

Detailed Agenda General Association 2019

Monday September 23

1:30-3:00 Registration and Check In

3:00-3:30 Getting Started

Call to Order of GA 310

3:30-5:20 Session 1 How We Gather

We've all seen cultural trends underscoring growing religious disaffiliation and increased social isolation and depths of despair. Angie and Sue will share an overview of these trends and highlight how congregations are uniquely poised to support spiritual formation and leadership in the emerging religious future.

5:20-7:15 Casual Gathering and Dinner

7:25-8:25 Worship

Worship design and leadership: Isaac Lawson

Worship Leadership: Kari Nicewander and

Mia Douglass

Musicians: Isaac Monts, Keyboard

Raymond Clark, Guitar

Patrick Burke, Bass Guitar

Dyshawn Bonner, Drums

Persephone Hall, Vocalist



Angie Thurston

8:25 to 9:10 Updates, Ponderings, and Wisdom

Chris Davies, Team Leader, Faith, Education, Innovation and Formation, UCC

Kent Siladi, Conference Minister, CT Conference UCC.

How We Gather is Millennial-led spiritual startup collaboration between Harvard Divinity School and the Fetzer Institute. What began in 2015 as a student-led exploration of how Millennials are finding and building communities of meaning and belonging has morphed into a ground-breaking study of organizations that are effectively unbundling and remixing the functions historically performed by traditional religious institutions. The early power of the project was in mapping the landscape of innovation that is rising to do this old work in new ways, identifying trends and offering frameworks describing the dynamic practices and purposes that cohere widely diverse efforts. The team - Angie Thurston, Casper ter Kuile and Sue Phillips - have hosted gatherings of innovative community leaders from organizations as diverse as CrossFit, Afro Flow Yoga, dinner churches, public meditation groups, makerspaces and many others.

Across the variety of creative efforts, they all spark some mix of personal and social transformation, community building, creativity, accountability, and purpose finding.

See Howwegather.org

Tuesday September 24

Breakfast on your own



8:45-9:00 Optional Morning Prayer
Convened by John Nelson

9:00-11:45 Session 2 How We Gather

In this interactive session, Angie and Sue will offer a wide range of strategies for congregations and their leaders to engage hungry, “secular” souls, enhancing social connection and supporting purpose and meaning in their communities far beyond current membership. With a combo platter of large- and small-group discussion and individual work, participants will have time to integrate insights and strategies with an eye toward their own unique contexts.

Photo by [Sharon McCutcheon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:20 Imagining New Gatherings

Quiet time for individuals to consider what new gatherings they might probe in their own setting, creating a paper prototype.

1:20-2:50 ProAction Café

This is an opportunity for some to “shop” ideas for feedback and formation. In several rounds of structured conversation, some will offer nascent ideas for new gathering initiatives. Angie and Sue will support small group integration work, cheerlead, and provide some final wrap-up thoughts.

2:50-3:00 Last Things, Blessing on Your Way

[Bios of Sue and Angie are available at Howwegather.org](http://Howwegather.org)

Sue Philips

