

Workshops Descriptions

2016 Annual Meeting Workshops

Oh No! It's Jazz Sunday!

Presenter: Rev. Brad Hirst

What kind of music is “appropriate” for worship? We'll explore the possibilities of expanding our understanding of what might be considered “sacred” music by hearing about one church's experience incorporating jazz into its worship. Come to listen, tell others about your experience, and leave with some fresh new ideas to “jazz-up” your worship.

Earth Care & Communing with Earth Presenter: Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team

“Holy, holy, holy, the whole Earth is full of God’s glory!” How do we care for and commune with God’s creation? This workshop will cover a number of items, from the practical to the worshipful. Why be concerned about climate change? Is it even real? How is it going with the Maine Conference’s fossil fuel divestment resolution from 2015? How can churches and individuals divest? And how do we put the “holy and sacred” into our relationship with the natural world around us? Those are the kinds of things the Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team will talk about in this workshop.

Annual Datahub Updates

Presenter: Beth Campbell

Step-by-step instructions on how to log in and fill out the annual reports for the UCC datahub. (church information, addresses, membership numbers, attendance numbers, financials for churches, Ministerial support (financial). For people who update the annual datahub reports.

How to welcome 400 people and inspire 100 church members on a single day...Nuts and Bolts to planning a Communities Care Day...

Presenter: Rev. Diane Wendorf

The Greater Sanford (Sanford, Acton, Alfred) Communities Care Day started after youth from Alfred, Acton, and Sanford UCC churches attended a Saco UCC day of caring on MLK Jr. Day inspired by President and Mrs. Obama who suggested this holiday be dedicated to community service. Greater Sanford Day of Caring happens on Columbus/Indigenous People day. Includes a social services fair...free dental hygiene consult, free haircuts, free meals (breakfast and lunch) a free store that provides winter coats/blankets/new undies/socks and toiletries, nutrition guidance, etc. CC Day is a cooperative effort of local UCC, Episcopal, UUA, Methodist and several other local churches and the local non-food pantry.

The workshop will describe our planning process...what works...how to involve church members, how to collect the items distributed and how it has evolved and continues to transform our community and churches.

“A PRAYERFUL CHOIR COMMUNITY”

**Presenter: Dr. Peter Stickney,
MEUCC Commissioned Minister of Music
Pastor of Music and Arts for the
Newfield Community Church**

Creating a prayerful choir community is not something to take lightly. Prayer is the most powerful tool we, as believers, possess. This gathering will be a sharing of a few “Tried and True” --- effective ways that prayer has covered the choir community.

“MUSIC FOR THE SMALL CHURCH CHOIR”

**Presenter: Dr. Peter Stickney,
MEUCC Commissioned Minister of Music
Pastor of Music and Arts for the
Newfield Community Church**

“Music for the small church choir”—seeks to honor small choirs—and the diverse challenges each face. Small choirs are typically 3-15 people. Several resources for the small choir—both traditional and none traditional will be shared. Come prepared to SING!

“When the Cat’s Away” or “Supply Aside” or the more descriptive, but boring, “Lay Leadership of Worship”

**Presenter: Old South Church,
Hallowell**

This workshop will focus on lay leadership of worship. For most Sundays of the year when the pastor of Old South (Hallowell) is away (6-8 per year), worship is led by lay volunteers. In addition to the “nuts and bolts” of lay leadership of worship, the leaders of this workshop will also discuss the experience of worship leadership as well as some of the surprises of leading worship. We’ll also talk about some of the benefits we’ve discovered, and ways through which this practice has breathed vitality into the congregation as a whole.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar

**Presenter: Rev. Dr. Robert
Grove-Markwood**

Join Bob Grove-Markwood, Executive Director of The BTS Center for a discussion of The BTS Center's vision for the future of theological education, and more. Learn about trends in national efforts to reimagine theological education and formation and how The BTS Center is interpreting those trends for regional and local contexts. Share your experience and your vision for preparing new and experienced leaders for their changing roles in a changing church in a changing world.

Spoiler alert: One size does not fit all!

"From Now On" An Inquiry Into Church as Christ-Event

**Presenters: Bill Bliss, Joanna Krejsa
Holly Reid**

What is church? As divine presence and revelation in past, present, and future history, might church be the most powerful event in creation?

The From Now On Life Circle is a small group ministry of The Neighborhood UCC in Bath that has been exploring the question of ecclesiology, defined as the intersection of anthropology, cosmology, and theology. In this workshop, participants in the Life Circle will guide an inquiry into the church as an event and as an experience, with particular attention to the question: How shall we recognize the effectiveness of the church?

Beginning with a brief discussion of Luke 22:67-69 and Acts 1:6-8, we'll consider these propositions: There is only one church. The church is indestructible. The church is revealed in lucid moments of failure and contrition. The church is the antidote for religion.

To be the church is the most effective strategy we have found. This will be a hope-filled time for questioning assumptions, disrupting mythologies, and seeking awareness.

Your Maine School of Ministry

Presenter: Rev. Nicholas Davis

Interactively with attenders and current MESOM students, the workshop will cover the School's Purpose; Cultural context; Relationship to ministry; Relationship to the Conference; Christian Studies and Leadership Curriculum (CSL) and Certificate Program and its one goal, Two student bodies, Two objectives, One integrated curriculum, and the Program's relationship to authorized ministry in the UCC.

Vibrant Worship, Sustaining Fellowship, Bold Service: Reports from *The Small Church Story Project* of 10 of Maine Conference's Smaller Congregations

**Presenters: Rev. Doug Dunlap
Rev. Susie Craig**

Mark Twain once wrote: "Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated!" The same might be said of small churches in the Maine Conference! The presenters have visited 10 small churches over a 2 year period, attending worship and speaking with the congregation – and discovering worship that is spirited; fellowship genuine and joyful; and acts of service to the local community and beyond that are remarkably courageous. Some churches have no pastor; some no church building; some have fewer than 10 members; one closed formally only to rise again as a house church. But each is alive and well, living the Gospel. Join us to hear stories that bear lessons for churches of all sizes, small and large – and to consider: "What is *your* church's story now"?

**Greater Bangor Area Street Pastors Presenters: Renee Garrett
Becka Timms**

A Recounting of how Street Pastors, an initiative of Ascension Trust from the UK, began in America; how Bangor, ME became the 2nd site in America; the impact Street Pastors is having in Bangor; and how to begin a Street Pastor Initiative in your community.

Attracting and Retaining Enthusiastic Church Volunteers

Presenter: Mandy Schumaker

-Are you challenged in filling your call or task-based ministries/committees with enthusiastic volunteers?

-Are the same group of people in your church doing ALL the work?

-Does your church worry how you will attract the next generation of lay leadership?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then this workshop is for you! This workshop will lead you through several exercises to help you attract enthusiastic volunteers to the committees/ministries that need more bench strength, increase the circle of volunteers who are currently doing all the work and begin looking at how to attract the next generation of lay leadership in your congregation. Mandy will use leadership, marketing and mindset strategies to help you learn strategies to motivate, inspire and lead your volunteers.

“Good Morning” Monroe Community Church, UCC

**Presenters: Bernys Doak
Alison Rector
Other Members**

How we as (Morning average attendance of 35) a small Christian community raised over \$90,000.00 for our new addition of office spaces and expanded kitchen area with 2 handicapped accessible bathrooms. Pledge drive was for 3 years and have less than \$2,000.00 outstanding as of Sept. 2016.

The Little Church that Could

**Presenters: Larry Zimmerman
Marty Resotko**

About four years ago, our church was offered a foreclosed property about 30 feet from the church building with a driveway shared. The house was in disrepair due to the person living there not being able to care for the property. She was Kay Lamb, for whom the project was named and a member of the church. We bought the house and then asked ourselves, “what do we do with it?” We were open to suggestions and one idea sparked the energy in a number of others to reach and do a marvelous new thing!

We want to share our story of a little church that was able to take on an overwhelming project with the help of a lot of volunteers from our community and beyond, a hard search for grants, and the commitment of our people to make Kay Lamb's house into a community outreach program.

Caution: We are not there yet, but excited at what has been done and the future looks promising.