

SCD 2024

SEE // CREATE // DISCIPLE

MINISTRY TRACKS - GROUP A

Session 1: Monday, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Session 2: Monday, 3:45 – 5:00 PM



Dare to Shift: Challenging Leaders to SEE, CREATE, & DISCIPLE in a New Way

MICHAEL BOWIE, JR.

Unlike the Global Pandemic COVID-19, the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the first disruption that changed the world. The disciples needed to adjust and shift their thinking despite an unexpected disruption. So, this workshop aims to equip and challenge leaders to SHIFT through this disruptive season to effectively SEE, CREATE, and DISCIPLE in a new way!



Courageous Church

BLAIR BOYD ZANT

Having now paid the price for decades of “membership over discipleship”, we are all trying to figure out how to Be Church in a post-covid, post-disaffiliation, post-Christendom culture. What kind of courage will this new discipleship-driven Church require?



Let's Get It Started

CURTIS BROWN

Our world is need of Christian leaders who are excited and prepared to reach new people in new ways through new ministries. These can be new ministries of existing congregations, new kinds of faith communities, new congregations, or new expressions. This workshop is designed to get you excited, get you prepared, and get your started on this important mission.



A Theological Framework for Trauma and Resilience

RONALD BELL

The main topic of this workshop comes from John 4:6: Jesus was “weary...so he sat down by the well.” If Jesus can experience weariness, what about us? Jesus sat down, he stopped, he sent others away, he created space to address his weariness. What resilience practices do you employ to address the ongoing trauma you experience? This workshop will offer several practical resilience strategies for emotionally healthy leaders.



Casting and Living into a God-given Vision

RODRIGO CRUZ

Through the story of The Nett Church, Rodrigo will share how God is calling UMC leaders to see and do things that they have never seen and done before. Kingdom vision, denominational brokenness, resilience, and God's grace are some of the elements and concepts that will be addressed throughout this workshop.



Integrated Discipleship: Honoring Faith, Feelings & Actions

CHARITY GOODWIN

Do you value strategic plans and measured outcomes more than emotional intelligence and wellbeing needed to get results? Have you noticed that knowing something doesn't automatically mean people can do something? What role does emotional intelligence and wellness play in a person's discipleship? We hear the disconnect in sayings like Faith over feelings...You can't trust your feelings...I was in my feelings. I can power through this. These and similar sayings are lies that stunt our most important relationships and ministry by keeping them inauthentic and splintered. It's time for safer, braver, and more emotionally whole disciples of Jesus Christ. In this workshop, we will explore why integrating thinking, feeling, and doing is key for present-day disciple-making. The experiential learning time focuses on the story of Mary and Martha as well as the relational and dynamic concept of the Trinity.



Hopeful Together: Reimagining Cooperative Ministry Partnerships

SUSAN ARNOLD

From declining multi-point charges to thriving cooperative missional partnerships. Are you in a context that consists of more than one church? Do you ever wonder what it might look like if these churches worked, prayed, planned, planted new spaces for new people, and served the community together? Is your congregation/parish struggling with declining resources, budget reductions, building maintenance, and fear of what the future holds? If you answered yes to one of these questions, join Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold for a time of dreaming and learning about reimagining cooperative ministry partnerships that thrive in your community.



Worship and Disability: Anti-Ableist Practices for the Body of Christ

LISA HANCOCK and MIMI LUEBBERS

Welcome communicates a posture of love and desire for another person's wellbeing, as well as pleasure for being with one another. When we look at how the disability community receives and is received by the church, this love, desire for wellbeing, and pleasure at being together is not what so many people with disabilities experience at church. This workshop equips clergy and lay leaders to implement anti-ableist tools, ideas, and attitudes in worship that create a community of love and welcome for all our neighbors, especially those with diverse embodiments.



The Futuring Church: Believing Into Tomorrow Today

ROB HUTCHINSON

Futuring is not just a concept; it's an action, exemplified by Jesus through His transformative way of life and His profound love for the world. The Holy Spirit continues to guide God's vision for the church's future. As the spiritual movement of church continues to emerge in multiple forms (church plants, Fresh Expressions, remissioned congregations, as well as many others,) it's crucial to recognize how our forward-looking visions shape our current actions and collaborations. "The Futuring Church" introduces a concept for church leadership teams that harnesses Futures Thinking Literacy, Ignatian group spiritual discernment, an Open and Relational theological approach, and a commitment to Spirit-led visioning. Together, these elements foster practical strategies for church leadership teams, empowering them to discern and pursue their church's preferred future while recognizing the practical steps they need to take today. Move beyond traditional strategic planning and delve into the imaginative and transformative possibilities that "The Futuring Church" offers.



Lay Leadership and Vocational Imagination

DAVID TEEL

Where will we find and nurture the next generation of lay leadership? Equipping lay leaders who become witnesses to grace at work in the world invites spiritual attention to the concrete places and faces where God's love is already at work. We'll explore what it means to be the social life of Jesus in the world as collective witnesses to grace at work for life. Specifically, we will look at the power of place and story to remap and rediscover the 'yoke of grace' (Clement of Rome). Our story, place, and song is the resonant and responsive measure of our 'growing together in grace' with and for the life of the world ("singing the LORD's song in a strange land" Psalm 137).

We'll also look at the importance of creating cultures of calling, care, covenant, and conversion by paying greater attention to the lives of people already living in our zip codes. Using participant stories of grace, we'll rethink the power of listening to and telling better stories that deepen our sense of discipleship as an adaptive vocation and apprenticeship to grace.



Equipping Leaders to SEE, CREATE, & GO MAKE DISCIPLES in a Relevant and Transformative Way

STEPHANIE MOORE HAND

The vision for the future is as bold as it is inspiring. God is creating new things, we to must do the hard work to SEE the new opportunities, "There it is!" Do you see it? CREATE new relationships in our communities, remembering we are not solo Christians. Do the work to GROW DISCIPLES by re-imagining the church of Jesus. WRITE the VISION and muster the courage to "build roads in the desert lands and discover streams of living water that flowing on thirsty lands." Isaiah 43:19-21 Ready, Set, Let's Go SEE the possibilities, CREATE meaningful connections, and MAKE DISCIPLES.



Becoming a Listening Church

LUKE EDWARDS

Was your church once a vibrant outpost in the community, and now you feel like you barely know any neighbors? Do you feel like it's time your church started a new community ministry, but you have no idea what to start? Would you like to be a better neighbor? Spiritual listening can open up new possibilities for vibrant ministry. In this series of workshops, you'll learn a process of deep listening that you can bring back to your church.



Expresiones de Amor: Fresh Expressions

CHRIS & JAIDYMAR ALICEA SMITH and LORI VALENTINE DE SEGOVIA

To help people see and understand the changes around our communities as we explore one of the fastest growing populations in our world, our Hispanic/Latino brothers and sisters. We will look at the biblical connection for loving our neighbors to help us truly see one another in the image of God.

To help people understand the importance of bilingual spaces as an act of cultural humility. As we explore how to do bilingual gatherings, we will also learn the importance of listening to stories, learning about the various cultures that are represented, and creating spaces for trust to grow.

Together we will explore various ways of intentionally being together in order to form deeper relationships with one another and God. While creating expressions of love we will bridge cultural and language barriers to reflect the Kingdom of God.



Intentional Discipleship Systems and Community Engagement

SCOTT HUGHES, BRYAN TENER, and CALEB HONG

Join Bryan Tener and Scott Hughes for the "Intentional Discipleship Systems and Community Engagement Workshop" designed for those eager to strengthen their strategic discipleship efforts while making a tangible impact within their communities.



Digital Ministry for Everyone

NICOLE REILLEY

We live in a digital world, and online ministry (for most of us) is here to stay. Whether you are a digital native (someone who grew up having access to the web) or not, today's world invites us to use technology to worship, disciple, and reach new people with God's love in Jesus. But how do we engage in the digital world while doing in-person ministry? Where might we focus to reap the most rewards in this new world?

MINISTRY TRACKS - GROUP B

Session 1: Tuesday, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Session 2: Tuesday, 1:30 – 2:45 PM



Reviving the Movement: Embracing Fresh Expressions for Transformative Church

JESSICA TAYLOR

In the wake of unprecedented societal shifts and challenges, the landscape of church ministry is undergoing a profound transformation. Join Jessica Taylor for an illuminating workshop series designed to equip church leaders with the tools and insights needed to navigate this new terrain with confidence and vision. In this series, participants will embark on a journey to reimagine church in the context of our networked, post-pandemic reality. Drawing inspiration from the timeless wisdom of the Early Church and the dynamic ethos of the Methodist Movement, we will explore the concept of Fresh Expressions of church as a catalyst for renewal and growth. Through engaging discussions, practical workshoping, and collaborative brainstorming sessions, attendees will discover how to cultivate a blended ecology of Fresh Expressions within their communities. From networked gatherings to innovative discipleship pathways, we will explore diverse approaches to nurturing vibrant faith communities that transcend traditional boundaries. This workshop series is not just about adapting to change; it's about embracing it as an opportunity for transformation. Together, we will reawaken our movemental amnesia and rediscover the radical spirit of love and inclusion that defined the early followers of Jesus. Join together as we embark on a journey to revitalize our churches, reimagine our ministries, and rediscover what it truly means to love our neighbor in today's world.



From Nice to Meet You to Welcome Home - Digital Relationship Management

JEREMY SCOTT

The disciples preached to crowds on the seashore. The Wesley's had captive audiences at shipping docks and mine entrances. Where does the modern world gather? Online, of course. Digital content is an imperative part of any congregation looking to connect to existing and new people. But all content is not equal and sharing the wrong thing in the wrong way can be a waste of valuable time and resources. To get the best return on your investment, you need to know what's worth sharing and where to place it. The good news is, this isn't as hard as you might think! Together we will explore post-pandemic proven strategies to reach new audiences. Once you've reached them, now what? The church is built on strengthening relationships and a number of tools exist today to make that as easy as possible.



Ver – Discernir – Actuar: A Model for Congregational Development

LYDIA MUNOZ

In this workshop, participants will learn the three steps the National Plan uses to develop ministry with the Hispanic/Latinx community. This methodology is a holistic approach to congregational development and growth.



Dreaming, Embodying, and Leading a Young, Diverse, and Inclusive Church

KRISTOPHER SLEDGE

In a moment where young Americans are disengaging from organized religions and our traditional churches are aging at an alarming rate, we will explore how to dream, embody and lead a fresh community of church that is intentionally young, diverse, inclusive, and compelling.



Good Grief for Change

JONATHAN PAGE

In an ever-changing landscape, what would it look like to use the process of grieving as a lens for healthy change in ourselves, our settings, and our world? This workshop will utilize the Kübler-Ross Change Curve as a model for the healthy processing of change in a variety of settings. We will apply this framework to change modeling within individuals, churches, and communities.



I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!

PAUL NIXON

Paul Nixon's new edition of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* invites six core choices from church leaders. We will see how these choices have been lived out in three different UMC congregations, each of which have actually grown since 2020.



Funding Fresh Ministry Initiatives

BRETT DeHART

God has put a big dream on your heart to reach new people in new ways. Sadly, that fire is quickly doused when you think about paying for it. This workshop will equip you with the tools and confidence to pursue your God-given vision without limitations. Rev. DeHart will guide you through proven methods to go beyond your operating budget to tap into alternative sources of funding. Never let money dictate the scope of your reach ever again.



Unlocking Hope: Paving the Path to a Future Beyond Mass Incarceration

TOSKA MEDLOCK LEE and DEVRON JEROME CRAWFORD

Are you a friend or a foe to the more than 2 million individuals impacted by mass incarceration in America? Historically, the United States stands out and is among the top globally in its reliance on incarceration, with over five million individuals currently under the supervision on the criminal legal system. In this vital workshop, you will discover the urgent need to organize and dismantle the carceral system and pave the way for lasting change for communities across this nation. Through engaging discussions and interactive teaching, we will explore the profound impact of mass incarceration on individuals, families, and communities. Together, we will examine strategies to create a pathway towards ending mass incarceration, restoring families and communities and seeing all the people God is calling us to reach.



Fruitfulness in Every Season of Leadership

CANDACE LEWIS

Understanding Fruitfulness: The workshop explores the idea that individuals and communities can bear fruit, grow, and have an impact in different seasons of life and ministry. We will envision growth and impact in our current season.

Embracing New Seasons: The participants will be encouraged to recognize its season of growth and impact in the midst of challenges. **Reflection:** How can we prepare ourselves individually and as a community for the new season ahead? What lessons can we learn from past seasons of leadership and ministry?

The Importance of Planting Seeds: The workshop stresses the necessity of continually planting seeds, whether they be ideas, initiatives, or outreach efforts. It emphasizes God's generosity in providing seeds and the potential for great impact inherent in each seed. **Reflection:** What seeds has God given us individually and as a church community? How can we faithfully plant and nurture these seeds to bring about positive change and growth?

Preparing the Soil: Just as soil needs preparation before planting seeds, the workshop urges leaders to prepare itself for new initiatives and growth. This involves removing obstacles, negativity, and outdated mindsets, and cultivating an environment conducive to growth.



Discipleship Coaching to Reignite Your Ministry

KEN WILLARD

These three workshop sections will equip and enable you to return to your church/ministry with the tools to establish discipleship coaching as a key tool to meet people where they are on their spiritual journey and help them take the next step closer to Jesus.



The Heart of it All

PHIL MAYNARD

Christianity is a relational faith lived out in our relationship with God, with one another, and with the community around us. This relationship forms our participation in the loving community of the Trinitarian God, supports our development as disciples of Jesus, and is the primary point of connection for those in the community to discover the love of God for themselves. Participants will deepen their understanding of the relational role of the faith, consider how to provide pathways to developing impactful relationships, and explore tools to support building relationships with those beyond the church.



Funding Ministry Year-round through Discipleship

JOE PARK

Beginning with examining the trends driving our giving landscape, this two-session workshop guides you through creating a year-round intergraded funding strategy for your church to grow disciples and fund your ministry needs.



Bold & Courageous: Taking Risks for the Sake of Love

KIPP NELSON

SEEING the LGBTQ+ community, the weight we/they carry, and our/their complex relationship with the church. CREATING and dreaming about new spaces where love and courage can begin to bridge the divide. DISCIPLING congregations to be bold and courageous in how we love God and neighbor.



Church Planting: We Put the Fun in Dysfunction!

ELLEN THORNBURG and LUIS RAMIREZ

Plant churches with intentionality in relationships, inclusivity, and joy. Objectives: How to reclaim relationships, lead inclusively, and discover joy.



Creating A Culture of Discipleship: Tongan UMC's Approach of Connecting Faith and Culture to Church Growth

KALESITA TUIFUA

In this workshop, we'll explore how the Tongan United Methodist Church creates a culture of discipleship by highlighting the unique cultural approaches and practices that contribute to effective discipleship for church growth. We'll delve into the rich tapestry of faith in Jesus Christ rooted in the context of Tongan culture to help us explore and create the methods and values that guide the process of making disciples. Whether you're a member of the Tongan community seeking to deepen your faith through discipleship or a non-Tongan

interested in cross-cultural discipleship, this workshop will offer practical tools, processes, and frameworks for making disciples of Christ in culturally relevant ways. Church leaders will be asked to share their experiences and perspectives on effective discipleship methods within their respective cultural contexts to help the participants see and create action plans for discipleship. So, I invite you to register for this workshop so we can deepen our understanding, empower and collaborative learning, networking, and share resources. See you there!

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:30 PM



See New Peoples, Build Community, Make Disciples

MIGHTY RASING

Reaching migrant/diaspora communities in the US for community engagement towards making disciples while leveraging our worldwide connections, tools, and resources.



Hey Preacher – Rethinking Preaching for a Greater Impact

DEREK WEBER

A workshop for preachers and worship leaders, lay and clergy designed to examine what make for compelling preaching in a changed and changing world.



Churches Adopting Churches: New Life for Healthy and Struggling Churches

DIRK ELLIOTT

We are in a time when church mergers will become more frequent and necessary. Highlighting best practices and looking at successful mergers, this workshop will provide a framework for successful, healthy mergers, focusing primarily on churches adopting churches. We will look at best practices, and the do's and don'ts of an adoption, as well steps to take for a healthy adoption.



Harnessing AI for Good

BLAKE DAVIS

Understand the Basics of AI: Gain a foundational understanding of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models, including how to set up an account with these platforms, focusing on free versions suitable for church operations.

Discover AI's Potential for Church Excellence: Learn about the significant productivity gains possible through AI tools and explore how this increased capacity can be used not just for enhanced work output but for deepening intentional discipleship efforts.

Explore Practical Applications: See firsthand how AI can streamline daily church operations through practical demonstrations and advanced prompting tips, enabling efficient use of AI tools within your ministry context without extensive technical training.

Navigate Ethical Considerations: Engage in discussions on the ethical use of AI in church settings, understanding where church leaders stand in this new technological landscape and how to navigate these considerations thoughtfully.

Experience Hands-on Learning: Participate in hands-on experiences with AI tools, ensuring that attendees leave with the ability to apply what they've learned directly to their ministry work.

Take home advanced frameworks for better access to advanced prompts: Bring your laptop with you if you can, I'll be sending you home with prompt templates to help streamline the use and output of LLM participation.



Public Theology: Engaging Bicultural Communities and Demographics

LYDIA MUNOZ

In this workshop, participants will learn the following:

- What does it mean to be bicultural?
- Demographics in this country of people who identify as bicultural.
- What are the essential nuances of developing ministry among this constituency?
- What is Public Theology and how does it inform and shape our work of developing communities of faith for bicultural communities (constituency)? What is the lay missionary training developed by the National Plan?



Writing Grants for Ministry

NAOMI ANNANDALE

There is a landscape of potential grant sources for religious organizations, and local churches that do great work are excellent candidates for grants. But being an excellent candidate isn't enough. Grant work requires careful preparation and attention to detail. This workshop will introduce participants to possibilities for grant funding and best practices for grant application. Participants will leave knowing what a grant-worthy program requires, some potential grant funding sources, and how to approach the application process to set themselves up for success.



Online and Hybrid Small Groups for Churches

ABIGAIL BROWKA

Learn how your local church can successfully use Online and Hybrid Small Groups to enhance your ministry.



Making the Blended Ecology Work in a Traditional Established Church

BRETT DEHART

Fresh Expressions offers traditional established churches the opportunity to reach new people in new ways without blowing up what we already love. At first though, Fresh Expressions can be perceived as a threat to the way we've always done things. Thus, starting and sustaining Fresh Expressions requires a grace-filled approach. In this workshop, Rev. Brett DeHart reveals a transformative seven-action process proven to galvanize set-in-their-ways congregations forward into a new adventure.



Philippians 4:8: Unlocking the Power of Appreciative Inquiry (AI)

CLAUDINE LEARY

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a strengths-focused, generative approach to creating conversations that enable systemic positive change. It is highly participative, hence helpful it helps teams, organizations, churches Discover what works well, Dream of what might be possible to reach the desired Destiny (the 4D cycle).



Generation Alpha is not the Church's Generation Omega

CHRIS WILTERDINK and PATRICIA PEÑA

Patricia and Chris will delve into generational research, emphasizing the distinct characteristics of Generation Alpha and the implications for church leadership. The session will explore formational events, education preferences, sources of motivation, faith formation experiences, entertainment, community engagement, and the unique challenges and opportunities for church leaders in connecting with this generation and their millennial parents.



Sharing Good News in a Bad News World

OWEN ROSS

Join us for an immersive workshop where we'll explore powerful ways to spread positivity and inspire change within our communities. In a world where people are bombarded with bad news, The United Methodist Church has good news to share. This learning lesson will provide a framework to assist congregations in sharing good news in a bad news world.



Reaching New People Through Effective Marketing

STEVEN K. ADAIR (UMCommunications)

You may have heard that your website is the new front door of your church. While having an effective website is still critical, your church's social media, worship livestream experience, and presence at events out in your community are equally important as people search for a community of faith to visit. You will walk away with new strategies, learn from one another, and find how UMCom can directly support your church in reaching new people through your marketing and promotional outreach efforts.