

Workshop Descriptions

“Moving from Surviving to Thriving”: Looking into the practical theology behind his novel *Courage to Surrender: A Journey to Meaning and Hope*, the Rev. Dr. George Steffey will share how he believes the future of a congregation can discover new life and mission arising out of its love of God and love for one another.

Led by George Steffey

Conference Room #9

“Financial Stewards”: As we seek to be faithful stewards of precious missional resources, we in the church need to consider new models of inspiring generosity and modeling faithfulness. Informed by insights from last year’s “Stepping into Stewardship” event, our Financial Stewards have wisdom to share, not only about becoming Faithful Stewards, but also about helping individuals and the church to live into their fullest potential as disciples.

Led by Tom Croner, Debbie Long, & Judith Tobias

Prayer Chapel

“Water (Conversation) with David”: In this time, we will have opportunities for informal conversation and questions/answers with our Conference Minister, David Ackerman. Since he’s not much of a coffee drinker, he’ll have a cup of water on hand, while the rest of you may have either water or coffee as you enjoy a casual conversation.

Led by David Ackerman

Technology Lab

“Mission Grants Training”: The Penn West Conference is blessed to have a healthy Mission Grants program (which we hope, with help over time, will remain healthy). We’ve given away roughly \$60,000.00 worth of grants over the past two years! The Revs. Doug Satterlee and Bruce Ashlock are members of our Mission Grants Committee, and they can provide you with an overview of the application process, along with pointers and tips for your church to have the best chances of making a successful application for these grant monies.

Led by Bruce Ashlock & Doug Satterlee

Conference Room #8

“Penn West Academy”: The Rev. Joseph Hedden, Dean of the Penn West Academy for Ministry, will lead this workshop about the Academy. The Academy helps to prepare people for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ and also offers opportunity for continuing education.

Led by Joseph Hedden

Gym

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“General Synod 31: GS31 Delegates”: In this workshop, some of our General Synod 31 delegates will be on hand to provide some insights into upcoming events at General Synod 31 in Baltimore, Maryland this year (June 30-July 4). They will also entertain questions about the event.

Led by Diane Wiley

Conference Room #7

“Hands on Mission in a Small Church”: Are there ways that a small church can effectively engage the wider community in a “hands on” kind of way? Pastors Jim Neatrou and Mary Hendricks will explore creative ways in which churches might faithfully do this.

Led by Jim Neatrou & Mary Hendricks

Plenary Hall

“Justice and Witness: Our All Association Spring Meeting”: Our All Association Spring Meeting this year was an exciting event in which we explored a variety of issues of justice and peace in our time. This workshop is a follow-up from this event, which will reflect more broadly on the variety of issues that were explored and consider follow-up possibilities for our Conference moving forward.

Led by Ron Pedersen

Conference Room #7

“Choir Rehearsal”: Ruth Miller, Music Director at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Bedford, will lead a group of joyful voices who will sing for our closing worship service on Saturday afternoon.

Led by Ruth Miller

Worship Area

“Youth Time”: Chelsea Neatrou will lead some engaging activities for our youth, who will gather (at least initially) in the youth room at the Convocation Center.

Led by Chelsea Neatrou

Youth Room

“Days for Girls”: This is our Annual Gathering & Meeting Mission Project this year. More details on this may be found at <http://www.pennwest.org/2017-05/am/Mission%20project.pdf> and at www.daysforgirls.org. Days for Girls provides feminine hygiene products to girls and young women in places around the world where such products are desperately needed.

Led by Christine Pashley

Worship Area