

Prepared to Serve 2022

Virtual Event
February 8-17, 2022



*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!"*
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Prepared to Serve February 2022 – General Information

Schedule:

	Workshop A	Workshop B
Tuesday, February 8 6:00 – 7:00 PM	<i>Coping with Pandemic Losses</i>	<i>Developing Healthy Pastoral Relations Committees</i>
Thursday, February 10 6:00 – 7:00 PM	<i>Copyright Compliance for Local Churches</i>	<i>The Shared Pastorate: An Historical Model for Modern Times</i>
Saturday, February 12 9:00 – 10:00 AM	<i>Open and Affirming – What's In a Name?</i>	<i>Becoming a Racial Justice Church</i>
Saturday, February 12 10:30 – 11:30 AM	<i>Mental Health & The Local Church</i>	<i>Inside Out: Ministry to Those Who Won't Come to Church</i>
Tuesday, February 15 6:00 – 7:00 PM	<i>Rebuilding Connection and Community in Your Youth Ministry</i>	<i>Becoming a Creation Justice Church</i>
Thursday, February 17 6:00 – 7:00 PM	<i>Welcoming Our Afghan Neighbors</i>	<i>Ten Tips for Hybrid Church</i>

Registration:

Please visit <https://nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve> for up-to-date Prepared to Serve event information and a link to the registration website – which officially opens January 3, 2022. This year all registrations will be processed online **on or before Friday, February 4th at 11:59 pm**. Some workshops have limited capacity, which will be filled on a “first come, first served” basis, so please register early to get your desired selections.

Each participant will incur a registration fee of **\$25**. The fees are intended to cover the operational costs for this virtual event. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. If you do not have access to the internet or have any trouble registering yourself, please call Cindy Bradley at 888-642-8229, ext. 1100 (Monday – Friday / 10am-3pm / January 3 – February 4, 2022).

Each workshop will have a unique Zoom link. In order to avoid confusion and to have the information easily accessible just in time, **registered participants will receive an email with the Zoom information** for the workshop they registered for **on the day the workshop is scheduled to be presented. Please DO NOT OPT-OUT of CVENT EMAILs or you will not receive this notification.**

For any other questions regarding this event please feel free to contact Ann Desrochers, Event Planner, via email adesrochers@nhcucc.org or phone 603-715-9526.

Worship:

Each Prepared to Serve workshop will start promptly at the scheduled time and begin with a short devotional, so please plan to login a few minutes early. The Zoom Meeting will be available for login 15 minutes prior to the start time.

Prepared to Serve – Workshop Information

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM

A *Coping with Pandemic Losses*

How do you cope with the many losses resulting from the pandemic? Whether the death of a loved one, limitations in seeing family and friends, changes in the workplace, or finding a new way of church, most have experienced losses. A healthy response to loss is grief, but this is complicated because the pandemic has evoked losses which are new and ongoing. You will be given tools to understand and manage this unusual time.

The goals of the workshop are to:

- Specifically name the losses of the past two years
- Name the inner responses to the losses
- Strategize on healthy ways to cope with the losses

This workshop will be limited to **15** attendees. It will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Calvin Genzel** (Executive Director, Pastoral Counseling Services) and **Rev. Dr. David B. Reynolds** (Senior Clinical Staff, Pastoral Counseling Services)*

B *Developing Healthy Pastoral Relations Committees*

The work of pastoral ministry is complex and sacred. Supporting the pastor so that they can best lead your congregation is important work and needs to be intentional and clear. Join us to learn best practices and avoid the pitfalls of this essential committee.

The goals of this workshop are to:

- Understand Pastoral Relations Committees
- Develop best practices

This workshop will be limited to **40** attendees. It will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Stephen Boyd** (Minister for Chaplains and Ministers in Specialized Settings, MESA Team, UCC National Setting) and **Rev. Tara Barber** (Minister for Ministerial Support, and Accountability, MESA Team, UCC National Setting)*

Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM

A *Copyright Compliance for Local Churches*

Common issues in Local Church copyright compliance will be addressed, with time for questions.

The goal of the workshop is to help Local Churches become aware of their obligations under copyright law when using the works of others and to understand how to implement compliance measures.

*Presented by **Heather Kimmel** (General Counsel for the United Church of Christ)*

B *The Shared Pastorate: An Historical Model for Modern Times*

The model of a shared Pastor is nothing new, but it can be difficult to imagine how it could really work. You are invited to come and hear how the Conference planted the idea of sharing a Pastor between two neighboring villages and how the arrangement has benefitted both churches and the shared Pastor, as well.

The goal of the workshop is to share both the challenges and the triumphs in the creation of a covenantal relationship for a shared Pastor between two distinct churches. Questions are welcomed and the hope is to send you away with a broadened sense of what is possible

This workshop will be limited to **30** attendees. It will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Traceymay Kalvaitis** (Designated Term Pastor, Dublin Community Church and Community Church of Harrisville and Chesham)*

Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 9:00 – 10:00 AM

A *Open and Affirming – What's In a Name?*

What does it mean to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church? What good does it do for your church? "Open and Affirming" is just a name or a title. What you do with that title can help you grow your church. Being an ONA Church is not just welcoming LGBTQ+ people. It's inviting all of God's Children into his House. Come on this journey with us.

The goals of the workshop are:

- To start thinking about how being an ONA Church will help you grow your Church.
- To start thinking beyond the stereotypes and reach out to younger generations of Christians to walk with us.
- Recognize that being ONA is not the end of a Church, it's a new beginning

This workshop will be limited to **30** attendees. It will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Gerri Cannon** (Member of First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH and Member, of the NHCUCC Open and Affirming Concerns Mission Group)*

B *Becoming a Racial Justice Church*

In June 2021, the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton (FCCH) became the first Racial Justice Church in the New Hampshire Conference. In this workshop we will walk participants through the process that led us to that point: what we did, why we did it, and how we did it.

The goals of this workshop are for participants to be able to recognize:

- The steps FCCH took to prepare the congregation for a vote to become a Racial Justice Church
- The importance of white people coming to terms with their own participation in racism
- That we are called, as people of faith, to be committed and active in confronting racism
- The list of informational resources they can use to develop their own Racial Justice initiative

This workshop will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Lindy Head and Brenda Quinn** (Co-chairs of the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton Racial Justice Committee)*

Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 10:30 – 11:30 AM

A **Mental Health & The Local Church**

While we have seen a significant increase in public discussion of mental health in recent years, and particularly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there remains significant room for progress both in the mental healthcare system and in how we as communities of faith care for and support those who struggle with their mental health.

In this workshop, we will explore some current issues in our mental healthcare system and explore ways that local faith communities can lend their support and advocacy where it is needed. We will take some time to faithfully ground these efforts by exploring some theological perspectives on mental illness and mental health.

The goals of the workshop are:

- To explore how local churches can better support and advocate for people in their communities living with mental illness.
- To explore some theological perspectives on mental illness.
- To provide information on our current mental health system and explore potential opportunities for progress

This workshop will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Randy VanDeventer** (Chaplain, New Hampshire Hospital)*

B **Inside Out: Ministry to Those Who Won't Come to Church**

Increasingly, people are not coming into our churches no matter what good things are happening in them. In response to the challenge of shrinking membership and finances, we need to figure out how to go outside of our churches to provide opportunities to experience God. In this session, we will look at ways to talk about God, how to identify opportunities to minister, how the church can support these efforts, and discerning how the Holy Spirit will guide and bless these efforts. This approach to ministry may require rethinking what church is and who we serve, and we will talk about that as well.

The goal of this workshop is to have a lively and interesting conversation about the challenges of ministering in an anti-institutional church environment and imagining the ways that God can continue to find new ways to invite us into relationship with God.

This workshop will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Gayle Murphy** (Chair, New Thing Task Force, NHCUCC; and sent out into ministry by the Congregational Church of North Barnstead, UCC)*

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM

A *Rebuilding Connection and Community in Your Youth Ministry*

This will be an interactive workshop that explores strategies for meaningful Youth Ministry.

The primary goal of the workshop is to facilitate conversation to discover creative ways to deepen the faith formation experiences of youth in churches.

This workshop will be limited to **16** attendees.

*Presented by **Kristin Forselius** (Director of Christian Education, Community Church of Durham) and **Rev. Westley Conn** (Pastor, Stratham Community Church)*

B *Becoming a Creation Justice Church*

Whether it is taking on the climate crisis or addressing the damage caused by air pollution on children, environmental issues have never been more important. Learn how your church can become a United Church of Christ (UCC) Creation Justice Church, with presenters from two New Hampshire congregations that have earned this recognition, and the **Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt**, the UCC Minister of Environmental Justice and author of *Cathedral on Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis*. Foster a deeper connection with God, each other, and the world in which we live.

The goal of the workshop is for participants to hear about the practical steps to take as a congregation, including forming a “green team”, creating a Creation Justice Covenant, and following the steps to work with in their church and community to promote environmental justice.

This workshop will be limited to **24** attendees. It will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Robert Grabill** (Associate Pastor, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, UCC, Hanover, NH; and Chair, Environmental Justice Mission Group, NHCUCC)*

Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM

A Welcoming our Afghan Neighbors

This workshop will provide a PowerPoint presentation on the Afghan refugee crisis and how churches can help, tailored to New Hampshire resources. Open discussion will follow about how churches can work together regionally to meet the needs of our new neighbors from Afghanistan.

The goal of the workshop is to engage NH churches in refugee ministries and provide systemic support for them to do so effectively.

This workshop will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Irene Willis Hassan** (Minister for Refugee and Migration Services, UCC National Ministries – Team Global HOPE)*

B Ten Tips for Hybrid Church

As more and more churches add Online access to their in person services, hybrid church will soon be the new normal. However, most pastors were not trained for this brave new world by their seminaries or denominations. How do you lead hybrid worship? Hybrid small groups or Bible studies? Any event that combines an in person and online audience or congregation? Join Rev. Jim Keat as he shares ten tips, tricks, and best practices that he has learned over the past few years in his work at Riverside and with hundreds of other congregations.

The goals of the workshop are to:

- Share tips, tricks, and best practices for hybrid worship
- Answer questions about online church, digital ministry, and hybrid worship.

This workshop will be recorded and available for viewing later.

*Presented by **Rev. Jim Keat** (Director of Online Innovation, Convergence; and Digital Minister, Riverside Church, New York City)*