



Schedule of Workshop Options
Saturday, June 4, 2022
Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly

Schedule A: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

A Healthy Congregation is Not an Oxymoron!

The bad news--Peter Steinke once said that church conflict is a growth industry. The good news--it doesn't have to be that way. With effective feedback mechanisms, appropriate boundary enforcement and regulating the emotional climate, congregational systems can thrive amid differing viewpoints and personalities. Rev. Don Reiter, presenter.

Coaching for Growth and Results

An introduction to the coaching and the ELCA Coaching Ministry. Using an example of a live coaching session, we'll show what coaching looks like and the different ways that coaching can benefit rostered or lay leaders within a congregation or other ministry (for example: a pastor preparing for sabbatical, a new council president, team coaching a whole council, etc.) by using real testimonials. Florida-Bahamas Synod coaches will answer questions and outline steps or how to get a coach. Rev. Keith Walbolt, presenter.

Global Mission--Walking Together with Our Companions in the Caribbean Basin

As Chair of the Global Mission Table, I like to take every opportunity to share the news of the Florida-Bahamas Synod's ministry in the Caribbean Basin. We will explore the accompaniment model that guides our engagement and review the values of accompaniment. I will describe our involvement with each of the five companions--Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname, and the Theological College of the West Indies. Finally, we will discover how you can be involved. Rev. Kathryn Carroll, presenter.

Growing & Empowering Everyone's Gifts in Your Congregation

Practical Steps to empower, involve, and use almost everyone and every gift in your congregation. Rev. Jhon F Correa, presenter.

Living in God's Creation

Today we face an unprecedented amount of destruction to the wonderful creation God has provided for us to live in. How can we live a better a more fruitful life while honoring his creation? What can the church do to ensure that we honor that creation? How can we include care for creation into our regular worship? Steven Beumer, presenter.

Reading to be Joyful, Patient, and Faithful

There are a lot of books that we can help us to maintain our sanity in this crazy world. What are we reading personally to nurture our spirits? What are we reading as a congregation or as a group within a congregation? Let's share our discoveries of what is working well for us -- and what didn't fulfill our expectations as readers in search of joy, patience, and faithfulness in difficult times. Rev. Janice Mynchenberg, presenter.

School of Lay Ministry Program for New & Graduated Students

We will explain how the new branch of diakonia is working and what is available for Continuing Ed for graduates. Michele Hilton, presenter.

Vision to Action: The St. James Process

Have your voice heard and speak into the process of how to use the proceeds from St. James to support, enhance, grow, redevelop, establish, and more, the ministry in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Dr. Nancy Going, presenter.

Weaving Stories: A Model for Testimony in Lutheran Settings

Even though witness is at the core of the identity of the church, Lutherans do not have a strong tradition of testimony. Part of this is our focus on sacraments and using the catechism for faith formation, but another part has to do with the conversion story nature of a much of the testimony found in the broader church. This workshop will explore an expanded model of testimony that brings together personal stories and biblical stories in a storytelling model that brings insights to the storyteller and to the congregation. Rev. Derek Hoven, presenter.

Schedule B: 2:45 PM-3:45 PM

8th Day Discipleship: A New Vision for Faith, Work and Economics

This workshop will focus on my book, Eighth-Day Discipleship: A New Vision for Faith, Work and Economics. In the book I outline an evangelical spirituality invested in people and their vocations as worker-priests. Daily life, work, and family will be underscored as the place where discipleship comes alive. I will draw on the historic architecture of eight-sided churches to call attention to an important but often overlooked emphasis on the eighth day of creation.

This architecture points to the important role of economics in forming disciples. Luther's Small Catechism is reviewed as a major resource for this approach to spirituality. Rev. Richard Bliese, presenter.

Bias and Welcoming

We believe we are welcoming, but sometimes our biases, conscious and unconscious, can affect our welcoming. We want to create a culture of belonging, and this workshop will help you do that. Carol M. Dunn, presenter.

Creation Care as Faith Formation

This workshop is an adaptation of EcoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow climate training. In addition to offering a basic review of the root causes of the climate crisis, and effective messaging and action strategies, this workshop will also offer biblical and theological reflections to deepen faith formation and integration in the care for creation. This will include reflections on the theme of gardens in the scriptures, the connection between the perfect harmony of the Trinity and the beauty of creation in the writings of St Gregory of Nazianzus, and how the climate crisis relates to the message of hope in the apocalyptic writings in the Bible. We must, as disciples of Jesus Christ, shift gears away from doom and gloom, connect with the deep hope for creation in the Gospel, and move with purpose on the greatest moral crisis of our age. Rev. Gabriel Morgan, presenter.

Establishing a Just Love Team

The why and how of opening discussions on racial equality according to the Bible. We will be addressing current issues of racism and inequality and how the church responds. Some Racial Justice resources will be available. This workshop is presented by "Just Love", The Florida Bahamas Synod Racial Justice Team and includes an invitation to future training on becoming a Just Love Ambassador. Rev. Russell Meyer and Rev. Reginald Hansome, presenters.

Hope for a Post-COVID Church

Many people who get COVID hardly notice, some get extremely ill and even die, others have affects that have long time residual effects. Like that last group, the church will have long term consequences, though unlike with individuals, not all of these will be bad. The one thing we know for sure is that ministries are more open now to try new things than ever before. Most have gone online for worship and giving, even if we are If they stay grounded in prayer, scripture and faith in Christ and focus on listening with compassion to their neighbors, the church will find a way. Rev. Phil Hirsch, presenter.

How God Leads Churches in Transition

Congregations in transition look to God for guidance and direction so that what is ahead of them is fully in God's hands. This workshop will explore how it is that God leads God's people, and what happens when something other than God is allowed to do that leading. The workshop is designed to assist congregation members and leaders in understanding the

dynamics of transition and to help answer questions about the Florida-Bahamas Synod Transition Process in particular. Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel & Deacon Connie Schmucker, presenters.

Leadership and Organizational Trust

Introduction to tools and techniques for developing a high level of trust in leadership, team(s), and community using assessments (data) and shared learning experience. Deacon Kimberly Heindl, presenter.

Starting a Spanish Ministry in Your Congregation: The Why, When, Where, Who, and How!

Provide a Space for congregational leaders who may want to explore the opportunity to start a Latino ministry in their congregation. Share facts about developing a new Latino mission start. Rev. Jhon F. Correa, presenter.

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What is Our Church Doing to Help End HUNGER??

1. Tell us who you are and what you're doing. Mark your location on the mounted map.
2. Grants and how to access them and other resources and how-to's.

Presenters: Angela Galbraith, Grants & Reporting Coordinator, ELCA World Hunger; Chandler Carriker, Events Associate, ELCA.

Schedule C: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

3 Ways to Cultivate Giving in Your Church

Learn how to engage your congregation to support the financial needs of your church, including your short-term, midterm and long-term priorities. Kathy Emanuelson, presenter.

Connecting Church & School Through Chapel Time

Does your church have a weekday ministry that serves families? Chapel Time is your opportunity to share the love of Christ and invite families to your church. Learn tips and tricks to create a fun and successful Chapel Time that can be taught by anyone! Linda Chambers, presenter.

Creating Vision for New Mission through Faith and Innovation

40 people join a mission on one Sunday. At another mission, 12 people are baptized at the same worship service. You may think these missions are in South America or Africa, but they are right here in the Florida-Bahamas Synod! How do mission developments grow during global crisis? By creating vision in communities for new mission through faith and innovation. Come and hear the stories of two mission developments from the Caloosa Conference and how they have grown in both community size and spiritual depth since their formations during the pandemic. Pastor Matt Shapton from The Community Church in Babcock Ranch in Charlotte County and Pastor Will Kittinger from The Emmanuel Park Community in rural Collier County present for discussion their strategies, skills, and methods for connecting and sharing the gospel message within their local communities. Discover how these two mission developments are creating vision through meeting the basic, yet essential needs of their neighbors in innovative ways, building trust and faith in community while solving problems together.

Praying on Empty-Finding Your Way Back

This workshop will address the issue of lost faith, hurting faith, and doubting faith with the goal of using my own experiences and research to assist the participant in renewing faith and finding joy again in a relationship with God and hopefully with the church. Life's curveballs can knock us over and lead to BIG faith questions. Where is God when I am hurting? Are my prayers doing anything? And when it is life in the church that has wounded me, can I find healing within my faith community? My memoir, "Praying on Empty, a Female Pastor's Story," will be a resource but it is not necessary for participants to have read it to gain from the workshop. It will be on sale at Assembly with all profits going to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Ukraine. Rev. Marjorie Weiss, presenter.

Providing Hope in Times of Disaster

There is perhaps no better time to engage the community than in a time of disaster. In this breakout, discover practical ways to prepare for a disaster and engage the local community. Stephen Garcia, presenter.

The Door is Open, but I Can't Come In

A look at the various types of disabilities; brainstorming about what needs to anticipate, and how to do better. Kurt Schmidt, presenter.

The Joy of WELCA - Patient, Faithful Service for 30+ Years

Women of the ELCA or WELCA is made up of faithful Lutheran women who joyfully serve across the three expressions of the ELCA. Come learn who we are, what we do and why your congregation should be involved! Already involved? Come see what exciting new things are happening in Florida and nationally. Leading this interactive workshop will be two past presidents of the Florida Synodical Women's Organization who now both serve as Treasurer's for the Organization: Raeann Purcell as Churchwide Treasurer and Tracy Moffatt as Synodical Treasurer. Tracy Moffatt & Raeann Purcell, presenters.

Training Teams in Healing Prayer Ministry and Soaking Prayer

Mary Thoresen will share her experiences in training healing prayer teams. You will learn about the various types of healing which people might need and about some of the initial responses of people who have been invited to receive prayer, and prayer results. Mary will discuss the resources available for training teams. The group will be given an opportunity to practice praying for someone or receiving prayer. Mary Thoresen, presenter.

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