

2007 FALL ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS: When you register, take a ticket for your chosen workshop. The number of tickets available indicates number of seats available. Workshop room assignments will be on each ticket and will be posted.

SATURDAY REFLECTIONS: Your name tag will indicate the number of the forum you have been randomly assigned to. Room assignments will be posted.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 19, 3:00-4:30 p.m. • WORKSHOPS 1-13

1	<u>Reviewing Ministries in the Congregation</u> Rev. Michael Ciba, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister, Valley Northwest Region</i>)
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Feel a need to evaluate staff? Not sure how to do it? Come and learn about "Completing the Circle," a model for total review of a congregation's ministry.

2	<u>"The Ministry of Spiritual Direction" or "Spirituality in the UCC" – The Answer is YES!</u> , Debbie Pallato-Fontaine, Workshop Leader (<i>Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Formation, Storrs Korean Church, UCC</i>)
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Over the past 30 years or so, spiritual direction has grown as a ministry throughout the world; it is now a common ministry and practice that reaches beyond denominational lines of Christianity. Spiritual direction is a form of active contemplation where people seek a personal relationship with God. It is also a form of pastoral care as it helps people come into more intimate, conscious prayer association with God. Churches need to be places of spiritual nourishment where people can experience a personal relationship and encounter with God in their daily lives. This workshop will demonstrate ways that clergy and lay leaders can use the principles of spiritual direction to focus on spiritual formation in the church setting.

3	<u>REACH - Reconfirmation Experience for Adult Christians</u> , Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka, Workshop Leader (<i>Interim Minister, Avon Congregational Church</i>)
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Some conversation about why a reconfirmation experience is significant to adult faith formation, both for individuals and for the congregations to which they belong, and exploration of one model for such a ministry.

4	<u>Compassion Camp</u> Debby Kirk, Workshop Leader (<i>Director of Youth Ministry, First Congregational Church of Woodstock</i>)
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Revitalize your local outreach with a unique summer program for middle school youth! This workshop will offer a new way to empower youth through hands-on service learning activities. Learn about this alternative to Vacation Bible School developed by two churches in the "Quiet Corner." We will share our model for a summer day camp program that helped awaken a sense of compassion in both youth and adults. Planning timeline, resources for meditation and reflection, daily schedule, and budget will be shared so you can try this with your own congregation.

<p>5</p>	<p><u>Two Years Later: Ministry Continues</u>, Shari Prestemon, Jim Morgan, Anne Kirkpatrick, and Jo-Ann Hornyak, Workshop Leaders (<i>Shari is Executive Director of Back Bay Mission; Jim is the Associate Conference Minister for Wider Church Ministries, and Anne and Jo-Ann are the Disaster Response Coordinators for the Connecticut Conference</i>)</p> <p>It has now been two years since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region. This workshop will offer a glimpse of life in the disaster zone two years later, particularly as experienced by Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, a community ministry of the UCC. It will also celebrate the ways in which the Connecticut Conference continues to work with ministry partners in the Gulf Coast area to bring hope and healing. Resource persons will include Jim Morgan from the Conference staff, Conference Disaster Response Ministry coordinators, Anne Kirkpatrick and Jo-Ann Hornyak, and Shari Prestemon of Back Bay Mission.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Ritual, Relevance, and Retro-Radicals: Alternative Worship for the Brave-Hearted</u>, Rev. Quinn G. Caldwell, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Minister, Old South Church, Boston, MA.</i>)</p> <p>At its best, alternative worship can faithfully address the most pressing issues in the church's worship life, allowing you to change (or get rid of!) the boring parts, update musical forms (or return to ancient ones), deal with differing preferences for frequency of communion, experiment, increase your church's profile, reach out to the unchurched, have fun, and encounter the spirit of the risen Christ in new and surprising ways. Quinn G. Caldwell, Associate Minister of Old South Church in Boston and coordinator of its successful two-year-old Jazz Worship, will guide you through some of that service's best ritual and worship elements, while providing insight into the mechanics and administration of alternative worship along the way.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>From Blogs to World of Warcraft: Online Communities</u>, Rev. Joshua J. Sander, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Pastor, First Congregational Church of Stratford</i>)</p> <p>Does your youth group think you're a n00b? Are you confused when your teen says they've been playing with friends all day when they've clearly never left the computer? Do you want to know the good, the bad, and the ugly that your youth will encounter in the on-line universe? Rev. Josh Sander will share his experiences within on-line communities and help all you newbies know what to expect and what to watch out for.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Moving Beyond Church Photos: Developing a Church Website that Works</u>, Rev. Cindy Maddox, Workshop Leader (<i>Pastor, King Street United Church of Christ, Danbury</i>)</p> <p>What does your church website look like? A photo of your church and the latest (or not so latest) church news? Does that really represent who you are? Come hear how one church designed a brand new website, effectively drawing new people to the community and revitalizing the existing congregation. Please note: This is a conceptual workshop, not a technical one. We will not teach you the mechanics of setting up a website; we will give you the motivation and inspiration to do so.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Beyond "These Four Walls" with Youth: Planning a Youth Mission Trip</u>, Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Pastor, Congregational Church of Brookfield</i>)</p> <p>Have you been thinking about planning a mission trip for the youth in your community but aren't sure where to start? We want to share our experiences of planning and implementing traditional and "not so traditional" youth mission trips with you. We will share some of the things that have worked for us and other things that have not, as well as some ideas about keeping the faith in mission trips, community living, covenants, budgets, and fundraising.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p><u>H2O: Almost Everything You Need to Know About the Emerging Water Crises of the 21st Century in 90 Minutes</u>, Rev. Gordon Bates, Workshop Leader (<i>Convenor of the Conference Ministry Team on the Environment and Chair of the national UCC Task Force on Environment and Energy</i>)</p> <p>This informational workshop will touch on these basic topics: Climate Change and Ocean Water; Surface and Underground Water: Should It Be Bought and Sold as a Commodity?; The Increasing Lack of Water Fit for Drinking and Cooking in Developing Nations; The Potential for Intra-National and International Conflicts over Water; as well as UCC responses to all of the above.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><u>The Seed is Planted: Partnering with Charles Hall Youth Services to Serve American Indian Youth and Children At-Risk in the Dakotas</u>, Gayla Sherman, MSW and Gayle Klopp, Workshop Leaders (<i>Gayla is the Co-Executive Director of Programs & Resource Development and Gayle is the Co-Executive Director of Administration and Operations, both at Charles Hall Youth Services in Bismarck, ND</i>)</p> <p>This workshop will present why today's society is at-risk and how the mission of Charles Hall Youth Services (North Dakota) is needed now more than ever. Each year, the agency offers group home foster care to over 100 youth facing chemical addictions (including methamphetamines), sexual and physical abuse and neglect in family and community systems, escalating mental health concerns, and increased poverty and educational needs. Serving youth from four Indian reservations in the Dakotas, Charles Hall offers multi-disciplinary programming that is relational, strengths-based, sensitive to cultural traditions and the need for spiritual growth, and responsive to the latest research findings on brain and adolescent development. Objectives of the workshop include: 1) defining why today's society is at-risk; 2) recognizing what can be the Church's renewed response to today's challenges; 3) learning why the mission of Charles Hall Youth Services remains relevant and significant; and, 4) discovering ways your local congregation can love and support at-risk youth who continue to be marginalized throughout our nation, especially on reservations in the Dakotas. We invite you to be part of this important and much-needed conversation, as our churches seek to stay relevant, responsive and proactive in today's challenging world.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p><u>Responding to the Death Penalty: The Empty Chair</u>, David Cruz-Uribe, Workshop Leader (<i>Director of Religious Outreach, Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty</i>)</p> <p>In the aftermath of the horrific murder of the Petit family in Cheshire, there have been calls for the speedy application of the death penalty. The documentary, "The Empty Chair," tells the story of four families who lose a loved one to murder. It provides a helpful vehicle for discussing the death penalty as public polity. We will screen the video and follow it with a discussion.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p><u>Resolutions and a Whole Lot More!</u>, Jay Krusell, Bill Hawley, Deb Gran et al., Workshop Leaders (<i>Comm,unity Team Members</i>)</p> <p>Join in a discussion with the Comm,unity Team about their efforts to enhance the Resolution process. Offer your feedback and suggestions, including where we might "test drive" our ideas going forward. Together we can continue to build and strengthen community within our Conference.</p>