

Region 3 & 5 Conference Workshop Descriptions - 2009

Seminary 101: The Ins & Outs of Admission to Graduate Programs in Theological Studies

Considering seminary? Overwhelmed with selecting a school? Unsure about how to apply? Concerned about securing scholarships and financial aid? This workshop provides practical advice from Dean of Admissions on these questions and more. Participants will walk away with answers to many of the practical issues that require consideration when attending graduate school. Handouts with checklists, helpful tips and a time for questions and answers will be included in the workshop. Please join us to learn the practical steps to being **outfitted** for ministry through graduate theological studies!

Debunking the Myths and Misunderstandings about Conflict Resolution

This is a panel discussion about some of the common understandings and misunderstandings about Conflict Resolution in the Church Context. Questions from the audience will also be entertained.

What's Theology Got to Do With It?

The Moderator's Theologies Team invites you to this workshop to learn more about our work and the importance of talking and reflecting theologically in MCC. This workshop will also create safe space for us to do some theological talking/sharing about topics that are important in Region 3/5 as well as the broader MCC movement. No prerequisites required! Everyone is a theologian in MCC, so come and find out why!

Equipping Our People To Grow Their Souls

Several years ago, Jesus MCC (Indianapolis) began a bold experiment in spiritual formation/discipleship within its congregation. They launched an intentional effort to get as many of their congregants as possible to participate in an ongoing spiritual growth program. The program is intended to help individuals actualize spiritually, while providing the church with the resources it needs to thrive. Currently, over 175 people at Jesus MCC are working Customized Personal Soul Care Plans. In this workshop, Rev. Jeff Miner will provide an overview of the program, describe what has worked well and what still needs work, and respond to questions about how you might launch similar programs within your congregation. Pastor Jeff says, "This program has the potential to transform your congregation."

Stewardship – "The Jesus Way!"

Stewardship is a "lifestyle", not an annual event. Understanding the dynamics and connection between stewardship, mission and use of our individual and community spiritual gifts which we already possess is essential in order to achieve financial stability. This biblical approach returns to the basics of stewardship and explores in a contemporary fashion new and exciting ways

which encourage participation in all aspects of stewardship. Are you tired of “chasing down” stewardship campaign volunteers? We will explore examples of stewardship campaigns where stewardship disciples actually can’t wait to sign up! It's *The Jesus Way!*

Educating Our Faith Communities about Gender Identity

Come explore a new curriculum developed by the Human Rights Campaign for educating faith communities about gender justice. Through the stories of trans people of faith, we’ll learn the ins & outs of trans vocabulary & concepts, what the Bible has to say about gender, & how to organize your congregation for gender justice work.

Homo No Mo?!? Orientation, Gender and the Ex-Gay Movement

Some groups teach that LGBT people need to go through change therapy. Ex-Gay programs dot the US with the deceptive promise that Change is Possible. Having spent 17 years and over \$30,000 on three different continents attempting to change and suppress his gay orientation, Peterson Toscano presents a lively lecture about the ex-gay movement and the often-tragic outcomes of pursuing such a change. Interjecting scenes from his one-person comedy Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House—How I Survived the Ex-Gay Movement, along with video clips, personal narrative, and the most current information about the ex-gay movement, Peterson's interactive presentation leaves his audience informed and better equipped to address false claims of the Ex-Gay Movement. As the co-founder of www.beyondexgay.com, Peterson also reveals the damage that can come to people who pursue to change their orientation and the creative ways ex-gay survivors have reclaimed their lives.

Listening Post on the MCC Structure Review

Earlier this year, the MCC Leadership team of the Board of Elders and The Board of Administration commissioned the MCC Structure Review Team to do a review of the implementation of the MCC structure passed at the 2001 General Conference. The team has been asked to review all of MCC's structures and systems to assess strengths and weaknesses, as well as the needs to be addressed for future efficacy and sustainability. Part of this process is to receive input from the various stakeholders across MCC. This Region Conference 3/5 session will start with a short overview of the MCC Structure Team's mission and process by team member Stan Kimer, followed by a listening post where all feedback is welcomed. We would particularly be seeking feedback to these three questions:

- (1) How has the new structure been a positive in your ministry?
- (2) How has the new structure been a challenge to your ministry?
- (3) What ideas do you have to enhance or improve our structure?

Visiting The Shack

William Paul Young's "The Shack" stirs controversy: some people claim it is heresy and dangerous to the Christian faith; others claim that the book will do for

Christianity in our generation what other great faith-based works of literature did for their generation. Regardless, many people have been touched and continue to be touched by this book's message. What do YOU think? What was YOUR experience? Read the book and share in lively discussion.

Adult Spiritual Education at a Profit

Last year I brought in just under \$20,000 in revenue from our programs at MCC Toronto. I'd love to teach churches how to begin making money, or at least funding their own supplies!

Child Abuse Prevention and Mandatory Reporter Training

In most states, ordained clergy and child care providers are required by law to report any suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect. As MCC evolves and has congregations with more and more children, our responsibility to them is to be aware of the signs of child abuse and/or neglect, and to intervene on their behalf, when necessary. This session will address topics such as: recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect; the long-term effects of child sexual abuse; prevalence of child abuse and neglect; legal and moral liability for a failure to protect our children; how to provide pastoral care to abusers and victims; and duties under the mandatory reporting laws. In addition, we will discuss an emerging theology of Child Protection.

Confessions of a Matriarch: Laity Leaders and Clergy in Partnership

The focus will be on how key Lay-leaders impact church community relationships within the congregation, the Board of Directors, and the Pastor, in both a positive or negative way. How these relationships effect church growth, the effectiveness of the Board, and the success of the Pastor.

Ecology and Ministry

What kinds of stewards are we??? We are so used to thinking that discussion is about money, but in this workshop I would like to have us expand that definition. We will explore the resources God around us and what our responsibility is to take care of them, or is it? We will look at:

- * What scripture says about resources
- * What our responsibility is as individuals
- * Should the church take an active role?
- * If so, what can our church do?

Thank God, I'm Free! Or Are We???

The purpose of this workshop is to understand the dynamics of oppression and ourselves within those dynamics. The first part of the workshop will be a factual sharing of, and defining the dynamics of, oppression and how we see ourselves

as both oppressed and oppressors. The second part of the workshop would be on how these dynamics may be disrupted.

PREP for Lay Delegates

This interactive workshop will help participants explore their role as Lay Delegate. Workshop participants will gain a deeper understanding of applying the PREP steps of Preparing, Representing, Empowering and Planning into their term of Lay Delegate. Participants will leave the workshop with a better understanding of the important role Lay Delegates play in the structure and governance of MCC, how Regional and General Conference business meetings and procedures are conducted, and practical information such as how to receive MCC communications, how to share this information with their congregations, and planning for General Conference participation.

Outfitted for Inclusion: Exploring Issues of Diversity to Create more Inclusive Congregations

This interactive two-part workshop will help participants to explore their own cultural identity and views about diversity; learn how personal biases and stereotypes impact our relationships and interaction with others; and utilize this knowledge to create a plan for creating a more inclusive, welcoming congregation. Through a series of experiential activities and dialogue, workshop participants will gain a deeper understanding of the many dimensions of diversity that impact our community, from sexual orientation and gender identity to race, age, class, ability and beliefs. Participants will leave with a plan for beginning to build a more inclusive congregation, as well a greater appreciation for diversity in their own daily life.

Everything Must Change! Global Crises, MCC and our next 40 years (Note updated title)

*“If you are hungry for a fresh vision of what it means to be a person of faith, **Everything Must Change** applies the good news of Jesus to a world in need, igniting a revolution of hope that can change everything. Beginning with you. Beginning now.”* What if the first 40 years of the MCC are but a start, a time of preparation, a necessary sojourn en route to an even more prophetic, promising and pressing ministry? What if the ecumenical nature of our churches and communities who have gathered people from diverse traditions, theologies and backgrounds were a core strength rather than a challenge? What if these times of challenge and change were an invitation to embrace Jesus’ core message in a profoundly radical way – and what if MCC is uniquely prepared to respond to it? In this session, we will explore these questions; introduce the work of Brian McLaren, author of **Generous Orthodoxy** and **Everything Must Change**; and discover how each MCC can embrace the challenges of our time, renew its sense of purpose and passion; and to ignite a revolution of hope in our communities, cities and world!

Children's Sunday School Live!: Exciting Children's Programs on a Budget (Note updated title)

The goal of this workshop is to helping Sunday School Teachers bring fun, joy and creative techniques to the classroom without spending much money. It is designed to work with children's programs that use any curriculum, and focuses on learning tools rather than specific teaching. Because many of our Sunday Schools combine a variety of ages into a single classroom, it is designed to be useful for all ages, and even multi-generational classrooms. This workshop focuses on the different ways we learn. Most classes focus on just auditory learning, (We are taught through being told. We listen and learn.) This increases opportunities to learn by introducing imagination, visual, tactile, and physical techniques.

"Family" (With a Twist) (Note updated title)

The story of a straight woman and gay man and how they have grown through marriage, children, coming out, divorce, healing, reconciliation and a new intimacy.

That's Not How I See it! - A Conversation in Theological Diversity

The basic premise is that we all hold a personal theological world view that we bring into conversation with Biblical texts, life issues, and our community. The question is how do we celebrate these theological perspectives and validate one another as persons?

Strong at the Broken Places: How God Uses Illness and Disability

Using break-out sessions and the stories of such people as Moses and the apostle Paul, we'll examine times when a complete healing, or curing, does not take place in the Bible. We'll discuss what this may mean for our faith today, and what it may mean about people dealing with disability and illness. There are no right or wrong questions or answers in this workshop, this is a safe place to talk openly about our thoughts and feelings regarding illness, disability and faith.