

PRE-GATHERING PRESENTATION BY PDA: 3 PM – 3:45 PM

“YOURS ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST”

At this pre-gathering presentation, learn how you and your church’s mission group can make a difference in the lives of those impacted by a disaster. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s Associate for Disaster Response (US), Jim Kirk, will walk you through the many opportunities to serve, tailored to your availability and skills. Come away empowered to be the hands of Christ in tangible and powerful ways.

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS 5 PM – 6 PM

1. RESILIENCE TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS

Providing compassionate care can take its toll. When we listen to the pain and suffering of others, we absorb their stories. When we respond to more demand with fewer resources, fatigue sets in. The challenge remains, “...not to grow weary in doing what is right.” The good news is that the God who has called us to ministry has provided the means for maintaining and strengthening our resilience. This workshop will help you understand the stressors that exist in our ministries to family or church community. More importantly this class will provide the practices that will allow us to thrive in the context that God has called us to minister. Led by the Rev. Dr. James J. Kirk.

The Rev. Dr. James J. Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Prior to this position Jim served congregations in Sparta, NJ and Naples, FL. Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years.



2. STEPHEN MINISTRY/CARING FOR THE CONGREGATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The Stephen Ministry is a global program which prepares lay caregivers to support those in times of transition or loss. Covenant Presbyterian in Racine has had an active Stephen Ministry program since 2001. We'll share our story with you, you might have about starting and sustaining a ministry program with your congregation. Lessons learned and impact on our Congregation and friends will be shared.

From Covenant Presbyterian Church, panel participants:

Nancy Iversen, Stephen Leader

Claudia Grace, Stephen Leader

Melanie Hammond Clark, Former Pastor



3. A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Stewardship, giving, generosity, tithing, offering, bequests, legacy, endowment, investments....so many words, so many concepts. How does one begin to tie them all together in today’s church environment? The Presbyterian Foundation has the resources and expertise to assist congregations in putting together a comprehensive culture of generosity to enhance its financial health. Led by Stephen Keizer.



Stephen Keizer came to the Presbyterian Foundation in 2004 and leads the Ministry Relations efforts for the Presbyterian Foundation. His team of Ministry Relations Officers serves pastors and their congregations throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) from regional offices across the country. Stephen and the Foundation staff work to help congregations create a culture of generosity in the church, offering seminars and workshops, developing gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and providing coaching to finance, stewardship, and endowment committees.

4. RECONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

In the Holy Cow assessments taken in the Presbytery, one priority continues to be repeated: equip congregations to be more effective in addressing problems affecting their surrounding communities. It's tempting for us to decide unilaterally what problems we ought to fix in our church neighborhoods. But before we act, we need to listen and create space for our neighbors to identify their priorities and resources. This workshop will give you ideas for reconnecting with your communities in practical, authentic ways. Drawing on The Art of Neighboring, you will leave with tools for learning about your neighbors, assessing needs and resources, and building community where now there is only geography to connect us. Led by Presbytery Executive Rachel Yates and the Rev. Nicole Melara

Rachel Yates serves as the Presbytery Executive for the Milwaukee Presbytery. Before starting that role in January, she served as Associate Director for Program with Presbyterian World Mission in Louisville, Kentucky. She has worked with Presbyterian congregations across the country on mission and community outreach, including as a Church Support Associate for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Nicole Melara is pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Franklin and Presbytery of Milwaukee's liaison to Self-Development of People.



5. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHURCH MEMBER?



Churches in America are losing ground in their own backyards. We can blame it on secular culture. We can blame it on the godless politics of our nation. We can even blame it on the churches, the hypocritical members, and the uncaring pastors. Could it be because we have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ? What is the Presbyterian understanding of church membership in accordance with Scripture and our Confessions? How do we move from local churches as country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks to communities of faith-filled witness called to serve, to care, to pray, to learn, to teach, to give, and, in some cases, to die for the sake of the Gospel? Led by the Rev. Dr. Christian Boyd.

Christian Boyd is Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Milwaukee and pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Waukesha.

6. "WHEN DID WE SEE YOU IN PRISON?" MINISTRY TO AND ON BEHALF OF THE INCARCERATED

In Matthew 25, Jesus sets out expectations for why and how Christians should minister to the incarcerated. Our state's statistics tell a troubling story: as of the 2010 census we had the highest percentage of African American males incarcerated in the country. By 2019, we are predicted to have the largest jail and prison population in Wisconsin's history. Hidden behind walls, silenced by stigma, many in our congregations suffer from the trauma of incarceration. Visits with inmates can put a face on all of these stories. Led by the Rev. Carol Wickersham.

Rev. Carol Wickersham, minister member of the Presbytery of Milwaukee, will briefly set the stage for a conversation using scripture, statistics, and pastoral concerns. She will draw on her work as a volunteer jail chaplain, as a member of the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and as a Sociology Instructor at Beloit College. The guiding question will be how we as individuals, congregations and the Presbytery are called to respond.

