

Morning Workshops

2011 School for Congregational Learning

#	Title	Presenter	Description and reason it will enhance ministry in the congregations
AM 1	Personal Transformation	Robert Pickerell	Before we can transform congregations systematically we have to first of all be transformed ourselves. Key leaders, including the pastor have to go through a period of transformation. The more individuals are changed spiritually the more the church will be. I am suggesting a wholistic approach of body, mind and spirit with others in body, mind and spirit. There must be unity and diversity in our transformation. Therefore this is not a top down, one person telling another "how to," but creating an environment in which we all share our gifts and together grow in our own transformation. At the end of the session, we will begin to identify areas of growth in our own personhood that the Spirit is giving to all of us.
AM 2	"Faith Practices" Curriculum	Daniel Mayes	Introduction to "Faith Practices" curriculum by Pilgrim Press: utilizes activities designed to introduce people of all ages to Practices of faith such as prayer, ritual, hospitality, working for justice, and discovering gifts of ministry. See www.faithpractices.org
AM 3	"Two by Two", Free Bible School Curriculum for Your Church	Debbie Griffin	Rev. Debbie Griffin, DOC minister at Jefferson Central Christian shares her free VBS curriculum with your church. Griffin wrote the curriculum as a partnership with Heifer International. "I was tired of re-writing VBS curriculum that was lacking in theological strength and creativity. The "Two by Two" curriculum invites youth to change the world 'two by two', as Jesus did when he called the twelve and sent them out into ministry. (Mark 6:6-7) The purpose of the curriculum is to engage, enlighten, and empower young people; to inspire a growing faith and encourage social justice. The curriculum partners with Heifer International educational materials in an effort to support the world changing mission of Heifer International. Children and adults work together to "Fill the Ark" full of animals that will empower and improve the lives of struggling families around the world.
AM 4	Basic Music Reading	Tim Butler	Introductory music reading class for those who would like to learn how to read music. Will cover choral music, bell/chime choir music, and instrumental music.
AM 5	Beyond Alligator Wrestling	Bill Spangler-Dunning	A practical but visionary look at a new way of recruiting, organizing and creating ministries in the church. When two or three people see a need and feel a call from God they form a ministry and in time the structure forms around it. Come learn the practical application of discernment based organization and stop wrestling alligators just to get someone to serve on another committee this year.
AM 6	Communication in the Small Congregation	Dennis Sanders	Most of the resources about communication and social media tend to be geared towards megachurches or wannabe megachurches. There is very little information geared towards small and medium churches. This workshop would offer some ideas for communication with the small church in mind.
AM 7	Congregation Finances	Andy Hughes	This workshop is geared toward church treasurers and financial secretaries. Topics would include church accounting for gifts and account structure, taxes for ministers, reporting to the Region, and software suggestions.
AM 8	Congregational Energy Efficiency	Susan Guy	Participants will learn practical steps their congregation can take to make their church facility more energy-efficient.
	Making the Shift Learning Track	Congregational Transformation Task Group	
AM 9a	Music & Message Shift	Mary Jane Button Harrison	A non-traditional workshop, using a "popcorn" presentation style by the Congregational Transformation Task Group (CTTG). Three breakout sessions are integrated into the morning and afternoon sessions where ways to prepare and live God's transformative power through spirituality, mission, and directional leadership will be presented. Resources will be provided for transformative ministry. Cutting-edge worship along with stories of God's transformation in the local churches of the Upper Midwest will be shared.
AM 9b	Missional Shift	Bill Kerns	To be Church in a different way. It's not only about giving money or learning about God's good works taking place a half-world away. It's also about planting the grapes for the table by engaging in hands-on mission in your local vineyard.
AM 9c	Spiritual Shift	Paul Witmer & Julie Bishop Gibson	"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go out and do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."-Howard Thurman. What if the greatest shift that happens, actually happens from within you? Come explore some spiritual practices that seek to awaken the spirit within so that each one of us can find the gift that makes us fully awake!
AM 9d	Directional Shift	Tom Webster & Sue Woods	"So how's that workin' for ya?" 7 Powerful benefits for missional leaders. Imagine the ministry of our churches if we were able to: Leverage people's strengths, Provide clarity and focus in how people serve, Instill confidence in what people are doing, Catapult learning experiences, Foster intentional progress, Multiply a ministry of empowerment, and Encourage God-sized goals... Come discover how Christ-Centered Coaching empowers and equips the church to be the church.
AM 10	Honoring the Taste of Place-Part 1	Tim Diebel, Dave Clark	A 2-session workshop drawing on the implications of "terroir" -- the French agricultural term for "taste of place" for congregational expression. Honoring the uniqueness of place invites congregations to sidestep the debilitating of envying the "church across town" and lamenting the shortcomings of current location; instead celebrating the uniqueness of one's setting for ministry as integral to the larger body of Christ. Contrary to the sameness that is often bred and encouraged, this workshop will explore the spirituality of place, with an eye for discerning the unique and specific factors of locale as a guide for particular expressions of ministry.
AM 11	Death and Dying	Chaplain Bob Haskin	Topics include: end of life concerns, fears of the dying person, stages of dying-do they actually happen?, spirituality and the dying, signs of spiritual strength or problems, needs of the dying, what to expect physically & emotionally in last days-hours, grief and bereavement, "beyond acceptance" toward spiritual growth.
AM 12	Having "the talk": youth, technology, limits, and the church	Adam Frieberg	With texting, sexting, and ever-expanding technology, adults may feel inadequate in guiding their youth around the moral questions of technology. "Even if you can, should you?" Thankfully, that question is one everyone can ask themselves (adults included!). This workshop is a chance to experience some of the current moral issues with technology and then, more importantly, to learn how to have this conversation as an inter-generational group.
AM 13	Elders & Pastor As a Team	CJ Latham & Larry Michael	Expanding role of Elders; Teamwork with Minister: visitation, hospital calls, etc.
AM 14	Empowering Youth Leaders	Melanie VanWeelden	Choosing new youth leaders can be a frightening task for any congregation. Come learn new techniques for finding the right leaders for your youth programs and how to equip, train, encourage and support them after they have agreed to journey with the young people of your church.
AM 15	Ministry in Rural Communities	Wendy Todd	Interactive presentation on the special ministry needed in the rural communities.
AM 16	Mission Trip Planning	Earlin Shanno & JoAnn Thomas	We will talk about the nuts and bolts of putting together Mission Trips. This would include organizing, inviting, funding and finding appropriate sites for mission in the United States. We will also discuss putting together a multi-church mission trip. Learn basic "how-to's". We will also share how trips enrich personal faith journey, expand the boundary's of your congregation, the new friendships you make with those you help and those on the trip. By the end of the workshop you will be able go home and put together a domestic mission trip within your congregation, cluster or area churches.
AM 17	The Real Reason Young Adults Don't Come to Church	Peter Mitchell	Have you wondered where the Young Adults are in your church? Come meet real life young adults and join in a panel discussion to hear about their experiences and perspectives.
AM Fun	Bethany Village!!	Bert Burns	Open to all ages, especially inviting ages 5-18. Experience with hands-on activities, the history that made us Disciples Together! Historical outdoor large tent setting.

Afternoon Workshops

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#	Title	Presenter	Description and reason it will enhance ministry in the congregations
PM 18	Ministry to Persons with Dementia, their families, and their churches	Dennis McKee	A presentation of the signs and causes of dementia, permanent and reversible. The different stages of dementia, when it becomes unsafe for them to be alone. Cognitive abilities at different stages. Roaming, repetition, and lack of responses. The emotional, physical, and spiritual effects on those who love and care for people with dementia. How can I cope?
PM 19	News! Share! Tips! Office ideas for Church Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	Amber Elliott	NEWS! New Exciting Ways Secretaries can create newsletters and connect with the Region. SHARE! Showing How And Revealing Energy in newsletters. TIPS! Taking In Positive Strategies for office personnel and time for sharing ideas.
PM 20	Praying Your Church Alive	Dale O'Connell	The workshop promises fresh insights, helpful resources, and great stories as we reflect on: 1. How testimony brings a church "Alive", 2. How relationships build a "Church", and 3. 100 ways to "Pray".
PM 21	Reimagining Church by Frank Viola: Book Discussion	Alan Finestead	Excellent book by Frank Viola titled Reimagining Church. The book presents the New Testament church of Paul's time which is nothing like the church as we know it today. Let's have a dialogue with those who either have read this book, or want to discuss the reimagining church ideas presented. If you would like a copy of this book, contact the regional office for info.
PM 22	Church 2.0	Christian Piatt	Is your church a Spider or a Starfish? 1.0 or 2.0? An institution or a movement? Learn about the changes in culture and the dramatic effects these cultural changes are having on the Church. Post-boomer generations have begun to create a sense of community and resorting to provide the stable foundation that they seek which is no longer found in their families or institutions, i.e., the church. Learn how to be a Starfish, a 2.0 Church, a movement!
PM 23	"Doing the Best With What You Have"	Scott Stillwell & Bette Klein	A workshop that presents several ideas on how to introduce different fine arts concepts into worship, no matter the size of your congregation. While focusing mostly on different instrumentation in a worship setting, this workshop will also focus on suggested uses of drama, dance and pantomime.
PM 24	Technology; Working Together	Stephen Haney	Sometimes, it is hard to get people together, particularly younger families, for committee meetings. Ok, maybe more than sometimes. This workshop will look at some new interactive web based technology that Open Source members have created, that enables our people to do their "committee" work from the line at Target through their smartphones. Come participate in a demonstration of how this may work.
PM 25	Transformation: Are we Imitating the Radical Christ?	Pasha Buck	We will explore our oral contract with God (in the Lord's Prayer) and look at the lives of both Jesus and St. Paul as "examples of radical love." As Imitators of Jesus the Christ, we Disciples are called to be people through whom God can love all Creation, as we work together to establish a Kingdom based on love and nurture, not violence and force.
	Making the Shift Learning Track	Congregational Transformation Task Group	
PM 26a	Music & Message Shift	Mary Jane Button Harrison	A non-traditional workshop, using a "popcorn" presentation style by the Congregational Transformation Task Group (CTTG). Three breakout sessions are integrated into the morning and afternoon sessions where ways to prepare and live God's transformative power through spirituality, mission, and directional leadership will be presented. Resources will be provided for transformative ministry. Cutting-edge worship along with stories of God's transformation in the local churches of the Upper Midwest will be shared.
PM 26b	Missional Shift	Bill Kerns	It's not only about giving money or learning about God's good works taking place a half-world away. It's also about planting the grapes for the table by engaging in hands-on mission in your local vineyard.
PM 26c	Spiritual Shift	Paul Witmer	"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go out and do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."-Howard Thurman. What if the greatest shift that happens, actually happens from within you? Come explore some spiritual practices that seek to awaken the spirit within so that each one of us can find the gift that makes us fully awake!
PM 26d	Directional Shift	Tom Webster & Sue Woods	Imagine the ministry of our churches if we were able to: Leverage people's strengths, Provide them clarity and focus in how people serve, Instill confidence in what people are doing, Catapult learning experiences, Foster intentional progress, Multiply a ministry of empowerment, and Encourage God-sized goals... Come discover how Christ-Centered Coaching empowers and equips the church to be the church.
PM 27	Honoring the Taste of Place-Part 2	Tim Diebel, Dave Clark	A 2-session workshop drawing on the implications of "terroir" -- the French agricultural term for "taste of place" for congregational expression. Honoring the uniqueness of place invites congregations to sidestep the debilitating of envying the "church across town" and lamenting the shortcomings of current location; instead celebrating the uniqueness of one's setting for ministry as integral to the larger body of Christ. Contrary to the sameness that is often bred and encouraged, this workshop will explore the spirituality of place, with an eye for discerning the unique and specific factors of locale as a guide for particular expressions of ministry.
PM 28	Kids Against Hunger	Frosty VanVoorst & Don Fields	A packaging, hands on experience to feed the needy
PM 29	Talkin Turkey, Woman to Woman Trip	Linda Lighthall	This will be a discussion of the Woman to Woman trip to Turkey. Come prepared to be enriched!!
PM 30	Disciples Working Together for International Mission Trips	Jerry Sawyer, Karla Rice, Ann Hansen	Representatives from three Upper Midwest Congregations will seek to share from their experience what it means to work together and complete an International Mission Trip (Central America -- the past two years working in Guatemala). Why we appreciate working together? How do we plan and prepare for such a trip? How do we involve our congregations? Where does support financially come from? How do we find an organization that will help us accomplish a caring ministry in the country where we feel called? Let's plan together a Mission Trip.
PM 31	Finding God in Our Differences	Julie Bishop Gibson	We will explore the ways that our differences enrich our experience as a community of Christians. We will play with the issues of forgiveness, ways of living amid a variety of strong opinions, and approaches to appreciating our differences while examining how living into the "Disciples Together!" enhances our faith journey.
PM 32	Supercharged Worship Services: The Workings of a Worship Team	Nancy Jensen & Atlantic	The ways that people learn about and experience God through worship are as varied as the people themselves. Some learn visually while others absorb a worship experience through the sense of hearing. Others are drawn to textures, smells, and themes. Our worship team plans worship themes for months in advance and then works to share all sorts of experiences that reach people in these varied ways. We would like to share how this comes together in our congregation as well as share the results of our collaborative work in the form of supercharged worship services.
PM 33	Right Now Lead Beyond These Walls - Faith In Action	Gail Theissen	Challenging ourselves to live our faith rather than just practice it once a week. Like our founders we are learning what it means to be a priesthood of all believers where every part of the body fully participates in ministry, not just the paid clergy. To become intoxicated for Christ, traffickers of Grace and messengers of Mystery in our local community and world. World Cafe allowed this community to focus and come to consensus on what we believe God is calling us to do with our lives at this point in time. We believe you can have the traditional model of community (the one of our parents, grandparents, etc.) and adapt new models alongside that reach a new generation that aren't wired the same way to work in tandem together. We are doing it!
PM 34	Transforming Education for Growing Church	Linda Ford, PTS	From programs that help lay people examine the sources of their faith to training for those seeking ordination, seminaries are seeking new partnerships with churches to provide education that transforms. This workshop will provide information on new opportunities for resourcing theological education for the whole church.
PM Fun	Bethany Village!! And Rap it Up!	Bert Burns & Margaret Hutchens	Open to all ages, especially inviting ages 5-18. Experience with hands-on activities, the history that made us Disciples Together! Historical outdoor large tent setting. Also a special time for experiencing & creating God-honoring Christian Rap Music & Hip Hop Music for worship or personal expression. Everyone Welcome!