

Southwest Conference UCC Annual Meeting 2018



Workshop Descriptions

- **7 Proven Ways to Increase Giving – Rev. Andy DeBraber**

A United Church of Canada study showed an 82% increase in giving per capita over 6 years for churches that engaged these seven practices and, by so doing, created a culture of generosity. Come and learn how your church or ministry organization can implement these practical, high-impact actions to boost giving and grow greater gifts!

- **Spirituality for Activism- Rev. Vernon Meyer**

What kind of spirituality do we need as activists that will keep us engaged and keep us from falling into burnout? I will suggest that it is a spirituality rooted in the practice of Sabbath. This presentation will consider the works of Abraham Heschel, the great Jewish writer, and Walter Bruggemann and his book, *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No To The Culture of Now*. He writes: Sabbath is an act of resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods. It is an alternative to the demanding, chattering, and pervasive presence of advertising and its great liturgical claim of professional sports that devour all our "rest time." The alternative offer is the awareness and practice of the claim that we are situated on the receiving end of the gifts of God. A good spirituality around Sabbath would give a good framework for resistance in the current world we live in.

- **Discerning the Kairos Issues - Rev. Teresa Blythe**

"Discerning the Kairos Issue" will help your church take the next step on its spiritual journey of faith-rooted service to the world. Rev. Teresa Blythe, a spiritual director and discernment coach, will explain concrete and time-tested spiritual practices and tools that the Christian church has used for centuries to help congregations discover their unique call. You will leave with a basic overview, resources and encouragement for entering into your own season of discernment.

- **Good Shepherd's Story – Rev. Randy Mayer**

Rev. Randy Mayer and members of Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita will tell the story of how they are using organizing to improve the lives of residents in their community.

- **ALICE Training – Marc Gerardis & Phil Shea**

ALICE ([Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate](#)) Training instructor led classes provide preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. Whether it is an attack by an individual person or by an international group of professional's intent on conveying a political message through violence, ALICE Training option based tactics have become the accepted response, versus the traditional "lockdown only" approach. (***Prior registration required.** To signup visit the SWC Website under Conference News & Events)

- **Faith Rooted Organizing Q&A – Rev. Alexia Salvatierra**

Q&A with Rev. Alexia Salvatierra - This workshop will provide participants a more intimate venue to ask *Faith Rooted Organizing* author Rev. Alexia Salvatierra questions following her Thursday training and Friday sermon. She might even sign your copy of her book!

- **Budget Q&A – Phil Ward & Cynthia Verduin**

SWC Treasurer Phil Ward and incoming treasurer Cynthia VerDuin will answer questions and present the rationale for the 2018-2019 SWC Budget. The new SWC Endowment Policy Statement will also be presented. A line item and narrative budget are available in your annual meeting packets.

- **Resolutions Q&A – SWC Executive Board**

Members of the SWC Executive Board will guide discussion of three items of business in advance of voting on Saturday morning. Delegates will consider the Executive Board's recommendation **NOT to ratify changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws** adopted at General Synod 31 in 2017. The Executive Board is recommending adoption of **SWC Bylaws changes** that clarify references to the Mission and Church Vitality Committee. And the Executive Board is recommending adopting a resolution titled "**Examining, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of 'the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ' for the Twenty-first Century.**" Copies of these documents are available on our Annual Meeting webpage.