



2010 National Congregational Transformation Conference

Ignite. Inspire. Equip.

October 18-22, 2010

First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Worth, TX

Workshop Tracks Descriptions

Transformation in Multi-Ethnic Congregations

Led by Victor Aloyo

Today, there is no denying it. Our churches—as well as the wider society in which we live—are becoming living mosaics of differences. As Christians, we publicly state our commitment to people of all races and cultures as we read scriptures, pray, sing, and proclaim together. In Paul's day, he described this rich community as a body (Romans 12:4-6). What would our communities of faith be like if we celebrated our differences? What if our communities had both respectful separation for different groups and respectful coming together? We will explore processes and models as the Church explores ministry with and among underrepresented population groups.

Community Organizing, Community Engagement, and Congregational Transformation

Led by Trey Hammond

Congregations can be transformed by taking their God-given place seriously and stepping out into their communities to build relationships and work for justice. This workshop will explore two related strategies – community engagement and congregation-based community organizing. Community organizing provides useful skills to help congregations create a relational culture, engage new people, and make a difference in the larger community. The same skills that allow a congregation to be effective advocates in public life can inform how a congregation approaches evangelism, Christian education, leadership development, and financial strength.

Evangelism and Disciple Making

Led by Ray Jones

Learn how you and your congregation/ministry can engage your community with the Gospel towards the goal of disciple making. We will look at how culture continues to change and how the church can embrace the “new normal.” We will address the need for the church to be outreach-oriented and missionally-minded so that we will not be dismissed as an irrelevant “social club.”

Nuts and Bolts of Congregation Transformation

Led by George Bullard

It is one thing to say you want your congregation to transform. It is another thing to do it. It is hard work. It takes a lot of attention to nuts and bolts. This workshop will seek to answer five questions: What is and is not congregational transformation? How do you get ready and start the process? What are the spiritual, strategic, and journey aspects of congregational transformation? How do you know when you have achieved transformation? How do you sustain transformation and not regress?

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Spirituality for All...

...as the Church Responds to what is Emerging in the Culture

Led by Suzanne Stabile

In this time of "The Great Emergence" as Phyllis Tickle refers to it, we are asking,

"What is happening in the church?"

"Where and when did it start?"

"Where is it leading?"

"How shall we know our way?"

"How shall we lead others?"

We cannot effectively offer or receive spiritual guidance for this journey unless we are steeped in our own spiritual practices and able to share the nature of that practice with others. It is not up to us as church leaders, both clergy and lay, to know what God is doing and yet we are called to be participants. Discernment in relation to personal involvement and commitment is a daunting task and how we approach that task will determine where we arrive.

To that end, this workshop will explore:

1. Liminal Space as God's Grace
2. Simplicity and Sabbath Keeping
3. Centering Prayer and other Classical Spiritual Disciplines for Individuals and Congregations
4. The Building of Small Christian Communities

Leader Development

Led by Ann Phibrick

This track is designed to ignite, inspire, and equip leaders of our congregations that they may grow in faith and leadership ability.

Ignite: Tap into the energy the Holy Spirit makes available to all God's people but is most needed by leaders.

Inspire: Once you have caught the spirit and intent of transformation, what can you do to invite others in your congregation to be open to the movement of the spirit? We will explore that and other questions around being the leaders in your congregation.

Equip: Through practical tools and training tips, you will come away with resources for leading your congregation, no matter where it is on its transformational journey. You will learn something new as well as think about how to help others learn something new.

The difference between congregations that discover a new and vital future and those that don't is often leadership. It begins with the pastor, but continues with key lay leaders. Come discover your role in helping your congregation move forward.