Peer power: Cultivating clergy communities of practice

Workshops

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Session I: 1:00-2:30 pm
Session II: 2:45-4:15 pm

Please choose two workshops to attend.

1. **Spiritual Practices for Leadership Effectiveness: The 7Rs of Sanctuary**

   Leaders who take time apart to engage in spiritual practices are more effective in their leadership. By traversing a process of 7Rs, Retreat, Release, Reconnect, Review, Reflect, Recalibrate, and Return, attendees will learn how to realize sanctuary – that mental and/or physical place in which resources are restored and spiritual well-being is increased, and a leader can move faithfully forward. We will explore the process for creating sanctuary and realizing effectiveness in leadership, while restoring spiritual well-being.

   Debora Jackson is the Executive Director of the Ministers Council, ABCUSA, and author of the upcoming Judson Press book, *Spiritual Practices for Leadership Effectiveness: The 7Rs of Sanctuary*.

2. **Introduction to Narrative Clergy Peer Groups**

   There are few places where we can tell and explore the unedited stories of our work and life. Narrative peer groups invite such reflection. These groups cultivate an environment of trust, curiosity and relentless optimism through practices of curious questions, seeking an alternative narrative and utilizing engaged listeners. We’ll hear the story of how this narrative approach has been used with clergy groups and have an opportunity to experience it.

   Kelli Walker-Jones is Center Director of Triangle Pastoral Counseling in Raleigh, North Carolina, and an ordained minister in United Methodist Church. From 2002 to 2009, Kelli co-directed the Narrative Leadership Project at Triangle Pastoral Counseling and co-authored the book with Richard Hester, *Know Your Story and Lead with It: The Power of Narrative in Clergy Leadership*. 
3. Intentionally Practicing the Art of Innovation in Clergy Groups

At this juncture in the life of the church and in our understanding of ministry, risking change and exploring innovation are essential. Clergy groups can intentionally provide a place for engaging its members in the art and specific practices of innovating towards what wants to emerge in their ministries. We will demonstrate those practices and perspectives in this workshop.

Lawrence Peers, is the Director of Learning of the Pastoral Excellence Network. A former senior consultant with the Alban Institute, he has extensive experiences coaching clergy, leading communities of practice, and providing professional development for clergy.

4. How Change Affects the Church System

This workshop will look at the church as a “Family System” and recognize how change influences the staff, members and leadership of a local church. Through the use of case studies, this workshop will give facilitators a lens through which they can identify dynamics that could be limiting the functioning of a congregation and consider responses that promote congregational health.

Cathy Wille retired last year after working as a pastoral counselor for 22 years. As part of her work she developed a Clergy and Congregation Care Program. She has facilitated clergy groups as well as providing consultation to churches and clergy.

5. A Model for Clergy Peer Groups that Offer Space for Support, Growth, Learning and Challenge

Research tells us that pastors who are members of healthy peer learning groups are more effective leaders and make smarter decisions. In this workshop, participants will experience a distinctive model for clergy peer groups that has been developed over 10 years of practice. This model is adaptive based on a circle process and includes ritual, spiritual formation, the arts, deep conversation, collective wisdom and specific information. The process begins with the question, “How do we create and sustain space so that the conversations that need to emerge do so in a way that honors agency and invites creativity, honesty, and genuine meeting?”

Dr. W. Craig Gilliam is an educator, facilitator, consultant and poet. Gilliam is Director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence of the LA Conference of the UMC; on staff at JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation; adjunct faculty at Perkins School of Theology, SMU and has a private practice (website: http://www.wcraiggilliam.com). His areas include conflict transformation, group facilitation, courageous conversations, and leadership coaching and education. Recently, he published a book of poetry entitled Where Wild Things Grow.


What does it really mean to learn and lead in the profession of ministry? What are the essential practices for fostering learning within our profession following seminary? As clergy get busy bringing out change in their ministry contexts, some of their busyness can inhibit rather than promote their capacities to learn and to lead. This workshop will inform what happens in a clergy group and provide perspectives to aid clergy group facilitators.

Israel Galindo is Associate Dean for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary. As well as being a lifelong learner, Galindo has been an educator in a variety of contexts. He is a frequent presenter in the area of congregational and organizational leadership and author of The Hidden Lives of Congregations and Perspectives of Congregational Leadership.