

# 2021 APCE Virtual Event Pre-Events

All Times are Eastern Standard Time

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## **PCUSA Educator Certification Hybrid Course: Human Growth and Faith Development**

*led by Rebecca L. Davis*

Dates: January 4-31, 2021 (Asynchronous @ Home)  
January 29-February 3, 2021 (Synchronous via Zoom)

[See syllabus for details](#)

Registration Fee: For Certification Credit (\$150) or for Continuing Education only (\$100)

Registration Deadline: December 15

Minimum number of 6 participants

This intensive course will explore historical and contemporary theories of human psychological, sociological and faith development. Participants will apply these theories to teaching people of all ages in the church. Theories for human and faith development and their application will be organized around the significant movements of the Christian Life from Baptism to Confirmation to Resurrection.

*Led by **Rebecca L. Davis**, a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and a Certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Before being appointed to the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary on the Charlotte Campus, she served as Associate Professor of Religion and the Director of the Christian Education Program at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.*

## **Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching (POINT) led by Katie Snyder**

*Free*

Choose One:

- POINT Training A: Monday February 1, 2021 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- POINT Training B: Tuesday February 2, 2021 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The same training is offered on two different days to give you some flexibility. At this training, you will learn about our new multiage children's curriculum, *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum*, and our new curriculum for the whole church, *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*, coming in the summer of 2021. We will show you new and faithful books that will help you in your ministry and others that will be great for adult studies. We will also look at new and upcoming books from everyone's favorite children's picture book publisher Flyaway Books!

Are you a POINT Member or Partner? Not sure? [Learn more here](#) and decide what is right for you. Partners and Members are both welcome to attend this free training.

*Led by **Katie Snyder**, a certified Christian educator working for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, as curriculum specialist and POINT Coordinator.*

**Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA)****Our Truth in a Time of Transition: Telling and Hearing our Stories**

*Led by Christian Brooks, Shannon Guse, Brian Kuhn, and Christy Williams*

*Additional fee required*

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:30 am – 5:00 pm

**For more information and to register for this event go to <https://pywa.org/>**

We were living in a time that felt very uncertain and polarized before the COVID19 pandemic. New realities of life have only added to questions about what the future looks like, how we are responding to competing narratives, and where God is in all of it. This pre-event will help youth workers engage with the stories that every youth and family bring into the church with the hope of setting the stage for greater understanding of the self, others, and the Holy. The event will focus on mental health and social justice.

**Christian Brooks, MDiv, MS** is the Representative for Domestic Issues at the Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University.

**Shannon Guse** is a former middle and high school health teacher who has been working with youth at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, FL, for approximately 15 years. She loves reading young adult novels that capture the quirkiness of teenagers and uses books as a way to tackle the tough issues that teenagers face.

**Brian Kuhn, MA, LPC** is the Executives Director of PYWA and a 20-year youth and family ministry veteran. He is also a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in adolescences and families. He has written curriculums and training on suicide awareness and prevention for faith communities: Soul Shop for Youth, Soul Shop for Youth Workers, Soul Shop for Campus Ministry, and Soul Shop for Campus Ministry Leaders.

**Dr. Christy Williams, D. Ed. Min., MACE**, has been the director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, FL, for 31 years! She has also worked at Montreat Conference Center as an adjunct staff person for the Alpha weeks of the youth conferences for 12 years. Christy has written youth curriculum resources for her local Presbytery camp, the denomination, and her church.

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## Thursday, February 4 – Workshop A 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM (EST)

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### **A-1: And When the Danger Passed: Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Church** *led by Rebecca Davis* (Part 1 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)

Kitty O’Meara’s poem “In the Time of Pandemic” speaks of what might be possible on the other side of a global crisis: the need to grieve, a chance to heal, the dawn of new ideas, and a reorientation of our priorities. What is the substance of what we’ve experienced? In what ways do we need to grieve, to heal, to celebrate? How does trauma inform pedagogy? Let’s embark on an intentional journey of meaning-making in matters of ministry.

**Rebecca Davis** is Associate Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina. *Becky* is a teaching elder and a Certified Christian Educator who is passionate about teaching, child advocacy, transformative pedagogy, and creating community around tables of home-cooked meals.

- Faith Formation, Spirituality, Leadership, Pastoral Skills
- All Ages

### **A-2: Cultural Proficiency: Building a Kin-dom Mind-set** *led by Jihyun Oh and Molly Casteel* (Part 1 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)

Building kin-dom within faith communities and with neighbors requires genuine encounters and relationships across differences to create connection, belonging, and a common mission. How do we cultivate cultural proficiency for these relationships? In this workshop, we will build a shared understanding of challenges/growing edges that keep us from growing a kin-dom mind-set and create plans to move forward.

**Jihyun Oh** is the Director of Mid Council Ministries in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. She is passionate about Christian formation for all ages and has recently been doing work around formation toward a more inclusive kin-dom of God. **Molly Casteel** is the Manager for Equity and Representation in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. Her work centers on inclusion, equity, and impactful institutional accountability within the councils of the denomination at the presbytery level and above.

- Multicultural, Community Building
- Adult

### **A-3: Having Difficult Conversations** *led by members of APCE’s Diversity Task Force* (Part 1 of a 3 Part Series. Participants may sign up for one, two, or all three parts of this series.)

*How do we talk about tough topics with one another?* Panelists will share stories about difficult conversations they have had regarding race. Their experiences will shed light on how to navigate your own difficult conversations. Workshop participants will engage with the moderator and panelists

through question and response and be provided with best practices for engaging in difficult conversations. This is the first in a series of three workshops designed to build capacity for doing the work of increasing diversity, equity, and justice.

**Brian Ellison**, panel moderator, is executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national organization engaging, educating, and equipping congregations and councils toward an equity not yet fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society. He is also stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America and of Heartland Presbytery. Additionally, he is host/contributor at KCUR, NPR in Kansas City, where he hosts talk shows, moderates community forums, and anchors election night and breaking news coverage. Brian was previously pastor of a congregation for 13 years and lives in Kansas City with his partner, Troy, and their two dogs, the affable Charlie, and the recalcitrant Willoughby.

- Leadership, Pastoral Skills, Social Justice
- Adult

#### **A-4: Cancelled**

#### **A-5: Faith Formation for All led by John Roberto**

Lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute toward building a thriving congregation that lives its mission. How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation. Drawing on research and innovative practices, this workshop presents how to make lifelong faith formation a reality in your church today.

**John Roberto** is president of LifelongFaith Associates and has served on the leadership team of Vibrant Faith Ministries. He works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in faith formation.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Leadership
- All Ages, Intergenerational

#### **A-6: Fe/Faith in a Spanglish Church led by Marissa Galván-Valle**

Spanish has been a part of the story of the United States since before it was known as such. It is the language that a large number of our neighbors speak. How can we widen the circles of faith and hospitality to include those who speak Spanish? Discover and share resources, ideas, and best practices to do ministry in Spanglish. **Sponsored by PPC.**

**Marissa Galván-Valle** is the Spanish-language editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. As such, she writes, edits, produces, and promotes Christian education resources for the PC(U.S.A.). She is also pastor at Beechmont Presbyterian Church, an intercultural church that speaks Spanish and English.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Multicultural, Worship and Music
- All Ages

### **A-7: Finding Comfort & Hope on the Journey of Grief** *led by Fran Shelton*

The workshop explores sacred stories that focus on grief, a presentation on the nature and dynamics of grief, and small group discussions. The participant will leave with a spiritual practice designed to promote comfort to them on their grief journey. **Endorsed by POAMN.**

***Fran Shelton** is an author and founder of Faith & Grief Ministries, leads bereavement workshops and spiritual retreats, and keynotes at conferences. For twenty years she served PC(U.S.A.) congregations in Texas, primarily in pastoral care.*

- Pastoral Skills, Spirituality, Community Building
- Young Adult, Adult, Older Adult

### **A-8: Love Thy Neighbor as Thy Cellphone: Games for the Digital Age** *led by Joel Winchip*

People are constantly texting, taking pictures, and checking social media with their smartphones. What if we took people's preoccupation with this technology and used it for games and team building activities? This session will explore the recreation that can be led with youth or adults and their cell phones. Please come join the fun (and don't forget your phone). **In partnership with PCCCA.**

***Joel Winchip** is the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association. He also serves on the adjunct faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, where he teaches courses on camp/conference ministry and recreation.*

- Community Building, Technology
- Youth, Young Adult, Adult

### **A-9: Spirituality in Our Third Thirty: Our Best Asset as We Age?** *led by Chris Pomfret*

This interactive workshop focuses on what spirituality is, to each of us as it pertains to aging. How do we discover it within ourselves, how do we use it to overcome the fears of aging, and what benefits can it provide? Finally, can our spirituality become an automatic but constant and conscious feature of our daily lives? **Endorsed by POAMN.**

***Chris Pomfret** is a former Vice-President of POAMN and has conducted several Third Thirty workshops in the U.S.A. and overseas. His Third Thirty concept challenges conventional wisdom that aging is best if ignored and identifies outlooks such that aging can be as enjoyable as possible for the individual and loved ones.*

- Spirituality, Resource Center, Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Adult, Older Adult

### **A-10: Walking with Youth as They Discern Life after High School** *led by Perrin Tribble*

In this workshop, we will unpack responses from current youth about the realities of preparing for life after high school, explore best practices for helping youth discern life's next steps, and discuss ways to equip youth to cope with today's stress while framing opportunities for the future. **In partnership with PYWA.**

**Perrin Tribble** is the Director of Church Relations for Presbyterian College. A life-long Presbyterian and PC alum, Perrin served in youth ministry for 8 years and has served as leadership for youth retreats and conferences. She finds joy when youth have confidence in themselves as children of God.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Leadership, Pastoral Skills
- Youth, Young Adult

**A-11: Youth Ministry in the Digital Age** led by Jessie Kuehner

This workshop explores practical uses and warnings of websites, social media, and screens in youth ministry. You know the youth and the parents are using them, but how can we take advantage of it? Can be done as an intro class paired with a more advanced dig into the use of technology in youth ministry.

**In partnership with PYWA.**

**Jessie Kuehner** is a volunteer at Webster Presbyterian Church in Webster, Texas. She has her M.Div. with Emphasis in Youth and Family Ministry from Fuller Seminary. She had been a Youth Director and Christian Education Director in churches for ten years. She is currently volunteering at her church as she focuses on her two small children.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Outreach/Evangelism, Technology
- Youth

**A-12: Engaging Children in the Worshipping Community** led by Mimi Larson

How do we intentionally and meaningfully engage children as active participants in the intergenerational worshipping community? During this workshop we will explore how the ways in which children learn provide practical pathways for engaging them in either online or face-to-face worship with all ages. Participants will be equipped to take the next steps in encouraging children to move from passive observers to full participants within the worshipping community.

**Mimi Larson, Ph.D.**, has spent over twenty years in practical church ministry and now serves as the Children's Ministry Catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries, a ministry for the Christian Reformed Church in North America. She also teaches at Wheaton College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

- Worship and Music
- Children, Intergenerational

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**Friday, February 5 – Workshop B**  
**12:30 to 1:30 PM (EST)**

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**B-1: And When the Danger Passed: Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Church** *led by Rebecca Davis*  
**(Part 2 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)**

Kitty O’Meara’s poem “In the Time of Pandemic” speaks of what might be possible on the other side of a global crisis: the need to grieve, a chance to heal, the dawn of new ideas, and a reorientation of our priorities. What is the substance of what we’ve experienced? In what ways do we need to grieve, to heal, to celebrate? How does trauma inform pedagogy? Let’s embark on an intentional journey of meaning-making in matters of ministry.

*Rebecca Davis* is Associate Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina. *Becky* is a teaching elder and a Certified Christian Educator who is passionate about teaching, child advocacy, transformative pedagogy, and creating community around tables of home-cooked meals.

- Faith Formation, Spirituality, Leadership, Pastoral Skills
- All Ages

**B-2: Cultural Proficiency: Building a Kin-dom Mind-set** *led by Jihyun Oh and Molly Casteel*  
**(Part 2 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)**

Building kin-dom within faith communities and with neighbors requires genuine encounters and relationships across differences to create connection, belonging, and a common mission. How do we cultivate cultural proficiency for these relationships? In this workshop, we will build a shared understanding of challenges/growing edges that keep us from growing a kin-dom mind-set and create plans to move forward.

*Jihyun Oh* is the Director of Mid Council Ministries in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. She is passionate about Christian formation for all ages and has recently been doing work around formation toward a more inclusive kin-dom of God. *Molly Casteel* is the Manager for Equity and Representation in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. Her work centers on inclusion, equity, and impactful institutional accountability within the councils of the denomination at the presbytery level and above.

- Multicultural, Community Building
- Adult

**B-3: Making Difficult Decisions** *led by members of APCE’s Diversity Task Force*  
**(Part 2 of a 3 Part Series. Participants may sign up for one, two, or all three parts of this series.)**

How do we make difficult decisions that may impact those around us? Panelists will share stories about difficult conversations they have had regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Their experiences will shed light on how to navigate your own difficult decisions and support those who are making them.

Workshop participants will engage with the moderator and panelists through question and response and will be provided with best practices for making difficult decisions and supporting those who are making them. This is the second in a series of three workshops designed to build capacity for doing the work of increasing diversity, equity, and justice.

**Brian Ellison**, panel moderator, is executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national organization engaging, educating, and equipping congregations and councils toward an equity not yet fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society. He is also stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America and of Heartland Presbytery. Additionally, he is host/contributor at KCUR, NPR in Kansas City, where he hosts talk shows, moderates community forums, and anchors election night and breaking news coverage. Brian was previously pastor of a congregation for 13 years and lives in Kansas City with his partner, Troy, and their two dogs, the affable Charlie, and the recalcitrant Willoughby.

- Leadership, Pastoral Skills, Social Justice
- Adult

#### **B-4: Navigating Difficult Conversations** led by Barbara Ann Wilson

The Church is the Body of Christ and is called to be a community of faith, love, hope and witness. This workshop will provide courageous and brave space for contemplation and reflection that leads to collective action to move forward the work of justice. We will explore practical frameworks for healthy relationship building, collaboration and partnerships that increase resilience and vitality, and that deepens mission impact.

**Barbara Ann Wilson** is the Director of Collaboration and Community Partnerships for the Presbytery of Chicago. In this leadership role she connects, listens, equips, and supports leaders and congregations in enhancing vitality and mission. Barbara is an Associate Certified Coach (ACC) with the International Coach Federation and an adjunct seminary professor. Barbara is ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) and has over 25 years of service. She holds B. A. and M.S degrees in Criminal Justice and Justice Administration, respectively. She received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from McCormick Theological Seminary.

- Mission & Justice, Leadership
- Adult

#### **B-5: Expanding Circles of Faith to Address Sustainable Development** led by Martha Bettis Gee and Sue Rheem

In the next fifty years, how will we help persons to respond faithfully not only to the challenges of climate change but also to the interconnected issues of hunger, poverty, racism, and limited livelihoods? We will explore some tools developed by the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations that can enhance the possibility of working for truly sustainable development.

**Martha Bettis Gee** is APCE's historian, a writer, editor, and educational consultant. She is retired from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. She is the author of the *Leader Guide for the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations' Study and Devotional Guide on the Sustainable Development Goals*. **Sue Rheem** is the Mission Specialist for International Advocacy at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. She

has a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She also serves on the Justice Ministries Committee of the New York City Presbytery.

- Mission & Social Justice, Bible & Theology, Faith Formation/Discipleship,
- Adult

**B-6: Facing Down Negativity-Building Faithful, Positive Youth** led by “Mike” Burcher

Our youth are growing up in a polarized environment in which name-calling, stating falsehoods as fact, and spouting negative overgeneralizations are not only acceptable but also expected. These attitudes are a sinful weight that clings to us and poisons relationships. How do we teach “love your neighbor,” “pray for those who persecute you,” and positive ways of thinking that are countercultural? Using the “Complaint Free World” concept, participants will explore practical tools that will help us think in more positive, faithful ways and teach and model these principles not only to our youth but also to our colleagues, families, and friends as well. **In partnership with PYWA.**

*“Mike” Burcher spent most of her ministry as a Camp Director, helping children and young adults who arrived as strangers go back into the world as friends for life. She is coauthor of Making Fun out of Nothing at All: 101 Great Games that Need No Props. Mike currently serves as Associate Pastor for Youth and Christian Educator at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church in Virginia.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Spirituality, Mental Health
- Youth

**B-7: Faith Formation with Older Adults** led by Joyce MacKichan Walker

Although forming faith draws on many practices that hold for all ages, participants will explore ten big-picture principles for approaching ministry with and for adults from 60-90+. Encounter sample program ideas they inspire and expect an opportunity to feed one another’s design ideas and creative approaches. **Endorsed by POAMN.**

*Joyce MacKichan Walker retired as Minister of Education and Mission at Nassau Presbyterian Church in 2018. Author of leader’s guides for Horizon Bible Studies, and APCE articles (Mission and Education: True Partners; Theology in Louise Penny’s mysteries; The Role of Advocacy in the PC(U.S.A.)), she loves her retirement life of writing, empowering leadership, and saying yes to invitations to teach and travel.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Leadership, Community Building
- Adult, Older Adult

**B-8: The Pedagogy of Sabbath: Finding Wholeness and Renewal in the Busyness of Life**  
led by Jose R. Irizarry

Pause, rest, and listen! This workshop is intended to rediscover the Judeo-Christian value of Sabbath to help us identify ways to listen to those messages by which the environment, the social context, and our own bodies are trying to teach us how to recover balance and become whole. Recovering Sabbath as practice of self-care builds the foundation for lasting well-being. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Board of Pensions.**

**Jose R. Irizarry** is the Vice President for Education at the Board of Pensions. A former president of the Religious Education Association, he teaches theology courses at Villanova University.

- Spirituality, Pastoral Skills, Self-care
- Adult

**B-9: Sabbath Practices for Lasting Community Formation** led by *Brian Frick*

How is a deep and rich community of faith formed and sustained? Drawing on the rich history of Christian practices, we will explore how practices don't just support meditation and spirituality; they actually draw us together, creating bonds that hold us together. We will explore the five Sabbath practices of storytelling, hospitality, service, retreat and prayer, and we'll dive into the research.

**Brian Frick** serves as an Associate for Christian Formation at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. His ministry currently focuses on formation, consulting with camp, retreat, and congregation leaders, and Intergenerational ministry coaching and speaking. He believes deeply in the power of community in building lifelong discipleship.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Community Building
- All Ages, Intergenerational

**B-10: Supporting Parents in Faith Nurture** led by *Laura Keeley and Robert J. Keeley*

COVID-19 has amplified the need for churches to support parents in their role in nurturing the faith formation of children. This workshop will present a framework for faith nurture that church educators can use to plan and assess that support.

**Laura Keeley** is a regional catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries in the Christian Reformed Church and the Director of Children's Ministry in her church in Holland, Michigan. **Robert Keeley** is an education professor at Calvin University and a visiting professor of discipleship and faith formation for Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Together their most recent publication is "Dear Parent: A Guide to Family Formation" (Faith Alive, 2019). Bob has also co-edited "Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry and Discipleship" (Zondervan, 2020).

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Adult, Intergenerational

**B-11: Welcoming All to the Circle of Faith** led by *Katie Snyder*

Explore what it means to be inclusive to children and youth in your congregation. Help your congregation feel welcoming to children and youth with diverse backgrounds, such as different racial backgrounds, LGBTQ+IA, and disabilities. Learn practical strategies that are in many cases, easy to implement and go a long way toward making those with differences feel as if they belong. **Sponsored by PPC.**

**Katie Snyder** is a certified Christian educator working for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation as their curriculum specialist and POINT Coordinator. Katie aspires to faithfully seek God while encouraging and

*empowering others to do the same. Katie enjoys knitting, singing, and training with her service dog, Maya.*

- Leadership, Multicultural, Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Children, Youth, Special Needs

**B-12: Welcoming Transgender Persons in Our Congregations** *led by Debbie Gline Allen*

God calls us to welcome all of God’s children as siblings in Christ. But what are the best ways to welcome those who have been “born into the wrong body”? Debbie will share helpful learnings from her experience as a member of a “transgender family” for your congregation to use in providing an extravagant welcome to all.

*Debbie Gline Allen serves as the Associate for Faith Formation & Youth Ministries for the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. She and her two sons “transitioned” with her spouse / their father-now-mother to become a new family together.*

- Mission and Social Justice, Outreach/Evangelism, Formation/Discipleship
- All Ages

**Saturday, February 6 – Workshop C**  
**1:30 to 2:30 PM (EST)**

**C-1: And When the Danger Passed: Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Church** *led by Rebecca Davis*  
**(Part 3 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)**

Kitty O’Meara’s poem “In the Time of Pandemic” speaks of what might be possible on the other side of a global crisis: the need to grieve, a chance to heal, the dawn of new ideas, and a reorientation of our priorities. What is the substance of what we’ve experienced? In what ways do we need to grieve, to heal, to celebrate? How does trauma inform pedagogy? Let’s embark on an intentional journey of meaning-making in matters of ministry.

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- Faith Formation, Spirituality, Leadership, Pastoral Skills
- All Ages

**C-2: Cultural Proficiency: Building a Kin-dom Mind-set** *led by Jihyun Oh and Molly Casteel*  
**(Part 3 of a 3 Part Series. Participants will be registered for the entire series)**

Building kin-dom within faith communities and with neighbors requires genuine encounters and relationships across differences to create connection, belonging, and a common mission. How do we cultivate cultural proficiency for these relationships? In this workshop, we will build a shared understanding of challenges/growing edges that keep us from growing a kin-dom mind-set and create plans to move forward.

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- Multicultural, Community Building
- Adult

**C-3: Taking Action** *led by members of APCE's Diversity Task Force*  
**(Part 3 of a 3 Part Series. Participants may sign up for one, two, or all three parts of this series.)**

How do we step out in faith to create meaningful change in the midst of difficult circumstances? Panelists will share stories about taking action regarding economic justice. Their experiences will shed light on how to be advocates and supporters of those who are wanting to create meaningful change. Workshop participants will engage with the moderator and panelists through question and response and will be provided with best practices for taking action in their lives, congregations, and communities. This is the third in a series of three workshops designed to build capacity for doing the work of increasing diversity, equity, and justice.

*Brian Ellison, panel moderator, is executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a national organization engaging, educating, and equipping congregations and councils toward an equity not yet fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society. He is also stated clerk of the Synod of Mid-America and of Heartland Presbytery. Additionally, he is host/contributor at KCUR, NPR in Kansas City, where he hosts talk shows, moderates community forums, and anchors election night and breaking news coverage. Brian was previously pastor of a congregation for 13 years and lives in Kansas City with his partner, Troy, and their two dogs, the affable Charlie, and the recalcitrant Willoughby.*

**C-4: Along for the Journey: Building and Sustaining Ministry with LGBTQIA+ Youth**  
*led by Jess Cook and Alex McNeill*

Many people doing ministry with LGBTQIA+ youth feel overwhelmed by the ever-expanding ways young people describe their gender and/or sexuality, often feeling as if they need to reinvent the wheel. This workshop will offer participants ways to approach ministry utilizing the tools of our ancestors in the faith and building adaptive skills for ministry with the sacraments as our foundation. **In partnership with PYWA.**

*Jess Cook is the Program & Communications Manager for More Light Presbyterians. Jess has years of experience working with LGBTQIA+ youth and is passionate about learning new things about the*

sacraments. **Alex McNeill** is the Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians. He has years of experience training and educating faith leaders and laypeople on how to embody abundant welcome in their contexts and is a sought-after coach.

- Pastoral Skills, Faith Formation, Resource Center
- Youth

#### **C-5: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living - New Curriculum for the Whole Church**

*led by Meg Rift and David Maxwell*

To be a Christian means more than believing in Jesus. It means following him. Get a hands-on look at a new curriculum offering based on Christian practices that Jesus told his followers to do, such as follow, confess, love, and visit. Resources focus on preschool, children, youth, and adults, as well as intergenerational sessions, café discussion guides, and worship helps. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.**

**Meg Rift** is the Curriculum Editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. **David Maxwell** is the Vice President of Curriculum and Church Resources at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. For the past year, David and Meg, and many volunteers, consultants, and writers, have been developing a new curriculum for the church about following Jesus.

- Faith Formation, Leadership, Bible & Theology
- All Ages, Intergenerational

#### **C-6: Horizon's Bible Study: What My Grandmother Taught Me: Learning from Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus** *led by Betsy Ensign-George*

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary – Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmother? How do we? Explore the theme of the 2021-2022 Presbyterian Women's Horizon's Bible study and our circle of faith together. You don't have to be a PW member to benefit. Participants will leave with resources to lead others in this engaging study.

**Betsy Ensign-George** serves as associate editor of *Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)*. *What My Grandmother Taught Me: Learning from Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* is the tenth Bible study Betsy has edited for Presbyterian Women.

- Bible & Theology
- Adult

#### **C-7: Living Matthew 25 - Fifty Ways to Empower Your Ministries** *led by Phyllis Wezeman*

Matthew 25 was Jesus' directive two thousand years ago and this timely, yet timeless, passage is the focus for the church today. Explore creative, concrete ways to help all ages "see" the hungry, thirsty, stranger, poor, sick, and imprisoned in your congregation, community and beyond and to impact your education and outreach programs to make a difference in God's world.

**Phyllis Wezeman** is an author and educator who has served congregations, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, not-for-profit groups, and colleges and universities in the U.S.A. and throughout the world. Her approach to learning connects the creative with the concrete and puts Scripture stories and theological themes into practice for today's followers of Jesus.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Mission & Social Justice, Bible & Theology
- All Ages

#### **C-8: PDA Story Ministry Documentary Films--Using "Story" as a Teaching Tool** led by David Barnhart

"Story" at its core has the ability to connect us all and cultivate wider circles of community engagement. Participants will watch trailers for award-winning films on many current social justice issues. Outlines for hosting a screening, study guides for the films, and more will be available for download.

**David Barnhart** is an award-winning filmmaker working with the PC(USA) and is committed to Story as a means to facilitate community engagement. His documentaries have received awards, most recently the Susan A. K. Shaffer Humanitarian Award, and have been screened at film festivals and distributed on Amazon and cable.

- Mission & Social Justice, Community Building, Creative Arts
- Youth, Young Adult, Adult

#### **C-9. Please Pass the Faith: How Faith is Passed on in the Family** led by Tori Smit

With our families spending lots of time at home, we have an unanticipated opportunity to support and resource our parents and grandparents in building great practices for passing on their faith with their children at home. We know that PARENTS have the MOST CRITICAL influence on their children's faith development and GRANDPARENTS play a significant but different role too! So how do they do it? Together we will look at best practices, practical ideas, great resources, and some challenging situations.

**Tori Smit** serves congregations as a Regional Minister for Faith Formation. She has written a broad variety of curriculum for the PCC, Montreat, and Kerygma, keynoted at many PCC and PCUSA events, and taught at Columbia Theological Seminary and Emmanuel College. She is passionate about intergenerational ministry and families.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Spirituality
- Children, Intergenerational

#### **C-10: These Are a Few of My Favorite Things . . .** led by Jeannie Ford

Games with Glenn Bannerman and with Carl Horton....prayers with Lynn Turnage and Sanctified Art....dozens of children's books, milestones and more-these are a few of my favorite things. In this anniversary year for APCE Jeannie will share a variety of her favorite and most useful ideas and resources curated in thirty years of workshops and gatherings.

**Jeannie Ford**, *Certified Christian Educator*, is Church Educator at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she has served for twenty-eight years primarily in ministry with children and adult education. Jeannie is the 2021 ENRICH Educator of the Year.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Spirituality, Recreation/Play
- Children, All Ages

#### **C-11: Thoughts and Prayers** *led by Erika Funk and Genie Richards*

Too often we hear the phrase “thoughts and prayers” from public leaders as a way to acknowledge and sometimes dismiss tragic events. What if we were able to turn this into action and advocacy by creating interactive-interfaith prayer stations that bear witness to the injustices that face our shared community? Participants will collaboratively create stations that draw from various traditions.

**Erika Funk** is the Director of CROSS Missions in Charlotte, North Carolina. Erika has served churches from California to Florida. She developed and curated the Youth Initiative of Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia. She loves creating prayer stations with an emphasis on justice and advocacy. **Genie Richards** is a recent graduate of Queen’s University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her degree is in Interfaith Studies and Human Services. She is a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and passionate about interfaith education and immigration reform.

- Mission and Social Justice, Multicultural, Creative Arts
- Youth, Young Adults

#### **C-12: Walking the Bridge from Youth to Adulthood: The Church and College Students** *led by Gini Norris-Lane*

For many of us, college was the main thoroughfare we traveled from youth to adulthood - strong, paved, reliable. Today’s college students are also crossing their own bridge, but instead of a solid highway, it can seem more like a suspension bridge over an abyss. This workshop will explore what college students are facing and how churches can support them. **In partnership with UKirk Collegiate Ministries.**

**Gini Norris-Lane** is the Executive Director of UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association of the PC(U.S.A.) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Prior to joining UKirk, she served as the campus minister at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, for fourteen years and has a passion for helping collegians connect with the Christian faith.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Outreach/Evangelism, Community Building
- Young Adult, Adult