



CAN THESE BONES LIVE?

Rediscovering What Matters

THE APCE ANNUAL EVENT
PORTLAND, OREGON | JANUARY 27-30, 2027

Workshop Worksheet

As you register for the pre-events, workshops, and post-events you'd like to participate in at this year's Annual Event, you will have limited time for selecting them. We strongly encourage you to browse all of the incredible opportunities available before you register, making notes of your favorites, so that when you are registering you are ready!

A complete list of the events and workshops, with their full descriptions, is provided in this document. Feel free to print this cover page and fill it out as a 'cheat sheet' for when you are registering. Happy browsing!

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Workshop Block A Options



A101

Faith in Everyday Life



Workshop Leaders: Sean Chow & Shawn Kang

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: This workshop equips leaders to cultivate Christian practices through relational, community-based expressions of faith embedded in everyday life. Informed by the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement and shaped by experience from the Presbytery of San Diego, it focuses on forming communities with those outside the church, where faith is lived through daily rhythms and relationships.

As participation in congregational life continues to shift, many remain spiritually curious yet disconnected from established patterns of church involvement. This moment calls for a renewed vision of Christian education, not primarily as curriculum delivery, but as formation through shared practices that shape everyday life. This workshop explores how Christian education can move beyond program-centered models toward practices rooted in homes, neighborhoods, and accessible community spaces. Participants in these groups will engage practices such as shared meals, Scripture, prayer, storytelling, and communal discernment that nurture belonging, spiritual growth, and faithful presence. Designed for educators, pastors, and ministry leaders, the workshop integrates theology with lived practice while offering practical frameworks for cultivating relational and sustainable faith communities.

Workshop participants will develop a contextual model for a “Faith in Everyday Life” gathering suited to their setting. The workshop also introduces approaches to identifying and developing leaders, sustaining small communities, and fostering ongoing participation. Participants will leave with an adaptable plan for implementation, practical tools for their context, and a renewed vision for how Christian education can take root through everyday practices and shared life.

Rev. Dr. Sean Chow serves as Executive Director of the Presbytery of San Diego, cultivating innovative ministries and changing culture. A leader in church planting and formation, he works at the intersection of faith, leadership, and everyday life.

Rev. Shawn Kang serves in the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative, helping launch and nurture new faith communities. He is dedicated to developing leaders and creating spaces where people can encounter faith in fresh and meaningful ways.

Workshop Block A Options



A102

Linking the Stories of God's People



Workshop Leaders: Erika Funk

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: When you wonder how the stories of scripture could possibly connect to your own. When you long for youth to see themselves in the disciples, the Israelites, or the story you're teaching this week. When you want to build deeper community within your congregation, your small group, your family, or among newcomers to the faith.

The story-linking process places our stories in dialogue with faithful disciples we know, and with those we encounter in scripture. Not just Bible stories.

Not just stories about famous saints or heroes of the faith.

But the stories we are living—right now.

Rev. Erika Funk is the director of CROSS Missions in Charlotte, NC. Erika has created and led service learning experiences for youth in Philadelphia and Charlotte for a combined 15 years. She also serves on the CREDO faculty in the vocation component and as the Co-Director of the Catawba Clergy Network.

A103

Can You Be a Progressive Evangelical?



Workshop Leaders: Gini Norris-Lane

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: If faith is not primarily about going to heaven or avoiding hell, what is it about? How we articulate the answer to this question matters. What also matters, maybe even more so, is learning to understand the stories of those who have been hurt by the church, who are deconstructing faith, or whose fundamental questions - and yearnings - for God and for community are different than we think they are.

Jesus starts his ministry by proclaiming in Luke 4:18-19 that his purpose was to "proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind and to set the oppressed free." Workshop participants will explore what this verse can mean in our contexts. We will discuss how we are called to meet those who are hurt, skeptical, and questioning with compassion, and shape our programming around their needs and questions.

Rev. Dr. Gini Norris-Lane serves as the Executive Director of the UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association. She is passionate about helping college students and all of God's beloved children experience God's all encompassing love in community and explore how that love can shape who they are and how they serve. She loves watching football, going to soccer games, and going for coffee.



Workshop Block A Options



A104 Grandparents in the Faith Formation Journey



Workshop Leaders: Jaime Staehle & Anne Hagerman Wilcox

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: In many congregations, family faith formation has rightly focused on parents, but what about grandparents? Increasingly, grandparents are asking how they can more intentionally share faith with the children they love. They are present, invested, and often spiritually curious about their role.

This workshop explores how churches can equip and include grandparents as vital partners in intergenerational faith formation. Drawing on real-life examples and emerging practices, we'll consider how to adapt existing parent-focused initiatives to engage grandparents in meaningful, accessible ways.

At a time when the church is rediscovering what matters most, this conversation invites us to reconnect generations, honor the wisdom already present in our communities, and imagine how faith can be nurtured across the full span of life. Participants will leave with practical ideas, adaptable models, and renewed vision for engaging grandparents in the life of the church.

Jaime Staehle is a Certified Christian Educator and Director of Christian Education at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC. She is excited to be able to present this workshop alongside her mom – grandparent to her two kids!

Education Professor Emerita, Anne Hagerman Wilcox, serves as Pedagogy Specialist for Whitworth University's Office of Church Engagement (Spokane, WA). The current Formed in Faith Project explores vibrant practices of intergenerational church life and creative family participation in faith formation.

Workshop Block A Options



A105 Good Bones: Evaluating and Adapting Children's Curriculum

Workshop Leaders: Rebecca Davis

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro-Credential

Description: Choosing curriculum that fosters life-long faith and discipleship with children is an essential aspect of our ministry. Sometimes the curriculum's approach to scripture matches our perspectives, but the activities won't work in our context of ministry. Other times the theme, music, and presentations are exciting, but the theology is inconsistent with our tradition. The reality is every curriculum must be adapted for our congregational setting. Let's explore how to evaluate the key elements of curriculum and how to adapt it when we cannot find the exact right one.

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis is the Sarah Belk Gambrell Professor of Christian Education, Director of the MACE degree and the Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is a Teaching Elder and a Certified Educator in the PCUSA. She has served the Church as an educator, pastor, associate presbyter, and in ecumenical non-profits.

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Workshop Block B Options



B201 What Matters: Unlock your Church's Hidden Potential



Workshop Leaders: Yvonne Murray & Kim Jones

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: What if the secret to revitalizing a church isn't a slick new program, but unleashing the passions already alive in the pews?

Come be part of an interactive experience that reveals the cares, callings, and social concerns God has stirred within you—and meaningfully connects you with others who share kindred dreams for a better world. This flips the script, encouraging us to live out our faith where it matters most to us and inspiring us to build a community of purpose and justice in our churches and beyond. You'll leave fully empowered with the blueprint to recreate this profound encounter in your own church, galvanizing your people's passions and talents toward God's good work.

Yvonne Murray is the Director of Community Engagement for The Changemaker Initiative in Los Altos, CA. Previously employed in the tech sector, Yvonne is passionate about cultivating relationships and collaborations for positive community change.

Kim Jones is Cofounder and Executive Director of The Changemaker Initiative in Los Altos, CA. After working 20 years as a pediatrician, Kim experienced a new calling to spark and catalyze people to come alive through meaningful passion and purpose.

B202 Sexuality and Faith: Talking with Children



Workshop Leaders: Debbie Gline Allen & Sarah Lohrbach

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro-Credential

Description: In this workshop, we will discuss the importance of age-appropriate, faith-based conversations around sexuality, bodies, and identity with children of all ages, particularly early elementary-aged children. If we can move beyond our discomfort to engage in these conversations with young people, we will help them grow up to have healthy relationships with their bodies and respect for their own and others' boundaries. We will look at some common myths around sexuality education and engage in dialogue about why faith and the church should not be removed from these conversations. Whether you are a parent, a faith formation leader, a pastor, or someone simply interested in this topic, we invite you to join us for lively conversation and the sharing of resources to aid in these conversations at home and in your place of worship.

Rev. Debbie serves as pastor of the Madbury (NH) United Church of Christ, and has served as Minister of Christian Formation at five UCC congregations in NH and MA and on their conference staffs. She has written for three United Church of Christ-based curriculum resources, and resides in Derry, NH.

Rev. Sarah Lohrbach is the AUCE Board Secretary. They've served as a Youth and Children's Pastor in several UCC churches and currently work for the Illinois Conference UCC. They are a lover of outdoor ministries, an avid reader, and LGBTQ+ advocate.

Workshop Block B Options



B203 Accessibility in Ministry: Trauma and Disability Informed Ministries in Practice



Workshop Leaders: Christy Miller White

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: We know that being trauma and disability informed is vitally important, but actually implementing strategies that work can be a challenge. In our time together, we will journey through a brief overview of trauma and disability awareness in ministry. In addition, we will learn practical applications and hone how to best utilize them in various ministry settings. You will walk away knowing better how to care for all people in your ministry and be ready to put these new skills into practice.

Rev. Christy Miller White is the Minister of Children and Families and Clarkston United Methodist Church, Clarkston, Michigan. Christy is passionate about making the good news of God's love accessible to all people, of all ages, stages, and abilities.

B204 Faith through Adversity: A Roadmap for Resilient Leadership



Workshop Leaders: Meredith Montgomery & Anne Wilson

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: This workshop seeks to foster thought provoking reflection on the resilience of the human spirit and the quiet courage it takes to stand up for what's right. We are living through turbulent times where political polarization, economic disparities, and social and safety concerns have led to widespread anxiety as a nation. How do we find the strength to endure without losing our sense of purpose when the path forward seems unclear?

Together we will look to history for inspiration and offer an actionable roadmap for modern resilience. We'll first explore the story of how one Japanese American family navigated another challenging chapter in our nation's history—World War II. Hear the story of a teenager who was incarcerated in an internment camp after being uprooted from life as she knew it. Her future husband faced his own adversity, fighting in some of the war's fiercest battles to defend a country that deemed him the enemy. Told by their daughter and granddaughter, these stories of grace and dignity through atrocious acts of discrimination and injustice illustrate how maintaining one's identity and values can become a radical act of resistance.

Inspired by this couple's experiences, we'll then explore the Stockdale Paradox as a tool to navigate our own obstacles. This concept focuses on how to honestly acknowledge the hardships we face while holding onto the unwavering belief that we can—and will—overcome them. Attendees will leave with a renewed perspective that will ground them in their everyday lives and serve as a powerful mindset for courageous leadership.

Meredith Montgomery is the Executive Director of Walk Bike Nashville, a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to making Music City a place where all people have the freedom, dignity, and choice to move through a comprehensive and safe network of sidewalks, bikeways, and transit routes. Originally from Houston and a graduate of Kenyon College, her free time is spent at the soccer fields and camping with her family of four and their two rescue pups.

Anne Wilson is a seasoned educator who currently serves on several boards of non-profit, church-related or educational institutions. She is a Past President of APCE and recipient of a Sustain Life Achievement Award. She has served in numerous leadership roles in APCE.

NOTE: Meredith Montgomery is Anne Wilson's daughter.

Workshop Block C Options



C301

Wonderfully Wired: Nurturing Children's Faith Through a Neurodivergent Lens



Workshop Leaders: Michelle Junkin

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro-Credential

Description: Come discover practical, inclusive ways to help every child connect with God, no matter how their mind works. In this workshop you will learn how neurodiversity shapes children's spiritual lives and reimagine how our faith formation setting might need to be adapted in order to include the nurturing of all minds. Participants will reflect on current practices, explore inclusive teaching strategies, and gain practical tools to nurture the spiritual growth of neurodivergent and neurotypical children, so every child feels seen, valued, and spiritually empowered. By the end of this session, participants will recognize how differences in attention, sensory processing, and communication influence children's faith experiences. You will learn how to identify barriers in traditional faith formation settings that may unintentionally exclude neurodivergent children and explore how to apply practical strategies that honor diverse ways of learning by exploring ways to implement neurodiversity-informed approaches in their ministry.

Michelle Junkin, MACE, M.Div, D. Min, is Pastor of Spiritual Formation at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Michelle holds a Certificate in Non-Profit Management. She is a Director of Big Faith Resources, a Lilly Foundation, Inc. initiative supporting and equipping churches to minister to neurodiverse.



Workshop Block C Options



C302 Creating Accessible Worship for All God's Children



Workshop Leaders: Sarah Leer & Lisa Hancock

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: What does it mean to create accessible worship? What are some ways you can nurture children through worship using anti-ableist principles? What does it mean to be anti-ableist anyway? Come and learn from the Growing in Grace team. We'll share lessons learned, practical tips you can use in your church or faith organization, and ways you can talk about disability and theology with the folks in your context. "Growing in Grace," is a Lilly grant funded Wesleyan institute that exists to assist local churches and organizations in the work of forming all children into anti-ableist Christians through worship. Growing in Grace believes we can help children learn and believe that all God's creation is God's good creation. A program of Discipleship Ministries, an agency of The United Methodist Church, Growing in Grace seeks to equipping world-changing disciples with anti-ableist programming and resources created with an intentional intergenerational lens.

Dr. Sarah Leer (she/her/hers) is a native Arkansan and lifelong Presbyterian, who has served non-profits for over a decade including Presbyterian Church (USA) churches in Texas, and Northwest Arkansas. Currently, she is Owner/Founder of Sarah Leer Consulting, LLC, the Transitional Youth and Young Adult Developer for the Presbytery of Arkansas, and is the project manager for Growing in Grace, a Wesleyan institute focused on anti-ableist worship practices with Discipleship Ministries and the United Methodist Church. She is a practical theologian who is living into her call to deconstruct systems and disrupt the status quo in order to seek liberation, justice, and belonging in solidarity with those living on the margins.

Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts at Discipleship Ministries, is a lifelong United Methodist whose passion for worship and the arts began at 3.5 years old when she started singing in church choirs. Lisa received her B.M. in Church Music from Wayland Baptist University before attending Perkins School of Theology, where she received a Masters of Sacred Music and Masters of Theological Studies. In 2021, Lisa earned her PhD in Religious Studies from Southern Methodist University. In addition to coordinating and writing worship resources, Lisa is the Project Lead for Growing in Grace, an initiative of Discipleship Ministries that seeks to equip, and empower leaders and organizations to form all children as anti-ableist Christians through worship by helping them learn and believe that all God's creation is God's good creation.

Workshop Block C Options



C303 Planning and Facilitating Brave Conversations with Youth



Workshop Leaders: Christy Williams

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: Whether it is politics, money, sexuality, or a dozen other topics, there are ways to have tough, awkward, even controversial discussions with youth that will assist them in developing a deeper understanding of how to live out their faith more fully. Using the Brave Conversations on Sexuality resource produced by the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association as a model, workshop participants will explore how to prepare the congregation, families, and youth for having brave conversations and then how to facilitate those discussions with youth and their parents.

Dr. Williams is a graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and Columbia Theological Seminary. She has spent her career serving as a Director of Christian Education and as an Adjunct Staff person for the Montreat Youth Conferences. She currently serves as the Director of Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center for the Presbytery of Florida.

C304 Effective Ministry Policies to Prevent Abuse and Maintain Proper Boundaries



Insurance Board



Workshop Leaders: Jennifer Perri & Chad Cunningham

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: The church should be a safe place for people to worship, work, connect and receive care and support in a manner that is free from abuse. Protect your ministry by learning policy best practices and boundary training to prevent abuse and provide a safe environment for everyone. This workshop will cover how churches can protect their ministry against the potential of abuse through proper policies, as well as the importance of background checks and screening, and state of the art training.

Jennifer Perri is Vice President of United Church Insurance Services at Insurance Board. She's a tenured member of Insurance Board's team and is very knowledgeable on the various products and services offered by the company. She's also certified in Youth/Elderly boundary training and has previously presented at the APCE conference.

Chad Cunningham is the Director of Loss Control at Insurance Board. Prior to joining Insurance Board, Chad worked for Navigate360 (ALICE Training Institute) as the VP of Education and Curriculum. Chad also served in law enforcement for 24 years. Chad lead the community policing and training division of the department.

Workshop Block D Options



D401

Reimagining Children's Faith Formation in a Changing Landscape



Workshop Leaders: Karen Hammond & Julie Emery

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro-Credential

Description: Have you noticed that faith formation looks different than it did a generation ago - or even a few years ago? Maybe you're seeing fewer children on Sunday mornings, more irregular attendance, or less participation in traditional Sunday School programs. You're not alone.

Many of us are navigating a new ministry landscape. We're experimenting, adapting, and trying new things, all while wondering: Are we truly helping children grow in faith? Are we creating meaningful opportunities for spiritual formation, or are we simply keeping kids occupied? How do we stay focused on our mission when the old models no longer fit our reality?

Join us as we share what we've learned while navigating these same questions in our own congregation. You'll hear from a Senior Pastor and a Director of Faith Formation who have partnered to reimagine worship and children's faith formation in a small church setting. Together, we've worked to create worship experiences where children are not just present, but engaged as full participants and offered rich faith formation opportunities.

This workshop is for anyone who cares deeply about helping our children grow in faith and wants to explore what it can look like in today's church. Together, we'll share stories, wrestle with challenges, ask honest questions, and learn from one another's experiences. We'll celebrate what's working, acknowledge what's difficult, and imagine new possibilities for the future.

Come ready to participate in a conversation with others who understand both the challenges and the opportunities of this moment. We hope you'll leave with practical ideas, a fresh perspective, renewed energy, and greater confidence as you continue the important work of nurturing faith in your community.

Karen Hammond is the Director of Faith Formation at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, CT, where she has held that position for 21 years. Her background in elementary education and love for children has grown into a passion for intergenerational faith formation.

Rev. Julie Emery is the Pastor/Head of Staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, CT. She is highly creative and has a passion for inclusive worship and preaching and a heart for social justice. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Ministry through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Workshop Block D Options



D402 Can These Church Properties Live?



Workshop Leaders: Carl Horton

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: As ministry shifts across the church, once bustling buildings and filled parking lots now sit largely empty and underutilized for much of the week. Church properties intended for growth remain vacant and undeveloped, existing buildings become burdensome. But congregations and mid-councils across the country are approaching these property challenges as ministry opportunities, turning these liabilities into assets, breathing new life into church property for community good. We'll look at a number of visionary church property projects like affordable housing, childcare centers, healthcare centers, and other ministries that enrich and enliven both community and congregation. We'll overview the church-repurposing process, dig into the theological and biblical basis for this work, and explore the spiritual formation and practices of congregations committed to a new and innovative future life for their properties.

Carl Horton is the Mission Direction Officer with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) working specifically with affordable housing and church-based social impact initiatives. With the rest of his time he is a Realtor, dog-wrangler, Dahlia grower, and sourdough bread baker.

D403 These Bones Still Preach: Reclaiming the Spiritual Authority of Older Adults



Workshop Leaders: Denise Shannon

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: Too often, older adults in the church are seen primarily through the lens of care, decline, or nostalgia—rather than as vital spiritual leaders whose voices, stories, and theological insight are essential for the present and future of the church. Drawing on the imagery of Ezekiel's dry bones, this workshop invites participants to reconsider what has been dismissed or overlooked and to recognize the enduring spiritual authority carried by older adults. These are not "dry bones," but lives shaped by decades of faith, resilience, loss, and hope—lives that still have something to say.

Together, we will explore how congregations can move beyond passive or programmatic engagement to actively elevate older adults as teachers, storytellers, mentors, and leaders. Participants will be challenged to name and dismantle age-based assumptions while discovering practical ways to create spaces where older adults are not only included, but are recognized as essential voices in shaping the church's witness.

Rev. Denise Shannon is the pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westminster, CO, a certified spiritual director, owner of Sassy Preacher Lady Ministries and the Co-moderator for POAMN. Her work centers on developing meaningful ministry practices, especially with older adults.

Workshop Block D Options



D404 Culture Change and Centering Children: After the Bones, Two Sticks



Workshop Leaders: Patrick Reyes

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: Just after the dry bones rise, God hands Ezekiel two sticks and tells him to hold them together until they become one in his hand, a sign of divided people made whole. This workshop takes that image as a blueprint for culture change, and it puts children at the center of the work. Too often we treat culture as something the adults sort out and the children inherit. But the two sticks only become one when someone is willing to hold the tension long enough for it to bind. Children do this instinctively. They cross the lines we have hardened, they ask the questions we have learned to stop asking, and they refuse the false choice between this stick and that one. Together we will explore what it means to build communities where children are not the recipients of a culture handed down but active hands in the joining, and we will leave with practical, embodied ways to let their wisdom reshape how our congregations and classrooms hold what has come apart.

Rev. Dr. Patrick B. Reyes is the President of Auburn Theological Seminary, founded in 1818 and dedicated to building community, bridging divides, pursuing justice, and healing the world.

Patrick is also our Plenary Speaker for this Annual Event.

Workshop Block E Options



E601 Adult Ed in a Purple Church: Teaching across the Divide



Workshop Leaders: Greg Allen-Pickett

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: In a time of deep polarization, many congregations feel like valleys of dry bones: fragmented, weary, and unsure how to move forward together. Political, theological, and cultural divides often surface in adult education, where meaningful conversation can quickly give way to silence or conflict.

This workshop explores how adult faith formation can become a place where communities reconnect, rebuild trust, and rediscover what matters. Drawing on the presenter's experience leading a politically diverse congregation—and insights from the book "Purple Church, Red State: Finding Common Ground in an Age of Polarization," participants will be invited to share stories from their purple church contexts and be introduced to a practical, adaptable curriculum developed for use during contentious times like election cycles. This model helped one congregation intentionally build the beloved community by integrating preaching, small groups, and adult education around shared themes and biblical texts.

Participants will leave with:

- A ready-to-use framework and sample curriculum for leading conversations across differences
- Tools for facilitating courageous, respectful dialogue in adult education settings
- Practices for building trust while engaging difficult topics
- Strategies for responding to conflict in real time while maintaining community
- Ideas for aligning worship, preaching, and education to reinforce shared learning

Through guided reflection and practical examples, this workshop equips leaders to move beyond avoidance and into faithful engagement. Even in divided times, God is still at work bringing new life to the body of Christ.

Greg Allen-Pickett serves as Senior Pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church (OR). Author of "Purple Church, Red State: Finding Common Ground in an Age of Polarization" he helps congregations navigate polarization through faithful dialogue and shared mission.

Workshop Block E Options



E602 Christian Practices for Everyday Life



Workshop Leaders: Priscilla Andre-Colton

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person

Description: As human beings, we hunger for a meaningful way of life, for a faith that makes a difference in our homes, in our communities, in our world. Christian practices are the ways by which we live the Christian way of life and deepen our relationship with God, with one another, with the world. These practices include a variety of activities that both nurture faith within and reflect faith in action. This workshop will examine some practices and how they might grow our faith.

Priscilla Andre-Colton, retired Certified Christian Educator, currently serves as a volunteer at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, VA. She served as secretary for APCE and was the 2020 recipient of the Life Achievement Award.

E603 Cultivating a Creative Classroom for Young Disciples



Workshop Leaders: Brianna Bamberg

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro-Credential

Description: In my workshop, I will be showing various ways to use the faith formation hour as a time for creativity and innovation. I have worked with children for almost half of my life, so I want to share tactics that I have used as well as new ideas on how to modernize children's faith formation - both with fun activities and also, with engaging content that is developmentally appropriate for specific ages (preschool through 5th grade.) The key to a successful faith formation program is to make the kids want to come so we, as the new church, must learn how to market Sunday school as something more than the ancient practice of bible verse memorization and move towards finding connections to everyday life through the teaching of biblical narratives.

Brianna Bamberg is the Children's Ministry Coordinator at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, where she has served in a variety of positions, such a preschool teacher at their Weekday School, Manager of the Sunday Nursery program and Director of their Summer camp program, over the past eleven years. She has a passion for creating a solid spiritual and religious foundation for young children and the mental health epidemic in young adults. She is currently a seminary student at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she will graduate in 2027 with a Masters in Christian Education.

Workshop Block E Options



E604 Vision, Understanding, and Creativity: Leadership for Educational Ministries



Workshop Leaders: Rebecca Davis

Offering Notes: Online & In-Person, Micro Credential

Description: The challenges facing congregations today are more than we've ever known in our lifetime. What was once unimaginable must now become imaginable. Developing leadership grounded in vision, understanding, and creativity can help us move from challenges to possibilities. Let's explore together an imaginable mindset through new patterns, models, and approaches in Christian education so that faith formation shapes identity, nurtures meaning-making and engenders faithful living in the world.

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis is the Sarah Belk Gambrell Professor of Christian Education, Director of the MACE degree and the Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is a Teaching Elder and a Certified Educator in the PCUSA. She has served the Church as an educator, pastor, associate presbyter, and in ecumenical non-profits.
