism has impacted our mental health for generations. How many generations? People of color yes have been directly impact. But so have person of European descent as well. Take the time to see how racism has affected you.*

We will look historically at racism and how certain behaviors have been passed down in our DNA. To turn the tables we must understand and allow the truth in for the Spirit to transform us. We will use group activities to work thru helping each other turn the tables.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Goal 1) Racism has affected all of us we need to learn how

Goal 2) Racism is still at work today in all of us at different levels, spiritually, physical, psychologically, ancestrally

Objective 1) leaving with a desire to turn the tables toward healing

Objective 2) Leaving with access to tools for healing

Objective 3) Better understanding this is a process, there is no quick fix

**Presenter:** Rev. Reneé Rouse

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1027

## **(B5) Understanding Ablism and the Disability Community**

*The attendees will understand ableism and how not to be an ableist.*

For those who sign up for the class will receive a short homework assignment on ableism. Then we will discuss how to recognize our ableism and positive ways to support the Disability Community.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) The harm ableism does to the Disability Community

2) Work on recognizing Ableism

3) How to correct Ableism in ourselves

4) How to use positive supports with the Disability Community

**Presenter:** Deborah Opramolla

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1012

## **(B6) Promoting Discipleship Growth in Your Congregation**

*In the Great Commission, Jesus told his followers to 'go and make disciples,' yet how many churches are concentrating on that goal today? This course will help you develop intentional discipleship growth.*

This course will help you develop an intentional discipleship plan. It examines not only the 'what' and 'how' of what is done, but also the 'why.' You will assess your current offerings and identify gaps in light of intentional discipleship. The course will provide tools you need to develop an intentional discipleship system to revitalize and grow your congregation.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Define intentional discipleship
- 2) Review current programs and define why they are done, identify gaps, create new opportunities and pathways
- 3) Discuss relation of spiritual gifts to intentional discipleship
- 4) Review stages of growth of disciples
- 5) Discuss how to create an intentional discipleship pathway

**Presenter:** Elaine Lehecka Pratt

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1013

## **(B7) Nurturing Non-Violent, Trauma-Informed Faith Communities**

*Join Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services (Nashua) staff in learning about the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities and how you can respond.*

Our conversation together will be a combination of instructional and interactive components and will include:

- 1) An overview of the dynamics of domestic violence (power & control) and common DV myths;
- 2) An interactive demonstration of obstacles that survivors face in accessing support;
- 3) Practical tips for faith/community leaders in assessing domestic violence dynamics;
- 4) What it means to be trauma-informed and how to leverage this model of care in your community;
- 5) How leaders and community members can access available resources and partnerships for additional support.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

For faith/community leaders to learn effective tips and tools for addressing the reality of domestic violence in their communities and caring for community members impacted by domestic violence.

**Presenter:** Katy Cowen and Amy Jo Muscott

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1017

## **(B8) The Transformed Congregation**

*Grounded in the Christian practice of hospitality, learn how your congregation can be transformed through nurturing a culture of welcome and acceptance, particularly of children, youth, and families.*

Through interactive discussions, learn how to welcome new people in your congregation without alienating them due to their specific needs - children, youth, & young families, as well as those with differing abilities, ethnicities, and gender/sexuality preferences.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

By the end of this workshop, participants will understand the Christian practice of hospitality, acquire the tools needed to guide their entire congregation in creating a culture of hospitality, learn how children and teens can be welcomed and assimilated into corporate worship and other key areas of congregational life.

**Presenter:** Debbie Gline Allen

**Program Area:** Social Justice, Faith Discovery, Faith Formation, Intergenerational Worship & Ministries, Congregational Life

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1018

## **(B9) Family Homelessness**

*This workshop will explore different aspects of family homelessness.*

When many of us hear the words 'homeless person' we think of someone in tattered clothing sleeping on a sidewalk or holding a sign at a busy intersection. But did you know that in recent years nearly half of the homeless population in NH is made up of families? This workshop will explore different aspects of family homelessness.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Give an understanding of causes of family homelessness and the effects homelessness has on families, especially on the health and development of children. We'll also explore ways our NHCUC churches can support this important ministry.

**Presenter:** Stephen Croke

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1021

## **(B10) Listening to the Holy Spirit**

*God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help everyone seeking God's help in finding a path forward! Find your own burning bush!*

This workshop is hands-on. We'll work out way through a multi-step process so everyone gets a deep and personal dive on how the method works. You'll also receive material that will allow you to expand the process and repeat it for deeper and more nuanced reflection. It's ideal for folks who aren't so sure that God would actually speak to them. You'll leave with all the tools and techniques you need to establish a vibrant discernment practice of your own.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. Leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of subtle nudges or deep silences from God!

**Presenter:** Rev. Catherine Merrill

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1026

## **(B11) Crying in the Wilderness: An Immigrant's Journey in Detention**

*Photographer Becky Field collaborated with "Antony" while he was under house arrest and shackled with a painful ankle monitor, simply for asking for asylum. They will share the emotional and physical impacts of detention.*

This workshop addresses the emotional toll of detaining and tracking an asylum seeker. "Antony" (a pseudonym) came from Africa in 2018 and legally asked for asylum but instead was jailed and shackled. Because of Covid-19, he was put under house arrest in a private home in NH, but still shackled with a painful and humiliating ankle monitor that tracked his every movement. Photographer Becky Field collaborated with Antony on a year-long project to document his journey. They will share the results of this project and the impacts of asylum detention through her photography and his story.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To bring awareness to the policy of detaining and shacking asylum seekers who legally ask for protection.

**Presenter:** Becky Field

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2002

## **(B12) Words, Wonder, and the Divine in You**

*Have a conversation with NH author and pastor about things that matter. The words we choose to use, the wonder that surrounds us and the divinity within each one of us is real and it really matters. Let's talk about it!*

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof published "Words, Wonder, and the Divine in You" in November 2023. Her book is an invitation to folks from all walks of life to engage in conversation about sacred practices. We will share ideas and experiences with the Divine and how we may witness to wonder.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Engage in conversation about God-Presence in our lives.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2003

## **(B13) Militias, Extremists and Anti-Democracy Forces in New Hampshire: What Every NH UCCer Should Know**

*As NH and the nation experience growing extremism, marked by hate speech & behavior, our UCC values of love, welcome and inclusion are both needed and challenged. To respond effectively, we need to understand what's happening.*

Do you sense that our UCC values of love of neighbor and mutual trust and understanding are in danger? Across the nation, intersecting strands of militias, white supremacists, "Christian" nationalists, and other extremist groups are playing a significant role in fomenting a climate of grievance, marked by escalating anger, fear, hate and violence. In NH, we have also seen a disturbing increase in white nationalism, hateful rhetoric, anti-democracy fervor and related extremist activity. The unrelenting embrace of the notion of "stolen elections," anti-truthful/inclusive public education zealotry, hate-based speech and actions -- and more -- all serve to exacerbate distrust and undermine our public institutions. To be a countervailing force of love and mutuality in NH, we must first understand the intertwined forces that threaten our sense of community and interconnection. Staff members from Granite State Progress have been tracking the web of extremist and related entities in NH for years and will help us gain new insights as we strive to stand up for the common good.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) To provide participants with an understanding to the varied and intersecting stands of extremist groups and actors in NH and the threat they pose to public institutions and the common good
- 2) To provide an opportunity to explore "how can and should we respond to this dynamic?" -- guided by the tenets of our faith

**Moderator:** Pastor Gail Kinney

**Content Expert:** Granite State Progress Staff

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2011

## **(B14) Let's Talk About the New Hampshire End of Life Options Act**

*Our workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal aspects of the bill now before the NH Legislature to make the option of medical aid in dying available in our state.*

Members of the Board of Directors of the NH Alliance for End of Life Options (including clergy) will present details of the proposed NH End of Life Options Act now before the Legislature. With a common understanding of the Act, there will be opportunity for wide ranging discussion regarding our personal and public points of view from a faith perspective.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Become familiar with the ethical, moral, legal and spiritual aspects of the NH End of Life Options Act.
- 2) Become well informed about what the proposed Act does and does not do.
- 3) As faith leaders, explore the proposed new law in terms of our own personal and public positions regarding medical aid in dying.
- 4) Given our understanding of Jesus's compassion and love, discuss how the End of Life Options Act might offer "new tables" of care for those suffering from terminal illness.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Brown, Peter Friedrichs, and

Rev. Mary James

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2020

## **(B15) Spiritual Disciplines through Art**

*The learners will engage in an easy art work and spiritual discipline they can take back to their churches. The presenter will provide two lessons and the resources for a six week program.*

The learners will enter the holy with art and meditation. They will learn the discipline of memorization and be provided with materials to make a memorization rope. They will be provided a lesson for prayer walking and the materials to develop their own art and spiritual disciplines for their church

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To provide materials and resources for lessons in spiritual disciplines through art.

**Presenter:** Pastor Cynthia Dandrea and Abby Velez

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Room:** 2025

## **(B16) Faithful Financial Practices - a Wellness Checkup**

*This workshop begins with listening to you—the church leader involved in the stewardship of your church's financial resources. Then, we will offer resources, and with your input, propose ways for churches and the conference.*

Just as our physical health benefits from an annual wellness checkup, so our church's financial health benefits from occasional review of our systems and practices. While we will explore the basics of healthy financial policies and practices, the role of faith will be the key ingredient in what makes for church financial wellness.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To listen to the hopes and concerns of church leaders regarding faithful stewardship and organizational vitality. To connect congregations to resources for strengthening church financial health. To identify ongoing strategies that the conference can offer supporting church financial health.

**Presenter:** Rev. David Keller

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Room:** 2028

## **(B17) Ministry and Worship in the Era Beyond Membership**

*Enabling ministry in a time when churches are increasingly fluid, unpredictable, and interest-driven Bodies of Christ - that's the challenge addressed in this workshop. Ideas and conversation are based on lived experience.*

In this workshop we will explore:

How we are thinking about Spirit-led worship in this new era, including new ways of framing "Scripture;"

Strategies for bearing witness to and working with the flow in and out of folk;

Ideas for networking with other congregations, denominations, and faith traditions;

An exploration of what it means to Be in the World in this era of church;

Improvisation as a tool for Being in the World;

New ways to address funding ideas for ministry and worship.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Participants will learn new ways to think about and envision the challenges of ministry and worship in these liminal times.

2) Participants will hear concrete examples of liturgies and strategies for ministry based on the

Presenters' experiences at a small church over the past 10 years.

3) Participants will learn about resources within our Conference for becoming more creative and improvisational in ministry and worship.

**Presenter:** Rev. Emilia Halstead and Rev. Dr. Tim Wildman

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2011

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery



## **(B18) Period Pack Assembly – Church World Service**

*No student should stay home from school because they can't afford menstrual products. Church World Service is partnering with the New Hampshire Conference, UCC with a goal to make 600 period packs by the end of the day.*

Join us in ending period poverty in America. With more than 32 million women and girls not being able to afford tampons and other hygiene supplies they need; Church World Service creates period packs that are sent to places after natural disasters and shelters to help families who have been displaced. A period pack costs \$25 to make. We ask that if you attend this workshop, you consider donating two period packs (\$50) when registering. This allows us to get the necessary resources to create the 600 packs. If you are unable to attend this workshop we ask that you consider making a donation so that we can make a period pack on your behalf.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Get enough donations to supply 600 period packs

2) Pack 600 period packs

3) Help end period poverty

**Presenter:** Adam Smedburg

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** Main Hallway

## **(B19) Block B Lunch**

*Take a break from the learning and enjoy a Boxed or Buffet Style lunch in the Pembroke Academy Cafeteria. This is a great time to socialize with other participants and talk to our many exhibitors.*

**Room:** Cafeteria

# Workshop Block C

1:10pm-2:25pm (75 Minutes)

## **(C1) Re-imagining the Church Using the Lessons from Improv (Panel)**

*This discussion is inspired by a series of workshops produced by A New Thing Task Force. The panel features innovative Pastors who will talk about the lessons of improv and how they can be applied in so many ways to the church. From creative use of Scripture, building community, developing creativity, evaluating priorities, even to running meetings. It's not so much about engaging in the practice of Improv as it is applying a mindset which come out of the genius of Improv.*

Rev. Emilia Halstead is the Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Concord, UCC and Jazz Sanctuary. She is a Jazz Vocalist with a BA in Theatre. She is also the Self-proclaimed Empress of the Universe.

Rev. Gayle Murphy is a member of the Congregational Church of North Barnstead and is called to serve those outside of the church. She is active in the A New Thing Task Force which looks to help churches find creative ways of being church. She is self-proclaimed master of Slow Stitching.

Rev. Maren Tirabassi is a UCC Pastor who is this year's Life-time Achievement Award recipient from the NH Humanities Council and the former Poet Laureate of Portsmouth. Before Seminary she worked in commercial theatre. Maren regularly murders people in the pages of books.

Rev. Tim Wildman is a retired Pastoral Psychotherapist engaged in creative and innovative ministry at First Congregational Church, UCC with his Pastor, Emilia Halstead. He is also a Jazz Musician who plays the trumpet and piano. He is a self-proclaimed follower of the Empress of the Universe.

**Room:** Auditorium

## **(C2) Youth Lunch with Tivvi Pare \*For kids ages 6-18\* (Pathway)**

*All kids & youth in attendance are invited to eat lunch together with Tivvi while we have fun and get to know one another!*

Tivvi is the Executive Director of Horton Center, the New Hampshire Conference's Outdoor Ministries Site and the Conference's Christian Edu. Specialist. All children are invited to come enjoy lunch together during this time with Tivvi. We will play a few games, do some fun activities and eat our lunches together.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will enjoy a fun and engaging lunch period with other youth in attendance.

**Moderator:** Tivvi Pare

**Program Area:** Fun and Community Bonding

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1030

### **(C3) What are we doing about it? (Pathway)**

*Find out what is being done to resist efforts to put LGBTQ+ people back in the closet.*

New Hampshire representative, Gerri Cannon is one of the first openly transgender individuals elected to a legislature. She will describe her efforts and those of others in the legislature to prevent proposed drastic anti-LGBTQ legislation.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Describe efforts to resist homophobic and transphobic legislation

2) Explore ways to support the LGBTQ+ community as it faces backlash from elements of American culture

**Presenter:** Rep. Gerri Cannon

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1004

### **(C4) "Intersectionality" What is that? Is that happening in Churches? (Pathway)**

*Come learn the basics of intersectionality. How it has impacted church life. Why it is important? Who cares?*

*What does the Divine One have to say it? How did Jesus turn the tables to reveal intersectionality?*

Learn the painful history of intersectionality. The impact around sexism, racism in Christianity. Come learn to turn the tables as Christ calls us to and set captives free starting with ourselves then the pushed to the margins. Come, let's have some serious fun! Grow together, change together, turn tables together, laugh, cry together, let's get to it!

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

Goal 1) Learn what intersectionality is

Goal 2) Learn what sexism and racism are in the church setting

Objective 1) Be able to identify where intersectionality is happening in a situation

Objective 2) Be able to utilize tools learned to eliminate sexism and racism

Objective 3) Be able to identify language that supports sexism and racism and turn the table with language that builds up rather than tear down

Objective 4) Be able to identify modes of oppression in systems of churches that sexism and racism

Objective 5) Be able to leave with opportunities of paths to turning tables toward freedom

**Presenter:** Rev. Reneé Rouse

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1027

## **(C5) Taming your church's energy bills (while making all things reNEWable)**

*Making investments in your Church Facility that:*

- Reduce costs
- Improve air quality
- Improve comfort
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Pay for themselves and then pay dividends

### **Goals and Objectives:**

We all want to be good stewards of God's earth! Learn how to reduce the cost of energy for your church building both with renewable resources, such as solar power, and energy efficiency. Explore technology that will reduce your church's carbon footprint and how it can be done in surprisingly cost-effective ways. Learn about examples of successful projects and alternatives for financing them.

**Presenter:** Tom Werst

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1012

## **(C6) "Holy Clue! Mystery Novels and Faith-Based Detectives"**

*Using mysteries as a base, reflection on popular novels, short stories, movies, and television to connect with issues of faith.*

From Brother Cadfael, Father Brown, and Rabbi Small to Rev. Clare Fergusson, Sister Boniface, and Sidney Chambers of Grantchester, mystery literature features sleuthing by those connected to faith communities. To scholarship on the emergence of mystery in genre literature and its connection to religion (not only Christian religion) and the exploration of serious issues through popular fiction, will be added trivia fun and an opportunity for everyone to share their favorite "recent read."

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Connecting mystery in a holy sense with our experience of mystery in life and understanding why and how mystery stories informs faith discovery.

**Presenter:** Rev. Maren Tirabassi

**Program Area:** Fun! and a model for using popular culture (book/film/trends) as parables for faith discussion.

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1013

## **(C7) Let's Talk About the New Hampshire End of Life Options Act**

*Our workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal aspects of the bill now before the NH Legislature to make the option of medical aid in dying available in our state.*

Members of the Board of Directors of the NH Alliance for End of Life Options (including clergy) will present details of the proposed NH End of Life Options Act now before the Legislature. With a common understanding of the Act, there will be opportunity for wide ranging discussion regarding our personal and public points of view from a faith perspective.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Become familiar with the ethical, moral, legal and spiritual aspects of the NH End of Life Options Act.
- 2) Become well informed about what the proposed Act does and does not do.

- 3) As faith leaders, explore the proposed new law in terms of our own personal and public positions regarding medical aid in dying.
- 4) Given our understanding of Jesus's compassion and love, discuss how the End of Life Options Act might offer "new tables" of care for those suffering from terminal illness.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Brown, Peter Friedrichs, and Rev. Mary James

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1018

## **(C8) Best Financial Practices for Churches**

*This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy.*

Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Will provide an overview and basic knowledge of nonprofit financial issues unique to churches.

**Presenter:** William Hoysradt, CPA

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1021

## **(C9) Protecting Your Church with a Homeland Security Grant**

*The State of NH offers easy-to-apply-for FEMA grants to enhance security in houses of worship. Based on the experience of First Congregational Church of Hampton, we will discuss the steps to apply for and implement a grant.*

The presentation and discussion will walk participants through the risk assessment process, identify eligible projects, explain the grant writing process, provide tips on how to increase the probability of success, and your obligations and requirements if you receive a grant. Adequate time will be provided for Q&A.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will have an understanding of:

- 1) threats to houses of worship
- 2) how to conduct a facility risk assessment

- 3) how to apply for a non-profit homeland security grant
- 4) the requirements for implementing a grant.

**Presenter:** Donald Bliss

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1022

## **(C10) Aging Gracefully...The butterfly died with wide open wings!**

*This workshop will provide us an opportunity to thinking about Living Well, Aging Gracefully and Dying Prepared with an emphasis on how we might Age Gracefully. No exercises, Cosmetics or Diets will be discussed.*

The very last phase of life is not non-life – it is another phase... Who knows what will follow? Be ready!

The butterfly died with open wings.

When we were young we were filled with awe. Then we got very serious and worked hard. What if the truth of aging gracefully is to re-awaken that age of wonder?

The French Moralist Joubert wrote: Every age has its purpose. Old age enlightens.

People who have enlightened us welcomed us with open wings.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To understand the transitions we face during our life and how we minister to people on their own spiritual journey.

**Presenter:** Rev. Linda Fraser

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1026

## **(C11) Delegate Like a Boss**

*Discover how to enroll others so that you can get out from underneath the minutia that bogs you down.*

If you'd like to make your church management (and your life) a whole lot easier, then this workshop is for you. You'll learn the art and science of delegation and discover how to create reliable and repeatable systems and processes that will allow your church to run smoothly even when you're not there.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will discover how to:

- 1) delegate and communicate more effectively
- 2) create standardized systems and processes (SOPs)

- 3) create a church management operations manual that anyone can use

**Presenter:** Walt Hampton

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2002

## **(C12) How to Expand Your Ministry's Reach with ChatGPT**

*Using Today's AI as a Tool to Share the Gospel in Your Community*

In this interactive and audience-driven workshop, Timothy Noe will share some key insights for how to leverage today's AI technology (particularly using the free edition of ChatGPT) to benefit your ministry.

Through this workshop, you will learn:

- 1) The mystical nature of today's chat-based AI technologies

- 3) Specific use-case applications (e.g. Sermons, Blog posts, Newsletters, Social Media posts, etc.)

- 2) How to collaborate with ChatGPT to produce quality work for your ministry at scale

We will also dedicate time to specific audience questions and explore examples of audience-driven use-cases.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Provide each audience member with religiously-grounded approaches and practically-rooted tips to utilize free AI technology to share God's Word.

**Presenter:** Timothy Noe

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery, Church Management, Technology

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2003

## **(C14) Labyrinth Collage for Peace**

*A quiet, meditative time to create colored finger labyrinths that bring peace to our souls.*

We will begin with a centering walk on finger labyrinths and then choose colored papers to begin our personal labyrinth collages on wooden squares.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To create a symbol of peace in this troubling time in our nation and our world.

**Presenter:** Rev. Ruth Martz

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2020

## **(C15) Apartheid-Free Congregations**

*The UCC General Synod (2021), declared Israel's decades of mistreatment of the Palestinians constitutes the crime of Apartheid. It must end. We want to declare our own congregations "Apartheid-Free".*

This workshop will explore ways New Hampshire churches can join the movement—as Apartheid-Free Congregations.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

This workshop will explore ways New Hampshire churches can join the movement—as Apartheid-Free Congregations.

**Presenter:** Rev. David Grishaw-Jones

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2021

## **(C16) Eradicating Poverty Through Innovative Solutions for Housing Insecurity**

*Cover MATE's history of innovative work that involves identifying community needs, building programs to serve those needs, and how creating collaborative partnerships and communicating your story are key metrics of success.*

We will dive mostly into our premier program: MATE Housing Ministry, which seeks to serve those battling housing insecurity in Central Western Maine by offering volunteer home repairs, most coming at no cost to the homeowners we partner with. Most of the homes we work on are far past their natural lifespan, and the critical work we conduct enables our neighbors to stay in their homes and avoid falling into the devastating cycle of homelessness. We'll cover the work we conduct, who our volunteers are, the partnerships we've created that enable us as a small nonprofit to make a huge impact, etc.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Inspire attendees to further serve in the mission field, within and without their own communities. Encourage attendees to dream bigger about their service, enliven their faith, sharing stories of outreach, thereby gaining exciting ideas, expanding networks of support and resources, all to further God's work in the mission field.

**Presenter:** Chris DeLisle and Sharon Cowen

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2025

## **(C17) Values Aligned Investing: The Intersectionality of Faith + Finance**

*Come learn how United Church Funds is building Sustainable and Responsible Investment portfolio's that align with the values and mission of your church, while delivering competitive returns to grow more assets for ministry.*

This workshop is designed to educate people on the intersectionality that exists between faith and finance. Attendees will be equipped to lead their churches in evaluating if their long term investment strategies are in alignment with their values and how to best align with their beliefs related to Environmental, Social and Governance issues.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

The goal is to educate and equip you to be good stewards of your church endowments and long term assets through sustainable & ethical Environmental, Social & Governance Behaviors.

**Presenter:** Stacey Pettice

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2026

## **(C18) Poetry for Spiritual Care**

*Poetry has long been a resource for personal transformation and spiritual growth. This workshop will focus on how ancient and contemporary poems can be used in spiritual care.*

Poetry, including the sacred poetry in the Bible, has been used throughout history to provide nurture, comfort, challenge, and care for individuals and communities. The presenters will share some of their favorite poems and how they use them for personal growth for themselves and others. Participants are asked to bring a favorite poem to share with the group.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To experience how poetry can nurture the spirit. To identify poems that can be used for spiritual care.

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Calvin Genzel and Rev. Dr. David Reynolds

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2026

## **(C19) Period Pack Assembly – Church World Service**

*No student should stay home from school because they can't afford menstrual products. Church World Service is partnering with the New Hampshire Conference, UCC with a goal to make 600 period packs by the end of the day.*

Join us in ending period poverty in America. With more than 32 million women and girls not being able to afford tampons and other hygiene supplies they need; Church World Service creates period packs that are sent to places after natural disasters and shelters to help families who have been displaced. A period pack costs \$25 to make. We ask that if you attend this workshop, you consider donating two period packs (\$50) when registering. This allows us to get the necessary resources to create the 600 packs. If you are unable to attend this workshop we ask that you consider making a donation so that we can make a period pack on your behalf.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Get enough donations to supply 600 period packs

2) Pack 600 period packs

3) Help end period poverty

**Presenter:** Adam Smedburg

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** Main Hallway



## **(C20) Block C Lunch**

*Take a break from the learning and enjoy a Boxed or Buffet Style lunch in the Pembroke Academy Cafeteria. This is a great time to socialize with other participants and talk to our many exhibitors.*

**Room:** Cafeteria

# Workshop Block D

2:45pm-4:00pm (75 Minutes)

## **(D1) Church Governance for a Changing Church (Panel)**

*The world is changing, and so is the church. How can we adapt to the new challenges and opportunities that come with this change? One of the key areas that affect how we function as a church is our governance structure, our by-laws. These are the rules and guidelines that shape our decision-making, our vision, and our mission.*

But what if our by-laws are outdated, rigid, or irrelevant? What if they hinder rather than help us in fulfilling our calling as a church? How can we revise them in a way that honors Christ, serves others, and reflects our identity and values?

If you are a church leader or member who wants to learn more about this topic, you are invited to join us for this panel discussion. This is a chance to hear from churches who have successfully navigated the process of by-law revision with their congregations. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, share your own experiences, and network with other like-minded people.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to turn the tables for change in your church!

**Room:** Auditorium

## **(D2) How to Build Christian Community: 10 Horton Center Strategies + Tools YOU Can Use! (Pathway)**

*Building loving, welcoming community: it's what Horton Center does best! Come for fun, experiential learning and take away practical strategies and tools to use in all your congregations, committees, and task forces.*

If there's one thing we know at Horton Center, it's how to build community. Every week of the summer, campers and volunteers of all ages come away to our camp to experience loving, welcoming Christian community (and super awesome adventures with friends old and new, of course!). Come join new Executive Director, Tivvi Pare, for an engaging, learn-it-by-doing-it workshop where we will cover 10 tried and true camp strategies/tools you can bring back and use with whatever group you choose (yes, even over Zoom). Turn your committee into a community! Turn your task force into a tightknit team!

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Attendees will leave equipped with easy-to-implement strategies and tools to enhance and grow interconnected community in the groups they are a part of.

**Presenter:** Tivvi Pare

**Program Area:** Church Management and Leadership Development

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1030

### **(D3) Where are we going? (Pathway)**

*Be a part of the conversation about where we want the ONA movement to go.*

This will be a group discussion, led by members of the ONA Concerns Mission Group, about where we would like to see the NHCUCC go in the future. Participants will be asked to visualize the ONA church in 2050. We will then consider ways that we can bring that vision into reality.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Identify areas for growth for the ONA movement in the future.

2) Identify actions that can be taken to bring about desired outcomes for the ONA movement

**Presenter:** ONA Mission Group

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Room:** 1004

### **(D4) Anti-racism as a Theme for Planning Christian Worship (Pathway)**

*Worship is at the center of our shared Christian life. For this reason, it is necessary that we courageously confront the sin of racism in our worship.*

America was founded on the genocide of native peoples and the forced enslavement of kidnapped Africans. As Christians and as Americans, this is our "original sin" -- the way that we continue, from generation to generation, to distance ourselves from God and from our shared humanity with the Beloved Community. This workshop offers strategies for ways to use the worship of a compassionate, still-speaking God to recognize and confront the white supremacy that infects the very core of our society.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

The workshop will provide some practical ideas for liturgical and homiletic development, but more than this, it will try to provoke deep introspection about the racism and white supremacy still dehumanizing us all, so that we can imagine how worship can help us find the long hoped for Balm in Gilead.

**Presenter:** Rev. Mark M Koyama, Dr. Harriet Ward, Ethel McConaghy, and Rev. John Gregory-Davis

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 1027

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

### **(D5) Understanding Ablism and the Disability Community**

*The attendees will understand ableism and how not to be an ableist.*

For those who sign up for the class will receive a short homework assignment on ableism. Then we will discuss how to recognize our ableism and positive ways to support the Disability Community.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) The harm ableism does to the Disability Community

3) How to correct Ableism in ourselves

2) Work on recognizing Ableism

4) How to use positive supports with the Disability Community

**Presenter:** Deborah Opramolla

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Room:** 1012

## **(D6) Ukama: the Blessings and Opportunities of Partnership**

*Did you know the NHCUCC is a Global Ministries Conference? Join us as we hear from Dr. Kahala Cannon, Global Relations Minister for Africa in Common Global Ministries, about the work of CGM globally and in Africa, how we can support and be a part of that work, and celebrate our UCC's global ministries! This explanation and update will be followed by a presentation from our Ukama Mission Group about our relationship with the UCC in Zimbabwe, how to become an Ukama Church and best practices to strengthen that bond.*

"Ukama" is the name of the extraordinary relationship we have with people and congregations of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. So much has changed in our ways of being in partnership! Whether your church is already partnered or if you are curious as to what partnering involves, this workshop is for you.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

This workshop will help already partnered churches to strengthen your relationship. It also will give churches who aren't partnered opportunity to explore the blessings and the procedure for becoming an Ukama Church. We may even meet a representative from UCCZ online!

**Presenter:** Rev. David Keller  
**Program Area:** Church Vitality

**Workshop Type:** Interactive  
**Room:** 1013

## **(D7) Nurturing Non-Violent, Trauma-Informed Faith Communities**

*Join Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services (Nashua) staff in learning about the impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities and how you can respond.*

Our conversation together will be a combination of instructional and interactive components and will include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) An overview of the dynamics of domestic violence (power & control) and common DV myths; | 4) What it means to be trauma-informed and how to leverage this model of care in your community;             |
| 2) An interactive demonstration of obstacles that survivors face in accessing support;     | 5) How leaders and community members can access available resources and partnerships for additional support. |
| 3) Practical tips for faith/community leaders in assessing domestic violence dynamics;     |  |

### **Goals and Objectives:**

For faith/community leaders to learn effective tips and tools for addressing the reality of domestic violence in their communities and caring for community members impacted by domestic violence.

**Presenter:** Katy Cowen and Amy Jo Muscott  
**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive  
**Room:** 1017

## **(D8) Guns to Gardens - What it is and how you can help**

*Guns to Gardens is a grassroots, organic movement of folks around the country who are concerned about gun violence. Guns to Gardens offers folks the opportunity to remove their unwanted guns from circulation, permanently.*

Nancy Brown, the Guns to Gardens Coordinator for Gun Sense NH, will talk about the Guns to Gardens movement, what has already happened in NH and what we hope will happen in 2024. Nancy will provide a detailed description of the program, the needs of the program for this coming event (June 2024) and ways in which a congregation can become involved. Time will be allotted for questions and answers.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Provide information to congregations about:

- 1) The Guns to Gardens Movement
- 2) What we have done in NH
- 3) What we plan to do for 2024, and NH Develop a list of congregations and volunteer who may potentially be interested in participating in Guns to Gardens 2024
- 4) What we need in order for NH Guns to Gardens 2024 to be a success.

**Presenter:** Nancy Brown and Zandra Rice-Hawkins

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1018

## **(D9) Family Homelessness**

*This workshop will explore different aspects of family homelessness.*

When many of us hear the words 'homeless person' we think of someone in tattered clothing sleeping on a sidewalk or holding a sign at a busy intersection. But did you know that in recent years nearly half of the homeless population in NH is made up of families? This workshop will explore different aspects of family homelessness.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Give an understanding of causes of family homelessness and the effects homelessness has on families, especially on the health and development of children. We'll also explore ways our NHCUCC churches can support this important ministry.

**Presenter:** Stephen Croke

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1021

## **(D10) Protecting Your Church with a Homeland Security Grant**

*The State of NH offers easy-to-apply-for FEMA grants to enhance security in houses of worship. Based on the experience of First Congregational Church of Hampton, we will discuss the steps to apply for and implement a grant.*

The presentation and discussion will walk participants through the risk assessment process, identify eligible projects, explain the grant writing process, provide tips on how to increase the probability of success, and your obligations and requirements if you receive a grant. Adequate time will be provided for Q&A.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Participants will have an understanding of:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) threats to houses of worship              | 3) how to apply for a non-profit homeland security grant |
| 2) how to conduct a facility risk assessment | 4) the requirements for implementing a grant.            |

**Presenter:** Donald Bliss

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 1022

## **(D11) Listening to the Holy Spirit**

*God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help everyone seeking God's help in finding a path forward! Find your own burning bush!*

This workshop is hands-on. We'll work out way through a multi-step process so everyone gets a deep and personal dive on how the method works. You'll also receive material that will allow you to expand the process and repeat it for deeper and more nuanced reflection. It's ideal for folks who aren't so sure that God would actually speak to them. You'll leave with all the tools and techniques you need to establish a vibrant discernment practice of your own.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. Leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of subtle nudges or deep silences from God!

**Presenter:** Rev. Catherine Merrill

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 1026

## **(D12) Freedom From Plastic Pollution - The UCC's Role**

*Learn how UCC congregations and members can have a positive impact on reducing the rising tide of plastic pollution in our lives. Faith communities can make a difference.*

This past summer the UCC General Synod overwhelmingly adopted a Resolution of Witness entitled "Freedom From Plastic Pollution", a Resolution co-sponsored by the NH Conference following its adoption at our Annual Meeting. Since then, the UCC Climate Justice Council has created a team to take practical steps to implement the Resolution, and the NH Conference Environmental Justice Mission Group is eager to describe the ways in which local congregations and interested individuals can take next steps. In addition to cutting plastic use in our congregations, we can have an impact on state policy.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Congregations and interested individuals can learn how to take next steps to fight plastic pollution.

**Presenter:** Marge Shepardson and Rev. Robert Grabill

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2002

## (D13) How to Expand Your Ministry's Reach with ChatGPT

*Using Today's AI as a Tool to Share the Gospel in Your Community*

In this interactive and audience-driven workshop, Timothy Noe will share some key insights for how to leverage today's AI technology (particularly using the free edition of ChatGPT) to benefit your ministry.

Through this workshop, you will learn:

- 1) The mystical nature of today's chat-based AI technologies
- 2) How to collaborate with ChatGPT to produce quality work for your ministry at scale
- 3) Specific use-case applications (e.g. Sermons, Blog posts, Newsletters, Social Media posts, etc.)

We will also dedicate time to specific audience questions and explore examples of audience-driven use-cases.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Provide each audience member with religiously-grounded approaches and practically-rooted tips to utilize free AI technology to share God's Word.

**Presenter:** Timothy Noe

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery, Church Management, Technology

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2003

## (D14) "That We May Live Together" - An Asian Rural Institute Volunteer Experience

*Journey to Japan's Asian Rural Institute, a global mission partner committed to world food security and peace. Learn how mission volunteering can inspire us and introduce new ways of thinking.*

Through a Power Point presentation, Bob and Joyce Ray will introduce Global Ministries' mission partner, the Asian Rural Institute in Japan. For 50 years, ARI has trained grassroots leaders from Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Latin America in organic farming, community development, leadership skills and sustainability. Four-time volunteers, the Rays will share ARI's mission and commitment to world food security, and the inspiration they receive from volunteering.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To highlight the benefits of volunteer experiences with mission partners and share our experiences as four-time volunteers at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan, a Global Ministries mission partner.

**Presenter:** Robert Ray and Joyce Ray

**Program Area:** Mission Related

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Room:** 2011

**Cancelled**

## **(D15) Lectio Divina for the Parish**

*How clergy and lay leaders can integrate the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina into the life of the parish.*

The time-honored practice of Lectio Divina has been a way of reading and praying for most of the history of the Christian Church. The four movements of read, meditate, pray and contemplate provide a wonderful way to approach sacred text. After experiencing Lectio, participants will brainstorm on how this could be a focused part of church life or a segment of the church year. The NH Conference is offering this workshop to be appropriate for CE's for clergy.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Experience the four movements of Lectio
- 2) Reflect on how it is experienced
- 3) Brainstorm on how it could be used in the parish
- 4) Learn about how to enhance seasons of the church year by the practice

**Presenter:** Rev. David Reynolds

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2012

## **(D16) Let's Talk About the New Hampshire End of Life Options Act**

*Our workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal aspects of the bill now before the NH Legislature to make the option of medical aid in dying available in our state.*

Members of the Board of Directors of the NH Alliance for End of Life Options (including clergy) will present details of the proposed NH End of Life Options Act now before the Legislature. With a common understanding of the Act, there will be opportunity for wide ranging discussion regarding our personal and public points of view from a faith perspective.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) Become familiar with the ethical, moral, legal and spiritual aspects of the NH End of Life Options Act.
- 2) Become well informed about what the proposed Act does and does not do.
- 3) As faith leaders, explore the proposed new law in terms of our own personal and public positions regarding medical aid in dying.
- 4) Given our understanding of Jesus's compassion and love, discuss how the End of Life Options Act might offer "new tables" of care for those suffering from terminal illness.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Brown, Peter Friedrichs, and Rev. Mary James

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** 2017



## **(D17) Banned Books, Muzzled Teachers, Marginalized Students and Undermined Public Schools: Not in Our Name!**

*Book bans, debates about truthful curriculum, privatization schemes and an onslaught of other challenges to our public schools are cropping up across NH, often in the name of "Christianity." Learn why this should matter to us!*

Our local public schools are foundational to building community -- and yet a web of interlocking forces is endangering our public schools, demoralizing or threatening local educators, and further harming already-marginalized students. Across NH, public education is underfunded and under attack from multiple school privatization schemes, while school boards and educators are facing disruptions and threats around book bans, student health and well-being initiatives, the truthful teaching of historic and current realities, the anti-CRT witch hunt that is targeting diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice programs, and much more. And students of racial, ethnic and gender diversity bear much of the brunt of this aggression. Despite the differences in the issues, many of the same groups and actors are driving these tactics (often claiming they are carrying out "Christian" values and parental rights). Through a combination of lecture, discussion and idea-sharing, learn how communities are dealing with this challenge -- and brainstorm ways we in the UCC can help protect a strong, healthy, and inclusive public education system for *all* Granite State children.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) To provide an understanding of the multiple interconnected and often nationally orchestrated attacks on public education, public educators, inclusive curriculum and diverse student populations
- 2) To share NH stories about how local champions of local schools and marginalized students have stepped

up to protect and defend public education and students

- 3) To discuss why this should matter to the NHCUCC and the role we can play in addressing these challenges

**Moderator:** Claudia Istel

**Content Expert:** Granite State Progress Staff

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2020

## **(D18) NH Conference Confirmation Class (Closed Workshop)**

***\*For NHCUCC Confirmation Program participants only\****

At this time, participants in the Conference-Wide Confirmation Program will gather together for their February class. Not a part of the NHCUCC Confirmation Pilot Program, but interested in learning more about it? Email Tivvi Pare: [tpare@nhcucc.org](mailto:tpare@nhcucc.org) for details.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Confirmants will gather for their February meeting.

**Presenter:** Rev. Steve Miller

**Program Area:** Conference Confirmation Program

**Workshop Type:** Instructional and Interactive

**Room:** 2021

## **(D19) Eradicating Poverty Through Innovative Solutions for Housing Insecurity**

*Cover MATE's history of innovative work that involves identifying community needs, building programs to serve those needs, and how creating collaborative partnerships and communicating your story are key metrics of success.*

We will dive mostly into our premier program: MATE Housing Ministry, which seeks to serve those battling housing insecurity in Central Western Maine by offering volunteer home repairs, most coming at no cost to the homeowners we partner with. Most of the homes we work on are far past their natural lifespan, and the critical work we conduct enables our neighbors to stay in their homes and avoid falling into the devastating cycle of homelessness. We'll cover the work we conduct, who our volunteers are, the partnerships we've created that enable us as a small nonprofit to make a huge impact, etc.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Inspire attendees to further serve in the mission field, within and without their own communities. Encourage attendees to dream bigger about their service, enliven their faith, sharing stories of outreach, thereby gaining exciting ideas, expanding networks of support and resources, all to further God's work in the mission field.

**Presenter:** Chris DeLisle and Sharon Cowen

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Social Justice and Faith Discovery

**Room:** 2025

## **(D20) Values Aligned Investing: The Intersectionality of Faith + Finance**

*Come learn how United Church Funds is building Sustainable and Responsible Investment portfolio's that align with the values and mission of your church, while delivering competitive returns to grow more assets for ministry.*

This workshop is designed to educate people on the intersectionality that exists between faith and finance. Attendees will be equipped to lead their churches in evaluating if their long term investment strategies are in alignment with their values and how to best align with their beliefs related to Environmental, Social and Governance issues.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

The goal is to educate and equip you to be good stewards of your church endowments and long term assets through sustainable & ethical Environmental, Social & Governance Behaviors.

**Presenter:** Stacey Pettice

**Workshop Type:** Instructional

**Program Area:** Church Management

**Room:** 2026

## **(D21) Praying in Color**

*Did you know that our doodling can lead us to a deeper connection with God?*

Adapted exercises taken from Sybil MacBeth's book Praying in Color, we will use color, reflection and prayer to create new pathways in our connection to God, relying heavily upon our heart and right brain.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Those who are willing to step beyond their comfort level in prayer, may find a new way to pray that is simple and inspiring.

**Presenter:** Rev. Kathleen Alger

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Program Area:** Faith Discovery

**Room:** 2028

## **(D22) Period Pack Assembly – Church World Service**

*No student should stay home from school because they can't afford menstrual products. Church World Service is partnering with the New Hampshire Conference, UCC with a goal to make 600 period packs by the end of the day.*

Join us in ending period poverty in America. With more than 32 million women and girls not being able to afford tampons and other hygiene supplies they need; Church World Service creates period packs that are sent to places after natural disasters and shelters to help families who have been displaced. A period pack costs \$25 to make. We ask that if you attend this workshop, you consider donating two period packs (\$50) when registering. This allows us to get the necessary resources to create the 600 packs. If you are unable to attend this workshop we ask that you consider making a donation so that we can make a period pack on your behalf.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

1) Get enough donations to supply 600 period packs

2) Pack 600 period packs

3) Help end period poverty

**Presenter:** Adam Smedburg

**Program Area:** Social Justice

**Workshop Type:** Interactive

**Room:** Main Hallway

