

Workshop Opportunities - Revised

The below workshops are being offered at the Conference Annual Gathering on Saturday, June 8th at 11:00 am and again at 4:00 pm. Each workshop will be offered twice except the Shannondale Carbon Credits and David Beebe's workshop, so please read all of the descriptions below to determine your choices. If you have suggestions for workshops at next year's CAG, please be sure to share your thoughts on the evaluation sheet.

Shannondale Carbon Credits Program (offered only once at 11:00 am)

Hosted by: Jeff Fulk, Mike McKee and Sean Carney

Location: Sunderland Hall, 2nd floor classroom

A presentation on the 3-year exploration of the enrolling the Shannondale Tree Farm in the national carbon credit program. The leaders will share information on the legal and legislative events which birthed the carbon credit program. The presenters are key participants in the exploration and will provide information and answer questions on requirements and obligations for participation; and the financial opportunities for enrolling the tree farm in the carbon credit program. The Conference Council is offering this educational forum along with Frequently Asked Questions (see recent issues of the eCourier) to provide members of Missouri Mid-South Conference with back ground on enrolling the tree farm at Shannondale in the national carbon credit program.

The Death and Resurrection of Conferences

Hosted by: Dr. Richard "Dick" Hamm, Senior Consultant

Location: Sunderland Hall, 3rd floor classroom

Like 80% of mainline congregations themselves, middle judicatories (such as the UCC's conferences and associations) have been shrinking for 40 years. Conference and Association staffs have been reduced to the point that individual staff members are exhausted and the work has become nearly impossible. Many conferences and associations are practically dead, which deprives congregations of valuable and needed resources and assistance. The key issue is the fact that most conferences/associations are still trying to do their important work the same way it was done in the 1950's and are still organized in the same ways. But a "resurrection" of conferences/associations is possible if they change the way they do their work. This workshop will explore those new ways of organizing for and doing the work.

An Introduction to Sing, Prayer, Praise

Hosted by: Mr. Paul Westcott, Pianist and Music Director

Location: Clara Thompson Hall

During the "An Introduction to *Sing, Prayer, and Praise*" workshop, we will discuss how the book is formatted. You will be taught a number of songs that are contained in the hymnal including one that will be part of the Sunday morning service. We will talk about and will preform different renditions of songs from *Sing, Prayer, and Praise*. Also, I will talk about my own approach to hymn/song interpetation..... thinking "outside the box" if you will. Joining me will be Rev. Joe Rowley on percussion and guitar, and Rev. Cliff Aerie on soprano saxophone. We will present a fun, entertaining, and informative workshop filled with music and discussion. If you own a copy of *Sing, Prayer and Praise*, please bring it with you. Come, join us!

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Sharing the Church: How Youth and Adults Can Co-exist Within the Walls of the Church

Hosted by: Mr. Jeff Mignerone, Youth Ministries

Location: Findlay Student Center, Room 204

If we are the church, then why is it hard to find youth in the church? Around 80% of youth in the United States are spiritual but not religious. This workshop will focus on how adults and youth can interact within the church as one body of Christ, even if from two different worlds. We will briefly look at how youth see the church in their lives, while at the same time offering the participants of the workshop tools to take back to their congregations to engage youth as members of the church. This workshop is sponsored by Conference Youth Ministry Covenanted Ministry Team.

The Idea of "Church" in the Bible and in America (offered only once at 4:00 pm)

Hosted by: Dr. David Beebe, EA clergy and Former Biblical Theologian for UCC Stewardship Council

Location: Sunderland Hall, 2nd floor classroom

This workshop will relate to the Conference annual gathering theme, "We Are the Church Together." It will ask what the New Testament means by the word translated as "church," and what that can mean for our life together now. It will also consider ways that the idea of "church" has been understood in America.