

Workshops for Synod Ministerium 2017

Declaration on the Way: Are We There Yet?

Presenter: Rev. Dr. John Medwid

“Are we there yet?” How often have we heard that from people, young and old, on road trips? As members of faith communities, are we saying that today in the face of ecumenical dialogues and Statements of Agreement? The Declaration on the Way represents another step on the journey. We will look at its highlights. We will also reflect on the question: Where do we go from here? How do we keep the momentum going when those who have left the journey, the “nones” are becoming the largest religious body in our midst? Signs of hope are out there. Let’s look for them together.

Congregation Financial Matters and More

Presenters: Karen Eadon, UNYS Bookkeeper, Deacon Patsy Glista, Assistant to Bishop - Operations

Learn about responsibilities of Council members, treasurers and pastors to comply with appropriate laws and regulations. Topics covered include proper endowment oversight and spending, internal control practices, IRS & Social Security payroll laws, fraud protection and ELCA resources available for congregations.

Positive Clergy/Congregational Relationships: Clergy Self-Care in a Time of Congregational Conflict and Change

Presenter: Jennifer Cornish Genovese, ACSW, PhD

Positive, healthy relationships between pastors and church members are crucial for maintaining healthy congregations. Pastors are called upon to preserve their physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being, however, this can be a challenging goal if a congregation is undergoing serious changes or experiencing conflict. It is essential that pastors receive support and guidance to enable them to engage in self-care strategies that enhance their physical, emotional and spiritual health. This workshop will introduce self-care approaches designed to enrich the well-being of the pastor.

In addition, to self-care, pastors also care for the needs of the members of the congregation. This workshop will also address issues related to the care of the congregation, particularly when conflict is present.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Speaker Bio

Jennifer Cornish Genovese, ACSW, PhD has served as the clinical consultant to the Bishop of the Upstate NY Synod since 1999. She is a psychotherapist in private practice specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents and families, particularly those who have experienced trauma. In addition, Dr. Genovese teaches graduate students in the School of Social Work at Syracuse University.