

Northwest District Leadership Training

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Correctionville, Grace UMC, 429 5th St

Registration from 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Workshops 10:00 am to 2:45 pm

Schedule

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:15	Opening Worship
10:15-11:00	Keynote by Kevin Gowdy
11:00-11:15	break
11:15-12:00	Workshop I
12:00-12:45	Lunch (goodwill donation)
12:45-1:30	Workshop II
1:30-1:45	Break
1:45-2:30	Best Practices/Idea Exchange Conversations
2:30-2:45	Closing Worship

Keynote Address by Kevin Gowdy

“Throwing out the Garbage” (or: Why there’s always an upside to a good economic crisis)

Every era builds myths. Some have meanings which endure and become a more permanent part of the larger faith tradition. Still, as important and powerful as these myths are, few stand the test of time. Now is an excellent time to sort through the myths found in programs, slogans and conventional wisdom that have grown over the last twenty years. Which ones have reshaped faithful living, and which ones need to be put on the garbage heap? What’s the forecast on truths in the immediate future?

Workshops:

Stewardship Practices to Think About for 2010 led by Rev. Kevin Gowdy

Will be presented only in the morning

Missional Justice: How to Put Our Faith into Action in Meaningful Ways in Our Local Communities and through Advocacy

led by Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck. Are you interested in learning about how you and your congregation can become more involved in outreach and advocacy on issues impacting your local communities as people of faith? Are you eager to share stories and joys of meaningful community ministries that your congregation has started as well as learn from other lay and clergy in your district who may have created a ministry that you would like to start in your church? Would you like to learn about some ways to begin getting involved with local outreach on issues such as poverty and immigration and begin the process of participating in advocacy? Then come join Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck to learn about how we can faithfully live out “missional justice” in partnership between our local congregations and the broader community. As our United Methodist Book of Discipline states under “Our Doctrinal Heritage” (§101) under Mission and Service, “We insist that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. By joining heart and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing. Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world.” **Will be presented only in the afternoon.**

Creative Worship Workshop

led by Rev. Magrey deVega. Many churches consider the concept of *creative worship* with either resistance or reservation. And for good reason: for most people, personal worship preference is directly related to their view of God. Their liturgy *is* their theology. So how can we create novel moments that broaden and deepen worship, without being disruptive and unsettling? And how can we use digital and multimedia technology to help us in this task? This workshop will spark your creativity and help you make it happen in your ministry setting.

100-Hour Challenge: Making Outreach Your First Step of Discipleship led by Rev. Ryan Christenson. "Mission trips, work projects, and using gifts and talents outside the walls of the church will be the growing, if not primary place, for spiritual formation," says Alan Nelson of Rev Magazine. No longer will "join me for church" refer to Sunday morning worship, but increasingly the first steps of faith will happen through face-to-face outreach and service. And the 100-Hour Challenge is a wonderful way of moving members to reach out in relevant ways in your community and invite their friends to join them. This workshop will look at why outreach is critical to the future of your congregation and give you practical ways of growing your ministry of outreach.

Lay Leadership 101: led by Marilyn Brubaker and Rev. Bernie Colorado. Now that you've agreed to be a Lay Leader, what is your ministry? District Superintendent Colorado and District Lay Leader Marilyn Brubaker will lead this two session workshop for all leaders.

Trustees 101: led by Rev. Doug Harding. Conference Trustee Chair Rev. Doug Harding will share the basic duties of what it means to be a trustee as well as go deeper into your questions.

Being the Hands and Feet of Christ: Youth Ministry In Action. led by Rev. Deborah Wise. In our session we will explore how short term mission trips can be transformative for your church youth ministry and have a lasting impact in your home church too! We will discuss the various options for short term mission trips and how to plan and lead a team. We will cover some of the basics, such as organization and site selection, fund raising and team building and share ideas about how Northwest District Churches can pool our resources to get out and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Ministry Action Plans & Roadmap to Renewal: led by Sarah Stevens. Rev. Dr. Ruffle shares in his book the Roadmap to Renewal the "invitation to go on a road trip to rediscover the mission and purpose of your church.... and to open your minds and hearts to what God is calling your church to be and do." Together we will begin an entrance into this material. The use of a ministry action plan will be central to this conversation

Best Practices/Idea Exchange Conversations:

This year we are adding an extra component to our time together. You are invited to bring your best ideas and practices to share as a group. There will be four possible conversations for you to participate in. We look forward to hearing what you are up to!)

Worship

Outreach and Mission

Youth Ministry

Small Groups

Optional Lunch Conversation: **unchristian: what a new generation thinks about christianity and why it matters**

When people outside the walls of the Church were asked to describe Christians, the most common answers were *hypocritical, too focused on getting people saved, anti-homosexual, sheltered, too political, and judgmental*. Yet David Kinnaman, author of "unchristian" and president of the Barna Group, suggests that we might hear these harsh perceptions and consider how we might represent Jesus more faithfully in our lives today. This optional lunch conversation led by Rev. Ryan Christiansen will introduce you to the research and give you practical tools to implement the conversation in your church.