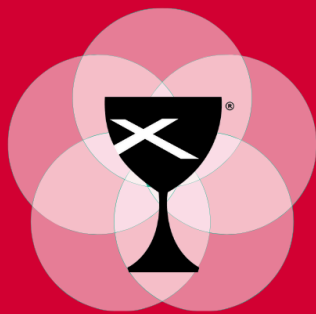


“I Pray They Will Be One” John 17:21



West Area Workshops

First Christian Church, Henderson • March 1, 2025

Saturday, March 1, 2025

First Christian Church of Henderson

(830 S. Green St, Henderson)

Cost: \$20 per person (lunch included)

Register before February 18 by filling out the workshop selection form, along with a \$20 check made out to “CCK-West Area” (memo line: “West Area Workshops”), and mailing it to: CCK-West Area, P.O. Box 1332, Madisonville, KY 42431

Please note: This year, for the first time, we are accepting both online and paper signups for the West Area Workshops. Cost for online registration is \$21, which includes an additional \$1 credit/debit card processing fee.

See the “Christian Church In Kentucky-West Area” Facebook page or www.westareadisciples.org for more information.



The Schedule

Saturday, March 1

10:00 a.m. Registration and exhibits

10:30-11 a.m. Opening Worship

11:10-12:00 a.m. Workshop Session #1

12:10-12:50 p.m. Lunch and Table Topics

1-1:50 p.m. Workshop Session #2

2-2:50 p.m. Workshop Session #3

3-3:30 p.m. Closing Worship

“I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

I pray that they also will be in us,

so that the world will believe that you sent me.”

-John 17:21 (CEB)



The Workshop Options

“Square Pegs and Round Holes – How Should We Seek to Understand the Dramatic Changes in the Church Occurring Today and Put Them to Godly Use”

with Rev. Greg Alexander

In 1998, Alban Institute Senior Consultant, Alice Mann, in her book, *The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations*, provided statistical aids for assessing common organizational characteristics among churches based on their average worship attendance. Mann identified four categories of churches. Each category of church came with its own challenges when attempting to grow beyond its current categorical size and inherent organizational characteristics. She referred to those challenges as “glass ceilings.” In this workshop, we will explore the relevance of those organizational characteristics and their relevance to the church today. And look at alternative ways of assessing the core strengths of congregations in our a dynamic and changing cultural context.

"Exploring the Beauty of Christian Hymnody"

Rev. Dr. Jody Blake

In his text, *Hermeneutics of Hymnody*, Scotty Gray opines that "...it is in the poetry and music of hymnody that much of Christianity has its closest affinity to art (p. 229)." Indeed, the singing of Christian hymns engages our congregations in an enigmatic experience which is both aesthetic and spiritual. The singing of hymns provides an aesthetic experience, leading to a collective engagement with artistic beauty that simultaneously ignites a spiritual and moral force for good. The goal of this session is to explore the following questions: (1) How does hymnody lead Christians to a deeper appreciation of God's beauty? (2) How do church leaders select appropriate hymns to accomplish this goal, leading believers closer to Christlikeness?

“Creating a New Stream of Income to Support Your Ministry”

with Rev. Nathan Brown

Congregations today are having to think creatively about how to fund their ministry. With aging facilities and rising costs, churches are struggling to meet their most basic demands, let alone try something new. What if your church had an additional stream of income to support ministries that were important to your congregation? What if this stream of income was the result of a meaningful program that congregants supported passionately and faithfully? Rev. Dr. Nathan Brown, VP of Development for the Southeast Zone of the Christian Church Foundation, will present a webinar on how legacy giving can provide a sustained revenue stream to support your congregation's ministry. He will share first hand experience, from 20 years of congregational ministry, offering examples of how legacy giving can not only help fund ministry for the future, but also transform the overall culture of generosity in your church.

"Love in Action: Strengthening Community Resilience in Times of Disaster"

with Tineka Fitzgerald

In times of disaster, the church plays a critical role in providing hope, support, and tangible aid to affected communities. This workshop explores how congregations can proactively prepare for emergencies and become beacons of resilience during crises. Participants will gain insights into disaster preparedness, response strategies, and how to mobilize resources to serve as a pillar of strength and support when disaster strikes. Join us to discover how your church can make a lasting impact in the face of adversity!

“Let’s Dance—A Listening Session”

Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II

Ronald A. Heifetz and Martin Linsky suggest in *Leadership On The Line: Staying Alive Through The Danger of Leading*, that leadership involves leaving the dance floor and getting on the balcony to get a better view of the dance floor. While that is true, I would contend that sometimes if you spend too much time on the balcony, you can forget how to dance. I look forward to ensuring my ability to dance by listening to your stories. Join with me for an impactful listening session designed to gather valuable feedback through dialogue for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky. This workshop will provide a unique opportunity for you to voice your insights, concerns, hopes and dreams that will lead to a collective vision for our future ministries together. Your voice matters in shaping the path forward—be a part of this transformative experience.

“That We May Have Boldness: Workshopping Your Church's Youth Ministry Right Now” with Eric Nance Woehler

Let’s get real about the youth ministries in our congregations. Let’s quit fretting about what they are not. Let’s get excited about what God is doing right now and next. Let’s love and help one another in that good work. Let’s go.

“Social Media Ministry” with Kimberly Simons

Are you looking to enhance your social media presence for your ministry or church? Look no further than Kim Simons' upcoming workshop on social media tools, techniques, and innovative campaign strategies. Join us as we delve into the world of social media, exploring ways to effectively use social platforms to communicate and engage with others about your ministry. With Kim's expertise and guidance, you'll learn how to create impactful content and build a strong online church community.

“21st Century Women's Ministry!” with Marsha Thornton, Jr.

Creating a safe place for worship and sharing stories for all of our women of today! Let's share ideas, what is working...what isn't? We'll share history explore our purpose that is ever relevant! Marsha Thornton is the Director of Women’s Ministries for the Christian Church in Kentucky.

"The Work of the Diaconate" with Rev. James Trader, II

The workshop will focus on the characteristics needed for the office of Deacon and their basic duties according to scripture. Rev. Trader is curator of Cane Ridge and the co-author of the book, *Your Calling as a Deacon*(Chalice Press).



Registration Form Deadline: February 18

Name: _____ Church Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone/Cell: _____

Emergency contact (name and phone): _____

Dietary needs or restrictions? _____

Do you have any access requirements you would like us to be aware of?

Please choose and mark 1 workshop for each session time (✓):

Workshop Session #1 (11:10-12:00 a.m.):

- "21st Century Women's Ministry!" with Marsha Thornton, Jr.
- "Creating a New Stream of Income to Support Your Ministry" with Rev. Nathan Brown
- "Let's Dance—A Listening Session" with Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II
- "Love in Action: Strengthening Community Resilience in Times of Disaster" with Tineka Fitzgerald
- "Square Pegs and Round Holes – How Should We Seek to Understand the Dramatic Changes in the Church Occurring Today and Put Them to Godly Use" with Rev. Greg Alexander
- "That We May Have Boldness: Workshopping Your Church's Youth Ministry Right Now" with Eric Nance Woehler

Workshop Session #2 (1-1:50 p.m.):

- "21st Century Women's Ministry!" with Marsha Thornton, Jr.
- "Exploring the Beauty of Christian Hymnody" Rev. Dr. Jody Blake
- "Let's Dance—A Listening Session" with Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II
- "Social Media Ministry" with Kimberly Simons
- "Square Pegs and Round Holes – How Should We Seek to Understand the Dramatic Changes in the Church Occurring Today and Put Them to Godly Use" with Rev. Greg Alexander
- "The Work of the Diaconate" with Rev. James Trader, II

Workshop Session #3 (2-2:50 p.m.):

- "Creating a New Stream of Income to Support Your Ministry" with Rev. Nathan Brown
- "Exploring the Beauty of Christian Hymnody" with Rev. Dr. Jody Blake
- "Love in Action: Strengthening Community Resilience in Times of Disaster" with Tineka Fitzgerald
- "Social Media Ministry" with Kimberly Simons
- "That We May Have Boldness: Workshopping Your Church's Youth Ministry Right Now" with Eric Nance Woehler
- "The Work of the Diaconate" with Rev. James Trader, II