

2018 Annual Meeting Workshops

BE NOT AFRAID

FRIDAY

Be Not Afraid: Dismantling Patriarchal Masculinity (Bell - Conference Room) Dr. Alice Hunt
Continuing presentation and going deeper with keynote speaker, Dr. Alice Hunt.

Be Not Afraid to Sing, Sing, Sing! (Sanctuary)

United Church of Canada Marque Smith
This lively, interactive singing session will include the singing of both new and familiar songs. Participants will also learn how to introduce new songs in their local settings.

Transgender 201: Beyond Binary (Bell - Board Room)

Michigan ONA Coalition and Salus Center UCC, Lansing Rev. Phiwa Langeni
In this interactive presentation, we will focus on how participants can acknowledge and work through their fears to be better able to communicate love, support and welcome to people across the gender spectrum. Participants will be equipped with expansive understandings and terms used within some trans(gender) communities, all with the hope of strengthening one's ability of being not just an ally but an advocate. Come explore and discover some nuanced ways of radically shifting culture in some of the simplest and most meaningful ways. Let's (re)commit to leaving the binary in our computers where it belongs!

From Fearing Change to Confident Growth (Youth Room)

Vital Growth Mission Area Team Revs. M. Jacob and Dawn Kaufman
Churches need to grow. Members often fear the changes that can bring growth. In this workshop we will talk about techniques pastors and lay leaders can use to help congregations move past the familiar to the successful. Discover the one common activity of all growing churches.

Exploring Our Unfinished Story (Bell - Library Room)

EHM Senior Solutions Rev. Roger Meiller
At many funerals, we sing "Be Not Afraid". Yet many of us are still uncomfortable with aging and death. Let's explore some of the issues that make us anxious about growing old, so that we lessen the fears that invariably arise when we consider our own mortality, a time with Parker Palmer calls "the brink of everything."

God-Talk: The Importance of Inclusive Language (Music Room)

Phoenix Community Church UCC, Kalamazoo Rev. Kenneth Arthur
If we aren't going to be afraid to lift up our voices, as our theme scripture urges, we should at least be aware of how we do so and the sometimes-unexpected effects it can have. Using Phoenix Community Church UCC's inclusive language policy as a case study, we'll explore how our word choices, especially in sermons, liturgy, and song, affect people and their experience of church in both positive and negative ways. Everyone will be encouraged to share their own experiences and a few resources for further reflection will be suggested.

Labyrinth (Outside Garden Area)

First Congregational UCC, Charlotte Brenda Bly and Jan Schall
Come learn about and experience a Labyrinth walk in the outside community garden.

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SATURDAY

Don't Be Afraid to "Be the Church" (Bell - Conference Room)

Vital Growth Mission Area Team Rev. Cheryl Burke
Would you like to be able to articulate your congregation's impact in the world? Have you been compelled by the "Be the Church" message? Do you need a simple, yet effective strategic planning tool to move the church toward a common goal? We will explore the possibilities of using the UCC "Be the Church: A Mission Planning Guide for Congregations" in your congregation.

UCC Roots (Music Room) Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund

Short stories about people in UCC history. Brainstorming about future people that should be featured.

Labyrinth (Outside Garden Area)

First Congregational UCC, Charlotte Brenda Bly and Jan Schall
Come learn about and experience a Labyrinth walk in the outside community garden.

Church Between Borders: Immigration Simulation and Historical Timeline Review (Sunday School Rm, 2nd Fl)

First Congregational UCC, Coloma..... Sue Greenwood and Sherry Meyer
We often hear the question: "Why don't undocumented immigrants just get in line?" Together we will learn what the lines are, who can get in them (and who can't), and how long it can take to get through those lines. We will also review immigration history and the values that have shaped our evolving laws.

College and Young Adult Ministry: Authentic Not Afraid (Youth Room)

Peoples Church of East Lansing Rev. Betsy Aho
College students and college aged young adults are often seeking community. Come learn how to engage this group in ways that are true to your church's identity.

No Justice? Know Peace! (Bell - Board Room)

Salus Center UCC (Lansing) Rev. Phiwa Langeni
Now more than ever, basic human rights are haphazardly getting revoked at a ridiculous pace. In the face of such unparalleled levels of injustice, it's much too easy to be sucked into this dizzying vortex at the cost of our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. This session offers strategies learned and practiced in post-Ferguson St. Louis among intentional communities of care. Learn how to position yourself to embrace a fear-facing posture with the rapidly changing and increasingly unjust state of this country.

Soul Fiber Mindfulness: Stepping out of Fear into NOW Faith (Bell – Library)

Space for Grace Ministries WOW UCCPastor/Chaplain Pj Anderson, DMin.
Participants will experience techniques for living free from unnecessary fear in a world of fear-mongering. Participants will be provided with tools for practicing Soul Fiber Mindfulness so as to recognize, understand, review outcomes, and manage the spirit of fear (including phobias, fear of success, and fear of failure). NOW FAITH PRESENCE is the aim.