

Become and Believe

Engaging God's Mission

172nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Offered by the office of Life Long Christian Formation

Friday November 20th & Saturday November 21st 2009

Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, Lombard, Illinois

Friday November 20th

Session I

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Audit Guide

BALLROOM J

Tom Smith, Keith Kampert

Review and discussion of the 172nd Convention Resolution on the Diocese of Chicago Audit Guide.

Open Conversation with the Commission on Ministry

BALLROOM I

Join members of the Commission on Ministry for a discussion about the work of the commission in our diocese.

Discernment and Discipleship: Praying God's Dream for Our Lives

LILAC C

Stacy Alan

Using a model developed by Kathy Staudt, a teacher, poet, spiritual director and retreat leader in the Washington DC area -- we will explore the voices God uses and the ways we listen to help us to hear the call for our lives. This model was developed for use particularly with young adults (but is useful for all), with support from the Evangelical Education Society of the Episcopal Church (EES).

Grief, Loss and Resilience: Listening for the Holy

LILAC D

Jay Risk

Every human being encounters grief and loss in life, but some seem to be more resilient than others in the face of it. What can clergy, chaplains, Eucharistic Ministers, spouses or friends do to help someone become more resilient in the face of loss and illness? Drawing on Narrative Theory, the work of Arthur W. Frank and others, this learning opportunity will offer participants a creative way of hearing stories of loss and illness in others and themselves.

Making Disciples through Stories of Brokenness and Transformation

CYPRESS A

Ethan Alexander Jewett

Many discussions of evangelism focus on marketing and programmatic strategies based on vision and mission statements, rather than personal stories of spiritual transformation. This workshop will look at how our stories of brokenness and healing can serve as a compelling witness to grow our congregations. We will begin with a brief examination of hagiography, spiritual biography, and personal testimony, including St. Augustine's *Confessions* and some real-life stories from the congregation of St. Nicholas, which will inform our own storytelling. We will conclude with self-reflective work to frame our stories as an authentic journey of Christian vocation and discipleship.

Mastering Conflict – Transforming the energy of conflict through the art of coaching.

LILAC B

Louisset M. Ness

The workshop explores our experiences of breakdowns and offers ideas for creating new ways of framing our experiences. Breakdowns are opportunities for breakthroughs. We will dance around breakdowns using role plays and personal stories.

Medical Trust - The Denominational Health Plan, Our Empire BCBS HDHP/HSA (High Deductible Health Plan/Health Savings Account)

BALLROOM H

Toni Sutliff, Ian Betts

Answer questions concerning our plan offerings to the Diocese and also concentration on the HDHP. Also answering and questions concerning the Denominational Health Plan passed by General Convention in 2009.

Transformation through Trade

LILAC A

Martha Gillette

Through pictures and stories taken from visits to Fair Trade producers and organizers in Africa (Malawi) and South America (Peru), we'll look at some of the basics of Fair Trade in the context of our Christian call to work for economic justice, and see how these principles and practices can change the lives of both producer and consumer.

"101" on Beginning and Maintaining Congregational Archives

CYPRESS B

Richard Seidel, Newland Smith

An introduction into the basics of creating an archive. Topics will include a records retention policy, what to do with electronic records, and how to store and provide access to an archives collection. This learning opportunity will provide handouts and will have time for participants to share their experiences and to ask questions.

Friday November 20th

Session II

10:30 - 11:45 AM

DO's of Retirement: A Preparatory Checklist for Clergy

CYPRESS B

Drury H. Green, Linda Green.

Panel: Caroline Bain, Dru Green, Sam Portaro, David Weaver

Preparing for a fulfilling, successful retirement is a "process", beginning months or years prior to retirement. This Learning Opportunity will provide a written checklist of practical, vocational, spiritual, and life-transition questions as well as a collection of resources to address those concerns for clergy who are contemplating retiring from

parochial or bi-vocational ministries. A panel of active retired clergy who have navigated the journey to retirement will be available to respond to questions and to share experiences. Each panel member will represent a specific area of consideration (practical, vocational, spiritual and life-transition).

The Face of Hunger: Anti-Hunger Ministries in the Diocese of Chicago

BALLROOM J

Phillip Mantle

Describe current challenges for anti-hunger work to which representatives from food pantries and soup kitchens will respond.

Faithful Stewardship in Tough Times

LILAC B

Episcopal Church Foundation

Christian communities have long relied on the gifts of faith, hope, and love to see them through tough times. In our current difficult economic times, faithful stewardship will not only depend on these spiritual gifts, but on sound knowledge and practical action. We will take a look at fundraising and the economy from a historical perspective, and share best practices and trends in the current climate. You will learn key tips toward sustaining your stewardship practices, such as how to: keep donors engaged; focus your fundraising efforts, build a fundraising team, and adapt your budget. We'll help you position the congregation for eventual economic recovery. Most importantly, you'll discern ways to stay focused on your congregation's mission, responding to God's call during these challenging days.

How Money Works

BALLROOM I

Marian B. Sides

If you feel stressed out by debt, you're not alone. In fact, 28% of households with a credit card balance say they hardly ever pay it off! * "How Money Works" is designed to help you take control. This free educational seminar, conducted by an Independent Representative of Primerica Financial Services, addresses four main areas: protection management, asset and income management, and debt management. It's a straight forward, educational approach that can help you get what you want in life and start building financial security for the future. * Kiplinger's, January 2001

Leadership by the Word of God

Steve Grove

LILAC A

Where the abundance of God's plan is most revealed, leadership is common practice. And while inspiration can be an exceptional driver, absent the broad formation of leadership skills in all of us, we are often bedeviled by the details of how to be the church of God's Mission. Fortunately, broader formation and clarity in leadership is

well within our reach. Greater progress begins not by studying all the many things we believe we have yet to learn, but rather by rethinking just a few things we know that ain't so. Come and see.

Roundtable on Total Ministry: A Baptismal Model for Sustaining and Growing Healthy Congregations

BALLROOM H

Trilby Murray, Michele Grimes, Sam Love, Tom Klocek, Arthur Anderson, John Houk, Steve Martz, Mary Anne O'Rourke; Charles de Kay, Robert O. Wyatt, Daryce Hoff Nolan, Jo Gantzer,

Total Ministry provides a model for calling congregations to wholeness and mission based on the baptismal ministry of all. Rather than being run by the rector and vestry, a TM congregation is organized around a ministry development team whose members have discerned a call to various ministries and who then work with other parishioners as they discern their call to service. TM had its genesis in small congregations but is flexible and adaptable to congregations of any size. It is not a way to save a dying congregation or return an unhealthy congregation to health.

Saving Our People From Gun Violence

LILAC D

Michael Pflieger & the Peace and Justice Committee.

A total of 510 people were murdered in Chicago during 2008. Eighty percent of these victims were killed by gunfire. Nearly half were between the ages of 10 and 25. Over the past 50 years, our society has made far less progress in understanding how to protect our citizens from gun violence (and violence more broadly) than we have learned about how to protect citizens from other serious threats to life and health. Father Michael Pflieger and the people of St. Sabina Faith Community have been in the forefront of the struggle to promote sensible gun legislation. They also maintain a peace-building presence in the Auburn-Gresham community, one of the neighborhoods hardest hit by violence. Father Pflieger will speak about the experiences of St. Sabina's and will make an impassioned plea for action.

Setting the Captives Free: The Christian as Advocate in the Public Sphere

CYPRESS A

Ethan Alexander Jewett

Being an effective advocate for just and equitable public policy requires an understanding of the dynamics and priorities of legislators, policymakers, and government officials. Participants will learn how to develop successful strategies for advocacy that leverage the Gospel among secular decision-makers through skillful packaging and tailored political discourse. This workshop will begin with an overview of the public policy arena that identifies common mistakes and best practices and will continue with small-group work on sample advocacy and policy issues identified by the participants.

Sustainability and the Diocese of Chicago

LILAC C

Lisa Rogers, Susan Gibbons, Peter Graening.

This learning opportunity will consist of a presentation by members of the Bishops Task Force on Sustainability. The presentation will show the over arching strategy and framework that is in the process of being created. This will be followed by a forum discussion for input and ideas to help the way forward.

Friday November 20th

Session III

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Movement, Prayer & Tai Chi

LILAC B

Kevin Goodman & M.E. Eccles

This brief session will introduce participants to prayer through movement. We will learn movements and theological meaning from the Long Soft Form (Japanese style) of Tai Chi. Come in comfortable clothes and be prepared to remove shoes.

“Facing” The Millennium Development Goals

LILAC D

Martha Gillette

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remain a top mission priority of the Episcopal Church. Although the goals were developed in a secular setting, we can see them as a structure for living the Gospel, as a practical Christian response to the pain and suffering of millions of people in our world today. This presentation reminds us of the urgency of meeting the eight MDGs, putting faces and stories gathered in Zambia, Kenya, and Peru against each Goal.

Using Music Events for Outreach and Fellowship

Sheri Kling

BALLROOM H

What seems easier: asking a new neighbor to attend your Sunday morning worship service or inviting that neighbor to a cozy “coffeehouse” evening of music and candlelit tables with tasty treats like hot coffee, brownies or wine and cheese? Arts-centered events can be so much more than just great fellowship builders. Come to this session and learn how you can reach out to your neighbors through the hospitality of music. We will examine the “how-to” details of successful events and share her uplifting songs and stories for the full experience.

You, Veterans and Your Church

LILAC C

Episcopal Veterans Fellowship with representatives from Vet-Net, The Veterans Administration and other veterans’ organizations

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a growing population of veterans with special needs and concerns.

Learn about these needs and concerns and how you and your church can establish effective ministries and create a welcoming spiritual home for veterans and their families.

Welcome, Friend: The Practice of Screening Volunteers In A Hospitable Church

LILAC A

Elizabeth (Beth) Erickson

It seems perplexing; how to welcome a volunteer’s help and still keep the program (and God’s People) safe? Is there a way to screen without paying out buckets of money? Discover a screening method that is friendly, yet diligent, and requires a minimal cost. Participants have the opportunity to observe the method, then directly practice it.

Convention Resolution Hearings

BALLROOM H, I, J

Resolution Hearings will be scheduled in these three rooms. Check the signs outside of the rooms for details at the time of the session.

Saturday November 21st

Session IV

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Become, Believe, Engage: An Introduction to the Method of Centering Prayer

CYPRESS B

Ted Curtis

Participants will learn a simple method -- honored throughout Christian history -- of being with God beyond thoughts, words or emotions. Participants will be given everything they need to begin this transformative prayer practice in their lives, to connect them with people in their geographical area who do this prayer, and strategies to offer this prayer in their congregational and ecumenical setting. This workshop is suitable for those 16 and older.

Immigration: Where We’ve Been, Where We Need to Go

LILAC B

Fred Tsao, Sandra Castillo

This session will discuss the current state of the immigration reform debate. Offering perspective on past immigration policies to show how we got into the state we are in, this session will point out what solutions our country needs to implement to create a safe and orderly immigration system, and how communities can work toward winning these solutions.

Diocesan Budget Committee

BALLROOM J

John Totten, Jim Haley

This session will focus less on the numbers and more on what the numbers represent – the ministries which are funded through the combined giving of parishes, missions and institutions within our diocese. You won’t need to

understand a spreadsheet to enjoy this opportunity to hear good news stories from people directly involved in a rich variety of diocesan ministries supported by God's abundant blessings. Two 2010 budget booklets will be handed out, which are also, available on the diocesan website:

<http://www.episcopalchicago.org/treasurers-office/index.cfm>

God's Eyes Against Malaria

MAGNOLIA ABC

GEAM's Kids

God's Eyes Against Malaria (GEAM) is a ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park, created and run by kids. On most Sundays, the group gathers in the children's area of the sanctuary during the worship service to make God's Eyes. The children sell them to make money to buy mosquito nets to protect people in Africa from malaria. In this workshop, the children of GEAM will discuss their inspiration for this lifesaving ministry and will lead participants (both adults and children) in making God's Eyes.

Miqra

HOSPITALITY – 2ND FLOOR

Ben Varnum

Miqra is a new event to the Diocesan Calendar this year! The event, over Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend, includes a reading of the entire Bible; a Saturday of workshops that welcomes the entire diocese, and a youth event Saturday night through Monday morning. We are excited to connect to each other through our excitement and curiosity about the ways we participate in the Bible's story of the people of God! This convention workshop will describe the event in greater detail, and welcomes your questions and interest! Come learn about how we'll spend Martin Luther King, Jr. exploring scripture, and worshipping together!

Of Angles and Eyeballs: How our Bodies can Help us Make Sense of Life in a Changing Church

BALLROOM I

Jacqueline Cameron

So many areas of our lives are undergoing upheaval these days. And when life gets complicated, we often turn to the Church for a sense of stability and reassurance. But over the past several years/decades, the Church seems to be undergoing upheaval as well. St Paul referred to the Church as the Body of Christ...so let's take his image seriously and ask: how can a deeper understanding of how our *own* bodies work—particularly with regard to our senses—help us begin to make sense of changing thoughts and attitudes in the Church? How do we see...and *not* see? Or hear...and

not hear? How do we faithfully and generously listen to each other? How might we begin to try to see from another's viewpoint? Come and see!

Rabbinic Readings and Resources

BALLROOM H

Randall Warren

Are you facing the uninspiring task of teaching that same tired Old Testament lesson? Are you searching for a fresh take or a new idea? Why not see what the Rabbis (and others) have to say? This workshop will consider the history of Rabbinic Biblical commentary and interpretations. We will look at how you can be inspired by a rich history of Biblical inquisitiveness that many Christians never encounter. We will also give you several useful resources to help you begin exploring this deep and fascinating world (which is now more widely available in English and Spanish than it has ever been). No knowledge of Hebrew is required but a love of good questions is a must.

Seizing the Opportunity for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine

Cotton Fite, Peace and Justice Cmte

CYPRESS A

Palestinian students will join diocesan representatives recently returned from the Middle East and from J Street's Convention in Washington to discuss the current situation in Israel/Palestine, changing attitudes in the U.S., and opportunities to support our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters and the President's peace initiative.

Starting and Sustaining a Green Team in Your Church

Clare Butterfield, John Crist, Nicole Schall, Leanne Gerhig

LILAC A

The first part of this learning experience will discuss how to start a Green Team in your church and how to begin suggesting high impact low conflict options. The second part of this seminar will be on Green Team experiences in the Chicagoland area. The focus will be on human infrastructure and celebrating successes.

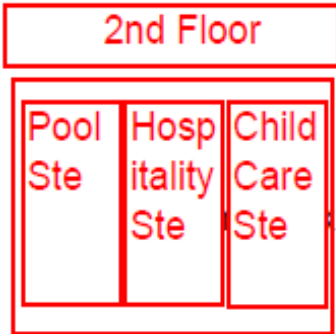
The Spirituality and Psychology of Betrayal

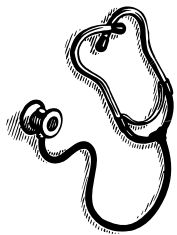
Stephen Martz

LILAC D

As the Bible suggests in story after story, betrayal is a fundamental human experience. As we go through life, we are betrayed – and we betray. In some cases, we grow from the experience. In others we do not. Using a provocative 40 year old lecture by James Hillman as our starting point, we'll discuss together the spiritual possibilities – and dead ends -- of betrayal.

**FLOOR PLAN
WESTIN HOTEL LOMBARD**





SPECIAL EVENT HEALTH FAIR

Health Fair

Saturday 8:30 – 10:30 am

Church Pension Group

LILAC C

Enjoy a back massage or get your blood pressure checked at the Health Fair. Come learn and experience techniques and modalities towards your good health at the 13 health arts stations.

Blood Pressure
Nutrition
Glucose Testing
Chiropractic Screening
Fitness
Chair Massage
Reflexology
Acupuncture
Yoga
Life Coach
Hypnosis
Blood Pressure
Pilates



Children and Youth Learning Opportunities

Friday 9:00 am – 11:45 am, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 10:15 am, 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Kiddos at Convention

Diving into Discipleship with the Youngest School of Fish

MAGNOLIA ABC

Canon Victoria L. Garvey, and others

The 3 - 10 year olds will spend their time in the fishing village of Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. They'll be invited to number themselves among those called by Jesus to be his most recent – and shortest – disciples. By telling and re-telling the ancient sacred stories, by responding to those stories with drama and craft and scavenger hunt and prayer, the kiddos will realize again that ministry is not restricted to their elders; it is also offered to them. The Jesus who once cradled kiddos and offered them as examples of the living 'c o m m o n w e a l t h' of God he preached, is at it again at convention.

Junior High at Convention

Doing Discipleship Our Way

POOL SUITE, 2ND FLOOR

Canon Victoria L. Garvey and others

Tween and early teen discipleship has its own special challenges and contours. They'll be exploring their own places in the Good News of God through a combination of action/reflection processes using film clips as helps along the way. By pressing such questions as "Who am I?" and "Who says who I am?" and "Who does God say I am?" they'll be sniffing out their identities as God's own special people in their world and noticing and celebrating their gifts to see where their developing passions can serve the needs of the world they are inheriting. Of course there'll be time for a scavenger hunt and some movie making and hacky-sacking and abundant snacking along the way.

Convention Resolution Hearings

Friday November 20th

Session III 4:30 - 5:30

Convention Resolution Hearings

BALLROOM J

Resolution hearings will be held in these three rooms. Please check the room signs for schedules and details at the time of the session.

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