



# National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

## 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting & Conference

### Live Workshop List with Presenters & Descriptions

[All Workshops will be recorded and available on our Website after the Annual Meeting]

[updated May 27, 2021 ~ subject to change]

**Live/Virtual via Zoom Workshops will be presented during the Annual Meeting**

**LIVE ~ Saturday, June 19, 5:00pm CT**

**TITLE: Write On!**

PRESENTERS: Pastor Carol Taylor, United Church of Beloit, Beloit, Wisconsin

Rev. Terry Bobzien, First Congregational Church, Pittsford, Michigan

Have some quiet time to write a devotional for our Advent or Lent Devotional booklet. With writers from our sister churches, we hold the NACCC in our hands when we use and share these devotionals. Join the Growth Ministry Council as they talk about how to write a devotional and actually write one (or more) for inclusion in the upcoming devotional booklets.

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**LIVE ~ Saturday, June 19, 5:45pm CT**

**TITLE: Reading and Praying the Scriptures with Our Ancestors**

PRESENTERS: Pastor Dan Vellinga, First Congregational Church, Marshalltown, Iowa

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Lectio Divina is an ancient spiritual discipline of reading the Scriptures with the heart and the intuition. The early church fathers and mothers developed this method that has continued to be appreciated by Christians through the centuries. Practiced individually or in a group, it is a way to investigate how the Bible speaks to the individual, while complementing traditional methods of Scripture study. Participants will be able to reflect on scriptures cherished by our Pilgrim ancestors as we celebrate our 400 years of Congregational history and spirituality.

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**LIVE ~ Saturday, June 19, 6:30pm CT**

**TITLE: Understanding and Engaging the Younger Generation in Christian Mission**

PRESENTERS: Amy Kennedy, Co-Executive Director (Placement and Communications), and Dr. Darwin Glassford,

Board of Directors, A Christian Ministry in the National Park

Are you looking for ways to attract younger people to your congregation? Learn more about the nuances of Millennials, Gen-Z, and Generation Alpha. Learn how they think, what they are looking for in a church, and identify ways you can more easily target these younger generations. The opportunities are endless, and you might be surprised to learn just what an asset these demographics might be to your church!

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**LIVE ~ Sunday, June 20, 2:00pm CT**

**TITLE: Lay Ministry Class on Spiritual Formations**

PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, Faith Community Church, Franklin, Wisconsin

Join us for a sample course under the new Lay Ministry program. Spiritual Formations will give you an idea of a year one-session long course. This course will provide an introduction to spiritual formation, discipleship, and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Using daily practices of spiritual reading, prayer and meditation, students will be guided to a greater understanding of God and essential pathways to experiencing God.

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**LIVE ~ Sunday, June 20, 2:45pm CT**

**TITLE: What is an Ecclesiastical Council?**

PRESENTERS: Rev. Justin Nierer, Vitality Ministry Council Chair, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

What is the potential for Congregational Churches in engaging the process of Ecclesiastical Councils? They are not only for the very important occasions of the ordination and installation of pastors (in which they are almost always advised) but can do so much more for the local church in terms of discernment on making significant changes in programming, gaining wisdom for better stewardship of resources, working toward the transformation of situations of conflict, and so much more! Attend this workshop/panel discussion and hear from churches, lay leaders, and pastors on how they use these amazing tools to guide their churches and ministries effectively towards God's will!