



Prepared to Serve
February 25, 2023

Connecting & Reconnecting

I want to see you and share with you the same blessings that God's Spirit has given me. Then you will grow stronger in your faith. What I am saying is that we can encourage each other by the faith that is ours. Romans 1:11-12 (CEV)

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
Phone: 603.225.6647 Toll Free: 1.888.642.8229
www.nhcucc.org

2023 Prepared to Serve Agenda

Registration (Refreshments)	8:00 am - 8:45 am
Welcome and Opening Prayer	9:00 am - 9:20 am
Workshop Block A	9:45 am - 11:00 am
Workshop Block B	11:20 am - 12:20 pm
Workshop Block C	12:40 pm - 1:55 pm
Installation of Rev. Sara Marean	2:30 pm

Registration

Register online by following the registration link at www.nhcucc.org. All major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted.

***Each registrant must have their own email. If you do not have access to the internet, or if you are doing a mass registration and do not have a unique email address for each registrant, please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 for assistance.**

Online Registration

Individuals registering online **on or before February 8, 2023 at 11:59 pm** will pay a **reduced fee of \$40/person**. If the registration fees should prohibit your ability to attend this event please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 or email events@nhcucc.org for assistance.

Day-of Registrations

Individuals registering after the close of online registration (February 8th) will need to wait until the day of the event to register. The "Day-Of" registration fee is **\$55/person**.

Refreshments & Lunch

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, refreshments, and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. Because the food service department doesn't have a registered dietitian available, we are unable to honor special requests.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Welcome and Opening prayer will begin promptly at 9:00 am.

Offering

The offering received during the Installation of Rev. Sara Marean in the afternoon, will go to support a ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ.

Along with your offering, please bring your church's 2023 OCWM Pledge Form.

Exhibitors

The Exhibit Area will be open throughout the day. Participants are encouraged to visit with the representatives of these local, state, and national organizations.

Child Care

If you require child care in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference is prepared to provide financial assistance. Please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 or via email at cbradley@nhcucc.org for additional information.

Accessibility

Pembroke Academy is an accessible facility with designated parking at the main entrance. If you require additional accommodation in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference will reimburse you for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$200. Please submit reimbursement requests to events@nhcucc.org with either a written estimate or receipt two weeks in advance.

Remember

BRING THIS BOOKLET WITH YOU TO THE EVENT!

Workshop Block A

9:45am – 11:00am
75 minutes

A1 Best Financial Practice for Churches – 2023

Room 1003

(Intermediate/Some Experience, also offered in Block C1) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

The goals/objectives of the workshop are:

- To provide ministers and lay leaders an overview and basic knowledge of nonprofit financial issues unique to churches.

*Presented by **William Hoysradt** (CPA, MBA (Retired Finance Officer, NHCUCC. Also former moderator, treasurer, trustee, and deacon of Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester)*

A2 21st Century Liturgy Opportunities

Room 1004

Come explore new ways of creating liturgy in your church settings. Here is an opportunity to try new ways of worship, building on UCC Worship Ways with blended styles, music, and drama that incorporates more inclusive LGBTQ+ and anti-racism language. Discover ways to draw in multi-generational involvement in the sacraments and communion.

The goals/objective of this workshop are:

- explore ways to update our liturgy to the 21st century
- learn how to incorporate more inclusive language in our liturgy
- explore ways to introduce different mediums into worship

*Presented by **Rev. Renee Rouse** (Pastor & Teacher of Northwood Congregational Church)*

A3 Holding Sacred Space for the Journey

Room 1012

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered Block C3) Bringing my years as a hospice chaplain to encourage others to embody hope, learn the ministry of presence; how to be light and bear witness to other's stories (without rushing to platitudes or trying to "fix it.") The class will be interactive and as my teenagers say "not boring" — engaging together through the pathways of liturgical arts. Learn how to empower people of faith to hold sacred space for each other and themselves. Participants will experience this through artistic, musical, and writing methodologies and be able to lead this after living it through doing. All are welcome!! Come with openness & anticipation. Let's see what God will do!!

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- to empower each of us to give space for our inward journey, the sacred in our own stories, and to equip those who feel called to stretch, grow and experience the wonder and privilege of providing spiritual care to others.
- Introducing a variety of methodologies such as imagining blank canvases waiting to be filled, music, writing, and reflection participants will practice
- Attentive listening
- Validating
- Encouraging
- Prayer and blessings.

*Presented by **Shellie Brook** (Member in Discernment Carrol-Strafford Association, Licensed Pastor for Lee Congregational Church)*

A4 Caring for Alzheimer's in Today's World

Room 1013

(All Levels, also offered in Block C4) The presenter will offer first hand experience of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. She will share tips to help caregivers realize the importance of caring for themselves first. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are:

- Better understanding of the challenges of caring for someone with Alzheimer's.
- Understand the importance of selfcare for the caregiver.

*Presented by **Marjorie Burke** (author of 4 books, journaling the progress of this disease with her husband Donald)*

A5 Listening to the Holy Spirit

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered in Block C5) God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help leaders seeking God's help in changing and growing their churches. Don't wait for the burning bush, set your own soul on fire!

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life.
- Leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of subtle nudges or deep silences from God.

*Presented by **Rev. Catherine Merrill** (Pastor of Brookline Community Church)*

A6 Boundary Awareness Training: A Lay Leader's Perspective

Room 1017

(Introductory/Beginner) Good boundaries are essential in keeping everyone safe, even in church. This workshop will look at what lay leadership needs to know about healthy boundaries in a church context

The goal/objective of this workshop is:

- to explore with lay leaders the fundamental understanding of keeping healthy boundaries.

*Presented by **Rev. Gordon Rankin** (Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference, UCC)*

A7 Capital Campaigns – Now is the Time

Room 1018

(Intermediate/Beginner) We will discuss steps in planning and conducting a capital fund raising campaign based on a campaign conducted at the First Congregational Church, Hampton, NH.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are

- Provide insight in planning, organizing, and conducting a campaign
- Subsequently executing the building phase.

*Presented by **David Weatherly** (previous Capital Campaign co-chair for First Congregational Church, Hampton, NH)*

A8 Crying in the Wilderness – An Immigrant’s Journey in Detention

Room 1021

(Introductory/beginner) We will illustrate through photographs, words, and artwork the emotional toll of detaining an immigrant. In 2018 ‘Antony’ (a pseudonym for his safety) was shackled, chained, and jailed by immigration authorities only for requesting asylum. Because of the pandemic, he was moved from jail to a host home, but is still constantly tracked with a GPS monitor. For the last year, NH photographer Becky Field has documented his life in the confines of the home. Her black and white photographs show the emotional toll of the ever-present monitor on a man’s dignity and freedom. A poet and artist, Antony will share his experiences since leaving his African home.

The goals/objectives:

- address and illustrate the issues of detaining and shackling asylum seekers.
- talk about immigration issues as they impact our new American neighbors in New Hampshire.

*Presented by **Becky Field** (member of Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NHCUCC, and a member of South Congregational Church’s Worship & Spiritual Life Ministry)*

A9 Experiences of Grace OUTSIDE the church: Carrying God’s Grace to the Spiritual but not religious

Room 1022

(Introductory/Beginner) We know that God’s grace is real and sustaining. But we also now know less than 3 in 10 people have anything to do with any faith tradition. It is not God who is limited but our faith communities are sometimes the barrier. So how do we understand this world? How do we bring experiences of God outside our church walls? How do we meet those who are ‘spiritually hungry but not religious?’. How do we authentically speak of our faith without alienating people?

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Raise awareness and encourage people to think about this issue,
- Give them encouragement, examples, and theological grounding for bringing experiences of God outside our churches.

*Presented by **Rev. Gayle Murphy** (member of Congregational Church of North Barnstead. Called to minister to those outside the church)*

A10 So Your Church is ONA: How do you live into that covenant?

Room 1026

(All) When we become ONA (Open and Affirming) congregations, we strive to welcome and affirm all, demonstrating faith and 'love in action' in our churches and communities. This workshop will describe ways that one church is living into its Open and Affirming Covenant.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Share approaches and examples of how one church strives to live into the words of its ONA covenant
- Explore ways that your own church can live into its ONA Covenant

*Presented by **Carol Soucy** (Chair Open and Affirming Committee, First Congregational Church, Manchester)*

A11 Let's Talk about Death and Dying in New Hampshire

Room 1027

(All Levels, also offered in Block C11) This workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal importance of talking about death and dying; where things stand in NH in terms of end of life options, and viewpoints and hopes from clergy and layfolk for what we'd like to see in NH.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Learn more about ethical, moral, legal, and spiritual aspects of death & dying.
- Become well informed about current end of life options in NH
- Explore what is needed in terms of choice and options, positions on those options
- How our churches can interface with these issues as the Beloved Community

*Presented by **Rev. Holly Tomilson, Rev. Mary James, and Ms. Rebecca Brown.** (Rebecca serves as Executive Director for the NH Alliance for End of Life Options and is a former NH State Representative.)*

A12 Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice

Room 1030

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered in Block C12) Over 7 million people in our country are affected by our current retributive penal system. Homelessness, drug dependency and dealing, broken families, feelings of worthlessness, depression...they are all a result of our current way of 'punishing.' Is this God's justice? Is this God's mercy? Is there a better way? Yes! Definitely Yes! Come learn about Restorative Justice and how you can be involved.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are that Participants will:

- Understand the terms Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice and be able to discuss the specifics of each.
- Be challenged to a deeper understanding of God's justice, mercy, and love.
- Receive resources to learn more and possibly start a restorative justice ministry in their church.
- Receive an opportunity to join an education/advocacy team for the promotion of Restorative Justice in NH.

*Presented by **Rev. Cheryl Stromski** (pastor of Newfields Community Church)*

A13 Self-care during a Pandemic

Room 2002

(Introductory/Beginner) The ongoing pandemic, combined with other chronic stressors, impacts individuals and organizations in many ways. We will focus on identifying healthy ways of coping.

The goal/objectives of this workshop are:

- Identify how current stressors impact physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental health.
- Identify healthy coping strategies.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Calvin Genzel** (Executive Director, Pastoral Counseling Services) and **Rev. Dr. David Reynolds** (NH Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist, Pastoral Counseling Services)*

A14 Become a Creation Justice Church

Room 2003

(Introductory/Beginner) Learn about the UCC Creation Justice Church Program and hear from representatives of NH congregations who have worked together to gain this recognition and add their voices to the call for climate justice in the face of global warming.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Participants will learn about the steps that local churches can take to become a Creation Justice church.
- Participants will learn about the benefits that follow this recognition.

*Presented by **Rev. Rob Grabill** (Associate Pastor, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Chair of the NHCUCC Environmental Justice Mission Group, member of the UCC National Council for Climate Justice)*

A15 Spirituality in Aging

Room 2011

(Introductory/Beginner) How do we navigate change and loss in the course of aging? Spirituality provides resources for sustaining one's identity, belonging, and purpose through later life challenges.

The goals/objective of this workshop:

- Identify challenges of aging and the spiritual themes they evoke
- Apply Knowledge of spiritual themes to particular stories of aging
- Explore spiritual resources for navigating change and loss

*Presented by **Rev. Joel Eaton** (Interfaith Chaplain and ACPE Certified Educator Candidate, Havenwood Heritage Heights; and **Cherie Shaw** (Interfaith Chaplain, Havenwood Heritage Heights and Member in Discernment of the Merrimack Association)*

A16 The Threats to Public Education: What NHCUCC clergy & laity should know about the Convergence of Anti-Government Extremism and Christian Nationalism

Auditorium

(Introductory/Beginner) If you value your local public school(s) as an essential element of the common good and foundational to the building of beloved community, you won't want to miss this workshop featuring acclaimed journalist and podcaster Jennifer Berkshire. Jennifer closely follows the convergence of anti-government/anti-public school extremism and Christian Nationalism, which is now often cloaked in the guise of "parental rights." This workshop, offered by the Economic Justice Mission Group, will provide just a brief primer on these troubling phenomena.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are:

- to build an awareness of the threats to public education in NH and
- to enhance our understanding of the right-wing funded origins of this anti-public school movement.

Presenter by **Jennifer Berkshire** (*Jennifer is co-author of the 2020 book 'A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School' and hosts an education podcast 'Have You Heard? She writes and speaks extensively about the nationally orchestrated, locally-manifested forces that are converging in NH and elsewhere to undermine, de-fund or otherwise dismantle as much of public education as possible. She also focuses on the push to prohibit teachers from teaching honestly about race, gender, and U.S. history)*

A17 Taming your church's energy bills (while make all things reNEWable)

Room 2028

(Introductory/Beginner) We all want to be good stewards of God's earth! Learn how to reduce the cost of energy for your church building through the use of renewable resources, such as solar power, and energy efficiency. Explore technology that will reduce your church's carbon footprint and how it can be done in surprisingly cost-effective ways. Learn about examples of successful projects and alternatives for financing them.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are making investment in your church facility that can:

- Reduce costs
- Improve comfort
- Improve air quality
- Reduce carbon footprint
- Pay for itself and then pay dividends

*Presented by **Tom Werst** (Trustee & Delegate for Congregational Church of Amherst), and **Herb Archer** (member of the Congregational Church of Amherst)*

Workshop Block B
11:20am – 12:20pm
60 minutes

B1 Protecting Your Church with a Homeland Security Grant

Room 1003

(Intermediate/Some Experience) The State of NH offers easy-to-apply-for grants to enhance the security of houses of worship. Based on the experience of the First Congregational Church of Hampton, we will discuss the steps necessary to successfully apply for and implement a homeland security grant.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are to provide participants with an understanding of

- An overview of threats to house of worship
- How to conduct a facility assessment
- How to apply for a homeland security grant
- The requirements for implementing the grant

*Presented by **Donald P Bliss** (Board of Deacons, First Congregational Church of Hampton)*

B2 Critical Insurance Issues for Church Leaders

Room 1004

(Introductory/Beginner) An overview of insurance issues facing churches today, along with a review of the essential coverages every church needs. The workshop will include a discussion of recent claims trends and risk management practices designed to reduce the churches exposure to loss.

The goals of this workshop are:

- Raise awareness of necessary insurances to protect ministries
- Provide useful risk management techniques to reduce the chance of loss at churches.

*Presented by **Dale Bartlett** (UCC Insurance Board, Conference Agent)*

B3 Ecumenism in NH: What is the NH Council of Churches?

Room 1012

(All Levels) Perhaps you've heard of the Council of Churches, or perhaps you haven't. Who comprises the Council? What exactly do we do? Why is ecumenism important? What's happening at the State Legislature that requires voices of faith to be present, and how can we help with that? What can the Council offer to congregations and denominations?

The goals/objectives of the workshop:

- To understand more fully who and what the NH Council of Churches is!
- To understand the ecumenical landscape in NH
- Understanding how to use one's voice in the public square as a person of faith

*Presented by **Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath** (Executive Director), **Rev. Jim Thomas**, (Board Member)*

B4 Calling All Climate Superheroes – Engage Youth in Climate Justice

Room 1013

(Introductory/Beginner) Today's youth are well aware of the challenges of climate change and they can be excited to learn they can have a voice and role within their church communities in seeking climate justice. Learn how engaging children from PreK – Highschool can bring real change and make church relevant!

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Participants will learn of the programs available through the NH Conference and UCC to engage and inspire youth in local congregations.
- Learn about the Climate Hope Art Project and the Horton Center Climate Superhero week.
- Participants will make contacts for advice and ongoing support.

*Presented by **Rev. Rob Grabill** (Associate Pastor, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Chair of the NHCUCC Environmental Justice Mission Group, member of the UCC National Council for Climate Justice)*

B5 Learnings about Hybrid Worship

Room 1014

(Intermediate/some experience) Many of our congregations have had to figure out how to offer online worship during the pandemic. Now we are worshipping with some in the sanctuary and some online. This brings unique challenges both logistically and pastorally. This workshop will explore some of these challenges and how local congregations can adapt.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Share information about effective platforms and tools for hybrid worship
- Explore strategies to unite online and in-person congregations
- Share tips for creating meaningful worship for hybrid settings.

*Presented by **Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin** (Pastor of First Parish Church of Dover)*

B6 Our Federal Budget Priorities

Room 1017

(Introductory/Beginner) The 2022 budget for the Pentagon was \$823 billion, accounting for more than half of all discretionary spending. With the end of the Afghanistan war, for the first time in American history, there was no peace dividend or decrease in military spending whatsoever. Come learn about this imbalance and what we lose due to excessive pentagon spending.

The goal/objects of this workshop:

- To educate attendees with facts about Pentagon spending and give them tools to effectively advocate for new priorities in federal spending.

*Presented by **Will Hopkins** (Executive Director, NH Peace Action and a member of the NHCUCC Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group)*

B7 How prayer can center and guide your church

Room 1018

(Introductory/Beginner) Engaging a significant number of parishioners in regular prayer for your church can, and will, transform it! We will explore real examples and work with participants to imagine how prayer might be effectively implemented in their churches.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Help participant learn what a difference a prayer community can make in their church
- How to begin or build up prayer groups in the church

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Jim Howard** (founding member of New Thing Task Force Mission Group, NHCUCC and member of First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, NH)*

B8 Becoming a UKAMA Partner Church

Room 1021

(Introductory/Beginner) This workshop will provide basic information about the UKAMA partnership between the NHCUCC and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. It will cover the steps necessary to becoming linked to a church in Zimbabwe through the UKAMA Covenant.

Goals/Objectives of the workshop:

- Help churches have information about UKAMA to discuss a partnership with their congregations
- Help discern whether becoming part of UKAMA is the next step for them.

*Presented by **Charen Urban**, (Vice Chair of UKAMA Partnership Mission Group)*

B9 Gender vs Sex, a Transgender Perspective

Room 1022

(Introductory/Beginner) Are you comfortable with your gender? Is gender different than sex? What are the challenges transgender people face and how can you help? If these are questions you've asked yourself or others, you need to come to this session prepared to ask questions.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- To better understand the difference between gender and sex. Essentially, the difference between gay and transgender people.
- To learn what baggage or experiences an LGBTQ person often brings with them when looking for a spiritual home
- To learn from the experiences of others who found a new home in the UCC church.

*Presented by **Gerri Cannon** (member Open & Affirming Concerns Mission Group)*

B10 Family Homelessness

Room 1026

(Introductory/Beginner) When many of us hear the words ‘homeless person’ we think of someone in tattered clothing sleeping on a sidewalk or holding a sign at a busy intersection. But did you know that in recent years nearly half of the homeless population in NH is made up of families? This workshop will explore different aspects of family homelessness.

The goal/objective of this workshop

- Give an understanding of causes of family homelessness and the effects homelessness has on families, especially on the health and development of children.
- Explore ways our NHCUCC churches can support this important ministry

*Presented by **Stephen Croke** (Executive Director at Family Promise of Greater Concord)*

B11 Secular Books for Sacred Discussion

Room 1027

(Introductory/Beginner) We want our faith to integrate with our secular lives. Using familiar activities, like a book group which reads very-NOT-church-y books, has dramatically increased our fellowship and our skills at integrating our faith into our Monday – Saturday lives.

The goals and objectives of this workshop:

- Review successful tools for selecting and discussing very secular books in a sacred way
- Explore techniques for integrating book discussion back into worship

*Presented by **Rev. Catherine Merrill** (pastor at Brookline Community Church)*

B12 Promoting Spiritual Community through contemporary worship

Room 1030

(All) Members of Concord's First Church Jazz Sanctuary worship team will describe ways of utilizing popular music and creative liturgies to address the need for spiritual community.

The goal/objective:

- Participants will learn strategies for developing creative liturgies and musical ideas that increase a sense of spiritual community within their local church and community.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Tim Wildman** (member of First Concord Congregational Jazz Sanctuary Team) **Rev. Emilia Halstead** (pastor of First Concord Congregational and member of Jazz Sanctuary Team), and **Jock Irvine** (Technology Integrator, First Congregational Church, Concord, member of Jazz Sanctuary Team)*

B13 To Live Out Jesus' Teachings and the Call of the Prophets, Faith Voices Belong in the Public Square

Room 2002

(Introductory/beginner) What does the Lord require of us? What does it mean to 'do justice' and 'love kindness' when we are out in the world during the week? The NHCUCC Economic Justice Mission Group believes we are called to be active advocates for public policies that reflect our core faith tenets of love and justice. Over the years, our Conference resolutions of Christian Witness reflect likewise! Our economic justice team is a founding partner in the multifaith NH Voices of Faith effort marshalling a visible faith presence when the NH Legislature is in session so we can bring our collective voices to matters of particular moral concern. Join us in this workshop to learn more, take stock of some key issues before the NH Legislature and to learn about what advocacy role each of us can play.

The goal/objective:

- to encourage more people to become involved as public policy advocates when matters of justice, fairness and caring 'for the least of these' are under consideration in the NH Legislature and related public policy-making venues in NH.

*Presented by **Pastor Gail Kinney and Claudia Istel** (members of NHCUCC Economic Justice Mission Group)*

B14 Why Your Church Needs Horton Center!

Room 2003

(Introductory/Beginner) With Director Tim Hughes and Summer Director Tivvi Pare you will find out what and where Horton Center is and how it can enhance and recharge your family, your church, and your ministry. This 'jewel of the conference' is ready to provide life-changing, spirit-growing experiences out in God's backyard. Are you ready to grow?

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- to educate, inform, and inspire our churches about the benefits and the growth Horton Center can provide.
- to encourage more churches to take advantage of all that the Horton Center has to offer.

*Presented by **Tim Hughes** (Executive Director, Horton Center, NH Conference, UCC)*

B15 Immigration Issues 2023

Room 2011

(All Levels) From the laws of the Old Testament to the teachings of Jesus, we read the exhortations that we are to love one another and welcome the stranger and that "the foreigners who reside among us shall be to us as the citizens among us...." But this is *not* the treatment that most asylum-seekers are experiencing. Offered by the NHCUCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group, this session will focus on the realities of what asylum-seekers actually face as they turn to our country and communities for safety and acceptance. Presenters will discuss what *is* asylum and how does one apply, how immigration courts work, obstacles to being allowed to work, Dreamers, Title 42 – and more.

The Goals/Objectives of this Workshop are:

- to provide attendees with reliable information about the inhumane U.S. immigration system
- to discuss how NHC UCCers can be agents of welcome and advocacy for the asylum-seekers in our midst.

*Presented by **Rev. Sandra Pontoh** (Pastor of the Maranatha Indonesian UCC in Madbury), **Maggie Fogarty** and **Grace Kindeke** (American Friends Service Committee-NH Program)*

B16 Eradicating Poverty Through Innovative Solutions for Housing Insecurity

Room 2026

(Introductory/Beginner) MATE's (Mission at the Eastward) mission statement reads: *"Mission at the Eastward's mission is to "love our neighbors" through volunteer home repairs, transitional housing, and youth outreach to create lives of hope, security and dignity in Central Western Maine."*

The goal/objective of this workshop is to:

- Help churches identify community needs and establish collaborative partnerships
- Communicate the story of loving your neighbor and how that has a profound effect on people,
- Understanding the hard decisions and risks involved are worth it to being about organizational transformation and help build better lives for those who are struggling.

*Presented by **Chris DeLisle** (Executive Director, MATE) and **Sharon Cowen** (Board Chair, MATE)*

B17 Making Sense of the Changes caused by Covid

Room 2028

(Introductory/Beginner) The Covid pandemic has resulted in losses of many kinds. Some of those losses are easy to recognize, while other losses are more subtle. This workshop will look at the effects of the (ongoing) covid pandemic and how it has affected us personally and as a church community. We will look at the losses caused by covid and explore ways to come to terms with these losses and move forward in a changed world.

The goals/objective of this workshop:

- Provide a perspective on the changes caused by the covid pandemic
- Explore how loss and grief have impacted us as individuals and as a church community and how to move forward

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Rhonda MacLeod** (Licensed pastoral psychotherapist, New England Pastoral Institute)*

Workshop Block C

12:40pm – 1:55pm
75 minutes

C1 Best Financial Practice for Churches – 2023

Room 1003

(Intermediate/Some Experience, also offered in Block A1) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues and document retention.

The goals/objectives of the workshop are:

- To provide ministers and lay leaders an overview and basic knowledge of nonprofit financial issues unique to churches.

*Presented by **William Hoysradt** (CPA, MBA (Retired Finance Officer, NHCUCC. Also former moderator, treasurer, trustee, and deacon of Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester)*

C2 21st Century Liturgy Opportunities

Room 1004

Come explore new ways of creating liturgy in your church settings. Here is an opportunity to try new ways of worship, building on UCC Worship Ways with blended styles, music, and drama that incorporates more inclusive LGBTQ+ and anti-racism language. Discover ways to draw in multi-generational involvement in the sacraments and communion.

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- learn how to incorporate more inclusive language in our liturgy
- explore ways to introduce different mediums into worship

*Presented by **Rev. Renee Rouse** (Pastor & Teacher of Northwood Congregational Church)*

C3 Holding Sacred Space for the Journey

Room 1012

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered Block A3) Bringing my years as a hospice chaplain to encourage others to embody hope, learn the ministry of presence; how to be light and bear witness to other's stories (without rushing to platitudes or trying to "fix it.") The class will be interactive and as my teenagers say "not boring" — engaging together through the pathways of liturgical arts. Learn how to empower people of faith to hold sacred space for each other and themselves. Participants will experience this through artistic, musical, and writing methodologies and be able to lead this after living it through doing. All are welcome!! Come with openness & anticipation. Let's see what God will do!!

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- Introducing a variety of methodologies such as imagining blank canvases waiting to be filled, music, writing, and reflection participants will practice
- Attentive listening
- Validating
- Encouraging
- Prayer and blessings.

*Presented by **Shellie Brook** (Member in Discernment Carol-Strafford Association, Licensed Pastor for Lee Congregational Church)*

C4 Caring for Alzheimer's in Today's World

Room 1013

(All Levels, also offered in Block C4) The presenter will offer first hand experience of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. She will share tips to help caregivers realize the importance of caring for themselves first. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are:

- Better understanding of the challenges of caring for someone with Alzheimer's.
- Understand the importance of selfcare for the caregiver.

*Presented by **Marjorie Burke** (author of 4 books, journaling the progress of this disease with her husband Donald)*

C5 Listening to the Holy Spirit

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered in Block C5) God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help leaders seeking God's help in changing and growing their churches. Don't wait for the burning bush, set your own soul on fire!

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life.
- Leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of subtle nudges or deep silences from God.

*Presented by **Rev. Catherine Merrill** (Pastor of Brookline Community Church)*

C6 Faithful Financial Practices – A Wellness Checkup

Room 1017

(Intermediate/Some Experience) This workshop begins by listening to you – the church leader involved in the stewardship of your church's financial resources. Then offer resources and propose ways for you to continue nurturing faithful stewardship.

The goals/objectives:

- Listen to church leaders' hopes and concerns regarding faithful stewardship
- Offer resources which support congregational vitality

*Presented by **Dan Tinkham** (chair of NHCUCC Finance Ministry) and **Rev. David Keller**, (member of NHCUCC Finance Ministry)*

C7 Meeting the Challenges of Decreased Volunteerism

Room 1018

(Introductory/Beginner) For some time now the Associations of the New Hampshire Conference have been experiencing difficulty filling volunteer positions for a structure that was designed in a different time and around a different volunteer base. The Association Capacity Building Team has been charged to reimagine that structure based on the priorities of today's member congregations. We need to hear from you! What kind of support do your congregations need right now? How can we best serve you? How might we restructure associations within the NH Conference in such a way as to allow us all to engage meaningfully with our beautiful but struggling world?

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Increase awareness of the structure and the work of the NHCUCC Associations.
- Discuss how restructuring could benefit all NHCUCC churches and our ministries.
- Participate in this new and meaningful way of being church.

*Presented by **Rev. Shayna Appel** (Moderator of Hillsborough Assoc and Co-Host of the podcast 'What in God's Name') and **Rev. Gayle Murphy**, (member of Congregational Church of North Barnstead. Called to minister to those outside the church)*

C8 End 68 Hours of Hunger

Room 1021

(Introductory/Beginner) Childhood food insecurity occurs when children receive insufficient food on a regular basis. This has a tremendous impact on them physically and emotionally as it also impacts their ability to focus and concentrate on learning. Community donations of food to a local End 68 Hours of Hunger program provides enough food to carry them from school lunch on Friday to school breakfast on Monday.

The goals/objective of this workshop:

- Increase awareness of the problems of food insecurity among school age children.
- Discuss how the program puts food in the hands of the children for the weekend.
- Provide information on how to support and/or create an End 68 Hours of Hunger program.

*Presented by **Rev. Donna Vuilleumier** (pastor at Smith Memorial Church, Hillsborough and the Community Outreach Coordinator for SAU34 End 68 Hours of Hunger program)*

C9 Confronting White Christian Nationalism

Room 1022

(Introductory/beginner) An expose of what Carter Heyward describes as ‘the seven deadly sins of white Christian nationalism’, and a Call to action on behalf of the beloved community at the heart of our faith

The goal/objective of this workshop:

- To learn about the roots and dangers of White Christian Nationalism
- To envision ways that individuals and congregations can faithfully proclaim and live the good news of God’s love, justice, and collective liberation.

*Presented by **Rev. John Gregory Davis** (Co-Pastor at Meriden Congregational Church and member of the Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group)*

C10 The top ten reasons for becoming an ONA (Open and Affirming) Church

Room 1026

(Introductory/Beginner) Out of the 131 UCC churches in the New Hampshire Conference, 64 churches are open and affirming (ONA). This workshop will offer reasons for every church to explore the ONA process and the steps to take to get there.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Explore the importance and the benefits of the ONA process
- Identify steps to take to begin and continue the ONA process in their churches.

*Presented by **John Rowe** (Chair of the Open & Affirming Concerns Mission Group of the NHCUC, and member of the First Congregational Church of Manchester)*

C11 Let's Talk about Death and Dying in New Hampshire

Room 1027

(All Levels, also offered in Block A11) This workshop will explore the personal, ethical, and legal importance of talking about death and dying; where things stand in NH in terms of end of life options, and viewpoints and hopes from clergy and layfolk for what we'd like to see in NH.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Learn more about ethical, moral, legal, and spiritual aspects of death & dying.
- Become well informed about current end of life options in NH
- Explore what is needed in terms of choice and options, positions on those options
- How our churches can interface with these issues as the Beloved Community

*Presented by **Rev. Holly Tomilson, Rev. Mary James, and Ms. Rebecca Brown.**
(Rebecca serves as Executive Director for the NH Alliance for End of Life Options and is a former NH State Representative)*

C12 Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice

Room 1030

(Introductory/Beginner, also offered in Block A12) Over 7 million people in our country are affected by our current retributive penal system. Homelessness, drug dependency and dealing, broken families, feelings of worthlessness, depression...they are all a result of our current way of 'punishing.' Is this God's justice? Is this God's mercy? Is there a better way? Yes! Definitely Yes! Come learn about Restorative Justice and how you can be involved.

The goals/objectives of this workshop are that Participants will:

- Understand the terms Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice and be able to discuss the specifics of each.
- Be challenged to a deeper understanding of God's justice, mercy, and love.
- Receive resources to learn more and possibly start a restorative justice ministry in their church.
- Receive an opportunity to join an education/advocacy team for the promotion of Restorative Justice in NH.

*Presented by **Rev. Cheryl Stromski** (pastor of Newfields Community Church)*

C13 Shared Pastorates: Two models for the church of today

Room 2002

(Any level) The model of a Shared Pastor is nothing new, but it can be difficult to imagine how it could really work. This workshop invites you to come and hear how two different models – yoked congregations, and the small church collaborative – can bring out the best in your location. We'll share how our models are similar, how they are different, what works, and what is really hard.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Share both the challenges and triumphs in the creation of a covenantal relationship for a shared pastor between two distinct churches
- Provide a broader sense of what is possible with a shared pastorate.

*Presenters: **Pastor Traceymay Kalvaitis** (Designated Term Pastor of Dublin Community Church and Community Church of Harrisville and Chesham). **Rev. Dr. Liz Magill**, (Designated Term Pastor, The Small Church Collaborative, Rindge NH and Ashburnham MA)*

C14 Vitality for your church

Room 2003

(Introductory/Beginner) Drawing upon real church examples, many from small UCC church in New England, you will be inspired by the creative and inventive ways that churches are reinventing themselves and finding new meaning and purpose, and often making a real difference in their communities. We will also encourage the participants to discover ways their own church can become more vital and thrive.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- Inspire churches to re-imagine who they are and who God is calling them to be

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Jim Howard** (founding member of New Thing Task Force Mission Group, NHCUCC and member of First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, NH)*

C15 Confirmation Programs for Associations

Room 2011

(Introductory/Beginner) In this workshop, Pastor Holland will share about the journey the Merrimack Association took to create an association wide confirmation program. She will discuss the successes and the challenges.

The goal/objective:

- to share information about Christian Education ministry development.

*Presenter by **Rev. Sara M. Holland** (pastor of Plymouth Congregational, UCC)*

C16 Grace in Tension: Discover Peace with Martha and Mary

Room 2026

(All Levels) As stress seems to be a constant in our world, we'll unpack Luke 10:38-42 with an eye for what Martha and Mary have to teach us about the different responses to stress. We'll also delve into the G-I-F-T method as a sure-fire way to bring our tension to Jesus so He can help us transform into grace.

The goals/objectives of this workshop:

- To provide participants with a step-by-step process that will help them work through their own stress and tension at the feet of Jesus
- To guide participants to serve with heads and hearts aligned to live out their own "better part."

*Presented by **Claire McGarry** (Writer and speaker, member of St. Matthew church)*

C17 LGBTQIA+ and Gender Identity

Room 2028

(All Levels) This workshop will provide perspective on the ever-changing world of sexual and gender identity. It will examine ways to understand and be more responsive to the LGBTQIA+ community as well as how to let your community know that you are an Open and Affirming Church. Even if you have been ONA for a while, the workshop hopes to provide a fresh perspective on what it means to be a welcoming church community. If your church is thinking about becoming Open and Affirming or just considering the idea of what it means to become Open and Affirming, this workshop will be beneficial.

The goals/objective of this workshop:

- Explore, and make sense of, the changing landscape of sexual preference and gender identity.
- Look at what it means to be part of the LGBTQIA+ community and how this can affect a person's spirituality.
- Discuss ways that churches can make known that they are a safe haven for members of this community.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Rhonda MacLeod** (LPP, Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist, New England Pastoral Institute)*

Please join us for the Installation of

Rev. Sara E. Marean

Associate Conference Minister

Auditorium, 2:30 pm

