

Better Together Thursday

Since we can't go to the workshops, our presenters are bringing the workshops to us – electronically!

Thank you to all of our wonderful partners who had agreed to lead workshop sessions at our October 3 Assembly at Lake Ozark Christian Church. They have been extremely flexible and will be sharing with us throughout the fall via Zoom.

A recording of each session will be published on our website after it takes place.



Date	Time	Title/Presenter	Topic/Description
August 13	11:00 am	<p>Best Practices for Endowment Fund Trustees by Kirby Gould</p> <p>Kirby Gould is Vice-President with the Christian Church Foundation based in Kansas City and works with many congregations in Mid-America.</p>	<p>Is your church ready to receive a bequest? Are policies and documents in place which will guide and direct the congregation in managing, investing, and/or spending a bequest? Will a bequest cause the church to have its largest board meeting ever? The Christian Church Foundation works in the area of the stewardship of accumulated resources, helping churches develop policies, invest wisely, and encourage members to create an end-of-life gift upon their death. The Foundation's mission is to Move Money to Ministry.</p> <p>CCF Endowment Funds webpage CCF Endowment Funds Policies webpage Model Endowment Fund Policy Role of Endowment Fund Trustees brochure Kirby's slide presentation Handbook for Treasurers of Disciples Churches UCC Cornerstone Fund – United Church Funds Recording of presentation</p>
August 20	7:00 pm	<p>Caring for Your Pastor/Yourself Rev. Coletta Eichenberger, Intentional Interim Minister and Rev. Dr. Bob Eichenberger, Licensed Professional Counselor</p>	<p><i>Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others.</i> <i>Philippians 2:4 Common English Bible(CEB)</i></p> <p>Your pastor is a human being with strengths, challenges, and needs like everyone else in the congregation. But unlike everyone else, pastors live out their seasons and challenges in full display to everyone. There is often an implicit expectation that the pastor is the most transformed person in the congregation. This may be an expectation the pastor puts on her/himself; or it is laid on them by some congregants. This pressure can lead to a sense of isolation and loneliness. Learning the signals that your pastor needs self-care, and encouraging her/him to seek that out, can make for a healthier leader and faith community.</p> <p>Watch the recording of their presentation.</p>
August 27	7:00 pm	<p>Meaningful Men's Ministry Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth, Associate Director of Disciples Men and pastor of Marshfield Christian Church</p>	<p>It has been said countless times in the past months, these are undoubtedly uncertain and trying times. While that is true, a more profound and more abiding truth is God's promise to walk with us in the shadowy valleys of life. God promises never to leave or forsake</p>

		Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, Regional Minister	us. Now, maybe more than ever, it is essential for all followers of Christ to work diligently to shape our lives by the example of Jesus. That is precisely the aim of the latest projects from the Office of Disciples Men . This year Disciples Men has made three new study curricula available for Disciples Men groups around the country. Each of these studies helps men live life The Jesus Way . During this workshop, Alex Ruth will provide an introduction to the Jesus Way materials, and offer opportunities to build and grow men's ministry in your church. He will also share exciting news about upcoming projects from the Office of Disciples Men and Disciples Home Missions. Paul Koch will provide updates on men's ministries in the region and share information on virtual connection opportunities regarding Mid-America Men and Friends . Watch the recording of this presentation.
September 3	11:00 am	Aging in a Pandemic: Facing New Realities, Renewing Our Faith Rev Sally Robinson serves as Chaplain of Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry . Rev Craig Kirby-Grove pastors FCC in Maryville , sponsor of our NBA Older Adult Ministries grant. Jan Aerie is coordinator of our Older Adults Ministry	Amid the pandemic, we will explore new ideas and ways to cope and minister with others. All the while we will also be addressing some of the myths and realities of aging. Examine the maze of aging in this time of Covid-19, while discussing ways your congregation can better serve older adults in communities and facilities. Share in dialogue, brainstorming and planning for revitalizing your congregation's ministry and outreach with older adults! Watch the recording of this presentation.
September 10			
September 17	11:00 am	Ministering through Trauma & Moral Injury by Rev. Dr. Tommy Goode, Director of the Moral Injury Institute and pastor of Ozark CC .	Help your congregation become trauma-aware, both for those in the pulpit and those in the pew. We will define "moral injury" with information on the effects of moral injury among those who are military, veterans, and others, including ministers, who serve in care-giver roles. Watch the recording of this presentation. Slides from presentation.
September 24	11:00 am	Open: Exploring a Wide(r) Welcome Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance	As Disciples we share a radically wide table. As we celebrate our tradition of gathering at the table, join with other Disciples throughout Mid-America to hear and share stories of welcome. Church communities who are living into what it means to be Open & Affirming will share experiences of joy and struggle. Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance Executive Director + Minister Rev. Melissa Guthrie Loy will provide relevant definitions and explanations as well as an overview of resources for the journey of welcome, for those who are beginning or re-engaging their welcome. A panel of Mid-America O&A Team Members will respond to questions. We know we are all in different places; join

			<p>us at the table as we explore its wide welcome. When all are at the table, we are better together.</p> <p>Watch the Exploring a Wide(r) Welcome video. (49:01)</p> <p>Watch the video discussion video. (15:05)</p> <p>Download Building an Inclusive Church: A Welcoming Toolkit.</p>
October 1	11:00 am and 7:00 pm	Discussion of Business Items	<p>Board representatives will be available to discuss the business items, including the proposed changes to the bylaws and the Nominating Committee Report.</p> <p>Watch a recording of the 11:00 am session.</p> <p>Watch a recording of the 7:00 pm session.</p>
October 8 [Sarah will also present on this same topic September 15 via a webinar on the Pension Fund website .]	11:00 am	Getting You on the Road to Financial Wellness by Sarah Renfro, Area Director with the Pension Fund of the Christian Church	<p>Ministers' financial lives are complicated: salaries are modest, many have student loans, and ministers want to be generous as well as save for the future. We will explore elements of clergy compensation and share how Pension Fund is finding new ways to support clergy (and their congregations). Join us to cut through the confusion and learn about new resources that will help answer your toughest money questions so you can find your path to financial wellness.</p> <p>Watch the recording.</p>
October 15	7:00 pm	Faith Education for Leaders Leslie LeSieur, Director Phillips Center for Ministry and Lay Training Ulysses Allen, Recruiter, Phillips Theological Seminary	<p>Jesus needs an educated church, full of well-formed and informed Christians, led by persons with sound educational foundations. A vital part of the educational options for individuals and congregations are the Center for Ministry and Lay Training and other programs at Phillips Theological Seminary offering quality, in-depth courses for laity and clergy. Men and women of all ages and occupations are responding to the call to serve their congregations and communities with these online offerings. Come learn more as we share how we can serve 'Better Together'.</p> <p>Watch the recording.</p>
October 22	11:00 am	Emerging your Church from Survival Mode to Thriving Mode / Cane Ridge Re-Vital Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin, Sr. Pastor of First Christian Church Sedalia and Rev. Ron Routledge, Regional Minister	<p>Is your congregation just surviving? Would you like to be thriving? This workshop will explore the theological and methodological approaches to co-building with Christ a vibrant congregation. It is for Pastors and congregational leaders who desire to see Christ build his church and will provide spiritual and practical suggestions toward a healthy Body engaging fruitful ministry.</p> <p>Watch the recording.</p> <p>FCC's 2018-2020 vision.</p> <p>FCC's 2014-2016 vision.</p>
October 29	11:00 am	Mission in Action: Through Relationship, Partnership, and Collaboration Rev. Kathryn Wilson, Minister of Mission and Outreach at South Joplin CC	<p>Mission and Outreach are an essential part of our identity as followers of Christ. There is no one way to engage in mission within our faith communities. Join the conversation as our presenter explores with us the difference it can make when mission is engaged from a relational perspective, including partnerships and collaboration with mission organizations, non-profits and community agencies and our neighbors. What</p>

			<p>opportunities exist within our own denominational entities? Time will be spent sharing stories and scripture and exploring how mission partnerships develop and work.</p> <p>Watch the recording. Slide presentation.</p>
November 5	7:00 pm	<p>Affirming: Living Out the Ministry of Welcome Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance</p>	<p>Stop being (just) a welcoming church. How do we move from a potentially passive practice of welcome to active ministry that includes all, particularly those who have historically felt excluded from church life and practice? Living into the call to practice welcome and embody radical hospitality requires new tools and intentional conversations. Join with the Open & Affirming Team of Mid-America as we draw upon scripture to shape practices for expanding and deepening welcome within and beyond our churches. This conversation is shaped for those who are familiar with the Open & Affirming process, ready to take next steps to become O&A, or who have been living it and need new tools to continue this work.</p>
November 12	11:00 am	<p>Leading During These Trying Times Angela Whitenhill-Shields and/or Hector Hernandez of National Benevolent Association</p>	<p>With all that is swirling around for clergy as they navigate the demands of pandemic culture, technology, and societal tensions, it is often hard to take a moment to pause, process, and find clarity for the path moving forward. This workshop was created to give clergy a space to breathe, process, and engage intentional conversations with others facing the same stressors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help process their own stress and confusion while leading during these trying times • share helpful resources • create space for collaborative problem solving and brainstorming ideas for moving forward