



**Rev. Shane L. Bishop**  
*"Growing a Church in Challenging Times"*

Shane L. Bishop became the Senior Pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in July of 1997. During his twenty-one year tenure, Christ Church worship attendance has increased from 200 to over 2,500 and now features weekly worship services in four locations. Christ Church was recognized as one of 2018's 100 Fastest Growing Churches in America by Outreach Magazine.

An Elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church, Shane graduated cum laude in 1992 from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. From 1992-1997 he served the Sumner/Beulah Charge in Sumner, Illinois where he was presented the Denman Evangelism Award by the Southern Illinois Conference in 1994. Christ Church has been awarded the Church Growth and Evangelism Award by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference every year since 2007. Shane is an active speaker and writer who has traveled extensively around the world in mission and ministry. A General Conference delegate, he also serves on the Greater St. Louis Advisory Board of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Board of the Confessing Movement and the Global Council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Advance \$80.00  
At the door \$85.00  
(includes materials & Friday lunch)

**REGISTER ONLINE** <https://iowaspm2019.eventbrite.com/>

OR MAIL A CHECK FOR \$80.00 (made out to Iowa WCA) to:

**Iowa WCA  
PO Box 1241  
Muscatine IA 52761**

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**COME JOIN US!**

**Thursday, March 28 – Friday, March 29**

**Altoona United Methodist Church**

602 5th Ave SW  
Altoona, IA 50009



**1.0 CEU approved – Iowa BOM**

**APPROVED for Lay Servant re-certification**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## MEET THE FACULTY



**Alec Amosson**

**Workshop #1 - Wired for Worship:  
Proclaiming God's Word with Technology**

Alec Amosson graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from Wartburg College and a Masters of Divinity from UDS. He is currently the Creative Director at Grand View United Methodist Church in Dubuque, working primarily with music, worship, and technology. "Once upon a time the Church used stained glass windows, sculpture and paintings to help people visualize, understand and apply God's Word. The preachers, teachers, and leaders of the Church still are tasked with doing the same. The world we live in is constantly changing and evolving, including improvements and new developments to many areas of our life – most notably perhaps is technology. And yet, the Gospel we proclaim, the Word of God that is preached, sang, experienced in our local churches doesn't change. How do we, as God's people, use the gift of new technologies to engage all people in the life-changing Word of God?"

**Sonia Baker**

**Workshop #2 - Outreach and  
Church/School Partnerships**



Sonia Baker lives in Muscatine with her husband, Chris, and daughters, Addyson (8) and Alyse (7). As a former first-grade teacher, she holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from the University of Northern Iowa, as well as a master's degree in Teacher Leadership from St. Xavier University. Sonia has been the Director of Discipleship at Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine for 2 ½ years. In her role, she oversees Christian Education as well as Community Outreach. For the last 6 years, Wesley has partnered with Franklin Elementary, a local elementary school with nearly 90% of the students qualifying for free or reduced lunches. The first 3 years Sonia helped create the partnership from the "inside" while she taught and has since continued the partnership through her job at Wesley. The relationship between the church and school started out small and has blossomed into a true partnership.

**April Buske**

**Workshop #3 - Discipleship Pathway and  
Small Group Ministry**



April Buske is the Director of Discipleship at Christ Church, A United Methodist Community. She has been part of Christ Church since 2010 and serving on staff since 2012. During this time, April has leveraged her background in the military, rewards and loyalty marketing, and customer service to engage her congregation in developing, communicating, and participating in Christ Church's discipleship process. April is passionate about making disciples and believes

having a plan is the best way to begin that journey. "The United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Making disciples is most effective when your church and its members know what it means to be a disciple. During this 50-minute session, April will guide you through how Christ Church developed and communicated their discipleship process and share why small groups are the key to successfully creating disciples. You'll leave this course with key best practices for communication and ideas to leverage small groups to be disciple making communities."

**Terry Pollard**

**Workshop #4 - Untangle Your Committees  
& Unlock Your United Methodist Church**



Terry Pollard currently pastors the New Sharon United Methodist Church. He has served over 38 years in urban, suburban, and rural ministry in full-time varied responsibilities as a senior pastor, Bible college associate professor, denominational editor, writer, author, Sunday school curriculum editor and Christian school administrator. He has also provided leadership and discipleship training to pastors, teachers, and community leaders nationally and internationally. He is married to his wife Diana and they are loving grandparents to 14 grandchildren. "The United Methodist Church is structured to be lay-driven. Regretfully, in our zeal to include as many people as possible in church leadership and decision-making, we often hold the church back through multiple and endless committees and bulky governance. What if I told you that there is another way, and that it is actually already written into the Book of Discipline? Learn practical information about a new governance model in your local church that provides accountable leadership through the pastor, staff, and lay leadership council."

**Mike Morgan**

**Session #6 – Church Safety Teams**



Mike Morgan has been the lead Pastor at Marion Methodist since 2003. During his ministry Mike served a county seat church, a campus ministry, a small church and as an associate in a large church, each has shown significant growth during his tenure. He has served on a variety of District and Conference Committees, been very active in Camping ministries and a longtime Trustee at one of our United Methodist Colleges. Recently, Marion Methodist moved into their new facility on 30 acres in NE Marion. This move and the changing climate of our world encouraged the church to begin a "Safety Team" that manages safety and security. The model used at Marion Methodist is adaptable for any size church or at least will help you begin the conversation in your local church.

## Iowa School for Practical Ministry 2019

### Thursday, March 28

- 12:30PM Registration Open  
1:00 Welcome and Announcements  
1:10 Opening Worship  
1:45 **Session 1 – Keynote (Shane Bishop)**  
3:00 Break and Travel to Workshops  
3:30 **Session 2 - Workshops**  
**Group A: #1 Wired for Worship: Proclaiming God's Word with Technology (Alec Amosson)**  
**Group B: #2 Outreach and Church/School Partnerships (Sonia Baker)**  
4:20 Dinner Break (On Your Own)  
6:30 **Session 3 - Workshops**  
**Group A: #3 Discipleship Pathway and Small Group Ministry (April Buske)**  
**Group B: #4 Untangle your Committees. Unlock Your United Methodist Church (Terry Pollard)**  
7:20 Break and Travel to Plenary  
7:50 **Session 4 – Keynote (Shane Bishop)**  
9:05 Evening Worship  
9:30 Break for Evening

### Friday, March 29

- 8:45AM Morning Worship  
9:00 **Session 5 – Keynote (Shane Bishop)**  
9:30 **Session 6 – Church Safety Teams (Mike Morgan)**  
10:30 Break and Travel to Workshops  
11:00 **Session 7 - Workshops**  
**Group A: #2 Outreach and Church/School Partnerships (Sonia Baker)**  
**Group B: #3 Discipleship Pathway and Small Group Ministry (April Buske)**  
11:50 Lunch (Provided) - GC 2019 Follow-Up  
1:00 PM **Session 8 - Workshops**  
**Group A: #4 Untangle your Committees. Unlock Your United Methodist Church (Terry Pollard)**  
**Group B: #1 Wired for Worship: Proclaiming God's Word with Technology (Alec Amosson)**  
1:50 PM Break and Travel to Plenary  
2:20 PM **Session 9 – Keynote (Shane Bishop)**  
3:20 PM Closing Worship with Communion  
4:00 PM Heading Home