

Mini-Workshops

This year the presentations will be more brief, so that more people can hear more ideas.

Divestment from Fossil Fuels – Meighan Pritchard

There's been a lot of talk about divestment from fossil fuels, and a resolution about this passed at General Synod in 2013. How do we actually do it? What impact does it have? Come find out!

Breaking up is Hard to Do – Committee on Ministry

A talk on the new policy for concluding pastorates in the PNC-UCC. Pastors (whether in churches or chaplaincy settings) are present when we are at our most vulnerable. This makes the ending of a pastoral relationship especially difficult – or just plain hard to do. Let's talk about why this policy exists, and better understand how it has the potential for making breaking up a bit easier.

Finding God in the Small Places

The story of the creation of a Home Church on the Olympic Peninsula where the sacred conversation can continue. How a group of retired UCC clergy came together to create a sacred space for a liberal/progressive voice of faith in a setting where there is no UCC presence. Presenter: Rev. Ed Evans, retired after serving UCC churches in Blaine and Vancouver, WA.

Justice Leadership Program

Now in its third year, the Justice Leadership Program (JLP) is a partnership between four local UCC churches, the Pacific Northwest Conference and the National UCC, providing a year of experiential learning, classes, and spiritual growth sessions for those young adults who seek the resources to be leaders in the work of justice and peace. Let's talk about the vision behind JLP and how individuals and congregations can be a part of this growing program.

A New Thing – Ministry Without Money?! - John Pomeroy

Congregations everywhere are facing struggles with finances and membership - how are we to continue the important programs and ministries of our churches? By exploring what other "currencies" besides money the church has available, churches can reshape ministries and create new ministries based on their "inventory" of currency. Join us for a brief explanation of the approach and we will try an exercise together as a sample of how this approach to sustaining ministry works!

Strengthen the Church Offering - Rev. Dr. Rick Russell, member of the Conference Stewardship
What is it? How is it used? How might our church apply for and use a grant to strengthen the church where we live?

Covenant Groups: A True Story – Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force.

Are you seeking a way to nurture more meaningful connections in your faith community? Deepen interpersonal trust and relationship? Create a stronger web of mutual support and love? Come and learn about the covenant groups at Walla Walla First Congregational, and be inspired by the possibilities for your own congregation, large or small.

The Grieving Church - Judith Rinehart-Nelson

Zion Philadelphia UCC has dedicated this year's Lenten season to the theme of understanding how churches grieve. During the last five years we have lost over 30 people to death or to moving due to declining health. This represents half of our Sunday attendance. We know we are not alone and we want to share what we are learning with you. There will be time for sharing so we can learn even more about what it means to be a "Grieving Church."

20 Minutes of Camp

Whether you've come for years or have never been before, you will get to experience 20 minutes of the fun and spirit of camp at this mini-workshop, and (re)discover why people of all ages across our conference love Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen. We hope you'll join us!

Update on Capital Fund Drive for Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen

Hear about our exciting plans for improving and expanding our outdoor facilities at both N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs. The workshop will include background on the establishment and development of the Camps, update on the current financial status of each Camp and discussion of proposed capital improvement budgets for both Camps. We will also focus on identifying individuals interested in participating in a capital fund drive that will provide opportunities for our Camps to grow.

Magnolia UCC's "Front Yard "

In the walking neighborhood of Magnolia village, our churchyard is the largest expanse of green space, second only to the community play field. This area is appreciated just for its openness. Our goal is to use it to provide a variety of spiritual experiences for the community, not only the church community, but reaching out to all. Every couple of months for the past three years we have created an interactive art installation. From banners, to labyrinths, to sculptures, we share our church. You are invited to explore the possibilities for your own church. Facilitator: Scott Ward

Life Coaching and Life of Faith

An introduction to transformation possibilities for both pastors and congregations when a trained and qualified life coach enters the picture. Kay Young UCC Pastor, Spiritual Director and Life Coach. Dave Shull, Pastor of Spirit of Peace UCC in Sammamish and Recovery Services Coordinator at Recovery Cafe, a refuge for people traumatized by homeless, addiction, and other mental health challenges.

Who's Minding The Store? (Risk Management recipes for protecting your church)

Sharon Thompson-English, our insurance agent for the UCC Insurance Board program, will be sharing 10 practical tools to help you care for and protect the church, while you are caring for others.

Wealth Inequality – Faith Action Network

Everybody's talking about it, the immense wealth gap in our nation. How can people of faith enter the dialogue without having to be economists or researchers? In our short time together, we will review some interfaith resources and perspectives that you can use in your congregations, study groups, and advocacy efforts. Elise DeGooyer is Co-Director of Faith Action Network, a statewide interfaith advocacy organization. FAN's lead issue this year is Wealth Inequality.

Israel-Palestine , Peace for All – Ed Crouch

The Central Pacific UCC Conference along with four other conferences passed resolutions to boycott and divest from companies that profit from the illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories. We'll have an opportunity to support this resolution, which will be voted on in our 2015 General Synod. The actions proposed by this Resolution are similar to those exercised by church bodies, as a non-violent response to apartheid in South Africa.

After the PNC Resolution: Supporting a Washington State Constitutional Amendment Eliminating Corporate Personhood – Mike Denton

Planning Art-full Worship – Peter Ilgenfritz, UCUC