

Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) Regional Assembly Workshops

Follow Me”: The Road to Authentic Spirituality

Rev. Dr. Michael Elmore, FCC Baton Rouge

We live in a time of great division and brokenness in our world and in the Church. We have tried many ways to heal our brokenness - political, social, self-fulfillment techniques. Yet our brokenness and division continues to grow. Against this struggle a few voices have emphasized that the cause of our this brokenness and division is a *spiritual one*. And so, if true the cure must be a *spiritual one*. Unfortunately we Christians are also caught up in the division and brokenness of our world and have failed to live the life Christ called us to live. However Christianity I believe holds the only answer for the ills of the day.

Christianity can succeed if we do two things: First, we must take the need for human transformation seriously and be faithful to the Gospel message. Secondly, we must clarify and exemplify methods of human transformation. We must show the world how ordinary individuals can become, through the grace of Christ, a love-filled, effective and powerful community.

This workshop will deal with methods, many practiced by Jesus. that can lead us to authentic spirituality and to a life transformed into His image. For this to happen we must place the disciplines of the spiritual life at the heart of the Gospel.

Momentum for the New Church Movement

Rev. Terrell McTyer, Hope Partnership

Join conversations and catalysts concerning the New Church Movement and the future of the Church. Discover emerging hacks from networking to nurturing, house church to nesting, next-steps to how-tos, need-to-know nuts-and-bolts of New Church. Explore essential elements for effective church planting and affiliating with DOC. Make the important next step to bring clarity and action towards the essential elements for effective church planting, affiliating or partnering with the movement through a Church Initiated Church initiative.

Change the Questions, Change the Church

Rev. Gilberto Collazo, Church Extension Fund

Jesus taught us the power of questions. Many times it was a tool used for educating, for uncovering new truths, and for leading people into new ways of thinking. As many of our congregations are experiencing decline and struggle to remain a faithful witness in their communities, come learn about the power of the right questions. How do we bring about a new paradigm of “being and doing” church by asking powerful, culture shifting questions. What are the questions transformational leaders need to be asking themselves and their congregation to become part of the life-changing work God is up to in our communities? Let us learn together so our congregations can be change agents in their communities and experience new vitality as they witness to the transforming power of the gospel message.

Small Church / Large Church

Rev. Don Morrow, First Christian Church, Bentonville

What can small churches offer larger churches? What can large churches offer small churches? What can we do together that we cannot do alone? This workshop will look at creative ways to bring churches into the 21st century with small church, large church conversations centered on congregational connections through technological resources.

Use of Money as a Spiritual Discipline

Rev. Matt Mosine and Alexis Branaman, Pension Fund

Stewardship is more than just what we give to the church. It is about our daily use of money and the decisions we make as a congregation. We'll explore how we use money to express our values, compensate our church staff and encourage lifelong wellness. We'll even look at some ways ministers can save money through housing, taxes and benefits. Let's find strategies to save some money so we can live more generously.

Let's Talk Tea: Changing our Communities One Cup of Tea at Time

Rev. April Johnson, Reconciliation Ministries

Reconciliation Ministry provides education and resources to ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to raise awareness and combat the effects of systemic racism. As the church and the communities she serves have evolved in complexity and character, so too must our conversation and advocacy for eradicating racism. This workshop intends to engage participants in a model of conversation that fosters relationships that make the difficult conversation around cultural and racial difference grace-filled and life-giving. Participants will engage each other in structured conversations toward the goal of duplicating this model in their congregations.

The Power of Teams

Rev. LaShaundra McCarty, 3C: Creative Communication Consulting

The power of a team is centered in its cohesiveness. Being a part of the body of Christ by faith does not automatically create a well-functioning ministry team. Walking past someone every Sunday morning nodding casually as you race to your favorite pew does not make you a team, any more than wearing the same branded shirts. This experience will: define the pitfalls of settling for the illusion of a team over the creation of an authentic one, operating optimally under the auspice of a shared vision, explain how to move from fantasy to reality, and explore how to implement teambuilding strategies into your ministry. Does your ministry operate as one or *one hundred*?

Experiencing the Gospel Through a Global Lens

Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Regional Minister

There is a different lens from which we can see and experience the gospel of Jesus Christ! Traveling the rural and scenic routes through Ghana, visiting the Street Kids Project with Ms. Olivia in Ho, from Groutville United Congregational Church, to the Inanda Seminary for Girls in Durban, to Ons Plek, and the Volmoed Spiritual Centre in Hermanus, to table top mountain in Cape Town, South Africa! Come and share in this journey of reflection with Dr. Burton, as she tells the stories of hope, struggle, fellowship, and partnership, with our global ministries partners.

Regional Assembly Youth Workshop Offerings

“Stress is Caused from Not Camping Enough” - author Unknown

Emily Williams, Disciples Crossing (*this workshop will only be offered at 1:45 pm*)

Do you love camp? Do you go home from camp and miss it? Do you try to keep that camp HIGH going but it just dwindles out? Then this workshop is for you... “How to have Camp in your daily life.” We will explore ways to add a bit of camp to your non-camp life!

Why Faith When No One Cares

Rev. Cody Robertson, Associate Minister, First Christian Church, Bentonville, AR

Building Youth Leadership

Josie McClorine, Youth Director, Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention (MCMC)

Leadership is first a matter of the heart. Effective leadership skills have a lot to do with knowing how to lead and being able to analyze the existing relationships among the team members, as well as the way we interact with each other by encouraging a spirit of cooperation. As a leader we should know how to adapt to changes around and in each of the members of our team. Come and hear more about ways we can develop youth leaders.

Q&A About Youth Ministry in the Local Church

Rev. Ronny Nowell, Associate Minister, First Christian Church, Rogers, AR

This is for youth leaders and adults that want to share and/or get some new ideas about weekly youth ministry meetings, fundraising, mission trips, leadership training, or anything else the group wants to talk about. Rev. Ronny will have some ideas and materials to share to start the conversation but you are welcome and encouraged to bring your ideas and your questions or struggles for us to discuss.