

Workshop Descriptions

Choose one workshop from each session.

Session A

9:30 to 10:45 AM

A-01 **The Basics of Islam and its Modern Expressions** Nearly 60% of Americans say they know little or nothing about Islam and do not know any Muslim personally . This workshop covers some basics of Islam, looking briefly at the Qur'an, comparing it to the Bible, and at Islamic law – where it comes from, how it works and how it changes through time and place, including in America. **Whit Bodman** teaches Comparative Religion at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and a doctorate from Harvard Divinity School in Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies. He has served as a pastor for 13 years in North Carolina and Massachusetts.

A-02 **Abundance as Ministry -- Reflections on Fundraising In The Church** What stands between abundant giving and abundant ministry? In this workshop, we'll examine the practical, cultural, and spiritual challenges of fundraising in local congregations, with a goal of providing each other advice and encouragement for the efforts we undertake – or should undertake – each year. **Richard Dubose** is president of the Montreat Conference Center, which serves more than 35,000 Presbyterians each year. Richard was appointed in October 2014 after twenty-seven years as a fundraising executive in Atlanta, Georgia. His career in leadership and development also includes service as chief development officer of Points of Light, the largest organization in the world dedicated to volunteer service. Previously, Richard served for eleven years as vice president for institutional advancement at Columbia Theological Seminary.

A-03 **Two Presbyterian Choices for Children's Curriculum** We are fortunate to serve in a time with two styles of children's curriculum published by our denomination. Come learn about Feasting on the Word and Growing in Grace and Gratitude, plus hear tips about current Christian education challenges. **Malinda Spencer** is the Associate for Curricula Training and Promotion for Congregational Ministries Publishing, a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Malinda is a Christian educator with experience in churches from several hundred members in size to churches with a few dozen members.

A-04 **Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order** What are they changing now? The "heart" of the Book of Order, "The Directory for Worship," is being organized more effectively and shortened a bit. A proposed change to the language as to who is welcome at the Lord's Supper is a separate amendment. **Jay Wilkins** is the Transitional Presbyter for the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley.

A-05 Cultivating Community Among Wolves and Lambs In a polarized world, Jesus calls us into community that witnesses to God's peace-able kin-dom. Discover concrete ways that community has been formed on the contentious US/Mexico border and explore strategies that help make possible community to be formed among peoples of disparate political, religious, cultural and economic backgrounds. **Mark Adams** and his wife Miriam Maldonado are PCUSA Mission Co-workers on the US/Mexico border. Serving with the bi-national ministry Frontera de Cristo, Mark and Miriam helps bring together people from both sides of the border, building relationships and understanding between them.

A-06 The Cold War of Race in American Church and Society The current rise of racial tensions in America is symptomatic to the deeper issue of historical estrangement. This session deals with acknowledging and addressing internalized racism and white privilege, and how they obstruct the path to becoming the Beloved Community. **Sterling Morse** is a Teaching Elder, Presbyterian Church USA. He has served churches in South Carolina, Michigan, and Washington DC, and as the Associate for Mission, National Capital Presbytery. Presently, he is the coordinator for African American Intercultural Congregational Support, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA.

A-07 What is Happening with Missions in the Presbytery We will be talking about the mission work the local churches in the Presbytery are doing. Also, we will talk about other mission works that are happening in the Presbytery. There is a lot going on in our Presbytery. **Ralls Coston** is an elder at Oakmont Presbyterian Church in Hoover. He retired from a 35 year career in environmental health in 2012, working in Dale and Jefferson Counties in Alabama. One year ago, in 2016, Presbytery appointed him Volunteer Mission Coordinator. Since then, he has been travelling central Alabama, writing stories of the mission projects the churches in Presbytery are doing and learning of the mission work done by other organizations in Alabama.

A-08 Calling Ruling Elders to Serve Home Communion 2PC Nashville has a long history of involving ruling elders in serving home communion (HC). Annie will offer a brief history and theology of HC, teach best practices, share stories of the significance of this ministry, and encourage ruling elders to take on the privilege of serving HC whenever their congregation shares in the Lord's Supper. **Annie McClure** was ordained at IPC in 1984, Annie served two churches in Birmingham as interim pastor, worked in Louisville at Presbyterian Publishing Company for a number of years and most recently was a hospice chaplain in Nashville, TN. She is a Parish Associate at Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

A-09 The Salt of the Earth: Mathew's Gospel for Today This workshop is for teachers, preachers, and anyone else interested in the Gospel of Matthew. The purpose of the workshop is to explore the unique voice of this Gospel and the distinctive ways that Matthew bears witness to the gospel story. Especially for the preachers present, we will examine a few of the passages from Matthew that will appear in the lectionary in

the coming months. **Thomas G. Long** is the Bandy Professor of Preaching Emeritus at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. A Presbyterian minister, Dr. Long has served churches in Georgia and New Jersey. He has taught preaching for over forty years -- at Erskine Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and, from 2000-2015, at Candler.

A-10 **Labyrinth Design and Use** Participants will discuss how to build a labyrinth for their church, including a discussion of handicapped accessibility, materials and costs. The spirituality of walking a labyrinth will be discussed by Mary Porter and experienced by walking the labyrinth at Independent Presbyterian Church. **Claire Nichols with Mary Porter - Claire** is a Alabama registered Landscape Designer. Her degrees are in Ornamental Horticulture from University of Rhode Island and Virginia Tech. She has had her own design firm since 1988, Exterior Designs Inc. She is also an Elder at First Tuscaloosa and has recently rotated off COM. **Mary Porter** is an HR member of Presbytery. She worships at First Presbyterian Birmingham. A former chaplain and founder of Ruth and Naomi Senior Outreach, in retirement she leads workshops/retreats on conscious aging and spirituality, writes poetry, and enjoys creating with 3 grandchildren.

Session B

1:00pm to 2:30pm

B-01 **Youth Leadership: "Church of Today"** Are you a leader in your youth group or want to be? Want creative ideas and new fun games? Join us as we pray, plan and play together! **Neeley Lane** is the Associate of Youth Ministry at FPC Tuscaloosa. She has been in youth ministry for over 10 years. She is a lover of Montreat, Energizers, and accompanying youth on their faith journey! Neeley is married to Robert and they have two daughters! Family time is our Sabbath!

B-02 **Youth Summit** Come and join youth ministry leaders from across our Presbytery for a time of reflection, learning, and renewal. We will spend some time reflecting on the highs and lows of youth ministry, wrestling with the issues, and also sharing together some of our best practices. This workshop is for: Anyone Doing Youth Ministry: Paid Professional, Youth Advisors, Sunday School Teacher, Logos Table Parent, Adult Chaperones, Etc **Catherine Goudreau** is a child of this presbytery. She grew up at South Highland Presbyterian Church and in high school served as a member of the Presbytery Youth Council. While attending Auburn University Catherine served as a youth director at First Presbyterian Church in Auburn and was a faithful member of Ukirk. Upon returning to Birmingham with her husband in 2014, Catherine accepted a job as the Assistant Director of Youth Ministries at Independent Presbyterian Church. In July 2016 Catherine became the Director of Youth Ministry at Independent Presbyterian Church. Catherine is also a member of the EN&C where she serves in the area of youth.

B-03 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: A Faith Formation Method for Children and Adults Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a method of faith formation in which adults and children come together for a shared religious experience. In a specially prepared room called the atrium, we contemplate scripture and worship practices using the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Following a brief overview of catechesis, presenters will discuss its impact on intergenerational relationships, share adaptation ideas for smaller churches, and explore how it serves adult faith formation. Session participants will have the opportunity to engage in their own contemplative experience by exploring hands-on catechesis lessons. The session will conclude with a brief follow-up discussion on our shared experience. **Kay Roller with Margaret Cobbs** - Kay Roller joined the Children's Ministries staff in 2011 and currently serves as the Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Assistant to the Director of Children's Ministries at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. A native of Minnesota, she relocated to Birmingham after completing her Masters of Arts in Clinical Psychology at Minnesota State University. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1998. It was her volunteer work with Children's Ministries at IPC that helped her recognize her calling to work with children as a religious educator. In 2012 she helped bring the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of religious formation to IPC, completing her certification as a Level 1 and Level 2 catechist over the next 2 years. As the Director of Catechesis, she and the Assistant Director, Margaret Cobbs, have enjoyed building the atrium spaces and working closely with the many church members who have generously donated their time and talents to build our religious materials. **Margaret Cobbs** - Working at IPC in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has enabled me to combine several of my life's greatest passions: education, creating things, working with children, and collaborating with interesting people who expand my worldview and help to strengthen my faith. I completed my Level 1 formation course to become a catechist in 2013, after learning about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from close friends in the Birmingham area. I completed a Level 2 course in 2014, and I am currently participating in a Level 3 formation course, to be completed in 2018, and this will culminate course work to study the spiritual formation of children from ages 3-12. I have loved every minute of these courses, and I find my time with children in the atrium to be inspirational. I have been married to Archie Cobbs since 1999, and we have three daughters, ages 14, 13, and 9.

B-04 Mission that transforms all involved – lessons and insights from Living Waters for the World “with” not “for” – join Living Waters for the World executive director Steve Young for a discussion about how changing that single preposition (and taking it to heart) will forever change how your congregation engages in Christ's mission at home and around the world **Steve Young** is the executive director of Living Waters for the World, a Presbyterian ministry that provides sustainable clean water, emphasizing relationships between volunteers and community partners. He is also a documentary filmmaker, guitar player, songwriter, former lots of things, husband

and father of two. He is a life-long Presbyterian and elder at Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church in Franklin, TN.

B-05 Developing simple, effective church websites or Why your church needs a website and how to create an effective one Google is the new Yellow Pages. And a website is how people find you in the digital age. It's also most visitors' first introduction to your church. That makes having a website – and an informative one – a key part of your church's outreach and online strategy. Learn about the increasingly simple tools for creating a website and why focusing on content is the most important – and challenging – task you'll face. **Rick Frennea** is a graphic designer for Infinity Insurance Companies, headquartered in Birmingham. But most of his career was in the newspaper industry, where he spent three decades at The Birmingham News and Alabama Media Group primarily as an editor and designer. He has been editor of The Epistle, the monthly newsletter of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, for 20 years and been involved in communication efforts at the presbytery and synod levels. Most recently he helped refine Edgewood's website for its January relaunch.

B-06 Violence and the Bible This session offers an opportunity to explore the representation of violence in scripture, including discussion of various types of violence, challenges of interpretation, and ways to use violent biblical texts in community life. **Amy Cottrill** is the Denson N. Franklin Associate Professor of Religion at Birmingham-Southern College. Dr. Cottrill earned her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at Emory University. Her primary area of research and writing is the book of Psalms; her first book is entitled Language, Power, and Identity in the Lament Psalms of the Individual (2008). She is currently working on a second book about violence and the Bible and teaches a course on this topic at Birmingham-Southern. Dr. Cottrill is a member of Highlands United Methodist Church.

B-07 Dignity Denied: A History of Race and Religion in the United States This session will be an exploration of the issues that impact the intersection of religion, race, and culture in the contemporary United States. The session will make use of art, photography, and original sources to follow the trajectory of (primarily) the Protestant faith tradition and its relationship to race. **The Rev. Dr. James D. McLeod, Jr.** is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Anniston. He lives there with his wife and best friend, Lesley, and their two boys Jameson, 9 and Seamus, 3. He holds a Ph.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Theological, Historical, and Ethical Systems and has written extensively on the intersection of race, religion, and culture.

B-08 From the Guts to Your Postion: Christian Ethics Made Practical - CANCELLED With this workshop, I will share experiences from one of my classes I am teaching at the University of Alabama named "Build Your Position! Ethical Case Studies Made Practical". Capital punishment and marriage equality will be examples we will use in our attempt to discuss highly controversial questions of faith

and Christian praxis in a civil way. **Thomas Herwig** is a German theologian and pastor who followed his wife Lou Ann Sellers to Alabama in 2008. Since then I have been teaching history, ethics, religious studies, and cultural identity for the Honors College of the University of Alabama, in the beginning adjunct, since a while as Assistant Professor. Beside my work for the university, I am organizing a German speaking ministry under the roof of First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa.

Session C
2:30pm to 4:00pm

C-01 A Conversation on Scripture: Ours and Theirs This workshop takes a broad view, accounting for the diversity of Islam, the nature of radical groups and their place in the spectrum of Islamic belief and practice. Throughout we will need to get some attention to the media, what it does well, and what it does poorly. **Whit Bodman** teaches Comparative Religion at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and a doctorate from Harvard Divinity School in Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies. He has served as a pastor for 13 years in North Carolina and Massachusetts.

C-02 Abundance as Ministry -- Reflections on Fundraising In The Church (Repeat of A session) What stands between abundant giving and abundant ministry? In this workshop, we'll examine the practical, cultural, and spiritual challenges of fundraising in local congregations, with a goal of providing each other advice and encouragement for the efforts we undertake – or should undertake – each year. **Richard Dubose** is president of the Montreat Conference Center, which serves more than 35,000 Presbyterians each year. Richard was appointed in October, 2014 after twenty-seven years as a fundraising executive in Atlanta, Georgia. His career in leadership and development also includes service as chief development officer of Points of Light, the largest organization in the world dedicated to volunteer service. Previously, Richard served for eleven years as vice president for institutional advancement at Columbia Theological Seminary.

C-03 Why the Church has been and should remain active in safe WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Participants will be asked to consider how best to invest in safe water. There will be a discussion of the work of the church in development past and present, and how we might go forward from here. After these discussions, we will consider again how best to invest. **Jim McGill** is the son of medical missionaries Kenneth and Nancy McGill, who were 20 years in the Congo, afterwards finishing their mission work in Malawi. Jim and his wife Jodi joined Kenneth and Nancy for what was to be a one-year work-visit to Malawi, and now twenty years later have decided to shift with the family from Malawi to now work in Niger. Jodi is a Nurse Practitioner with a Masters in Public Health, and Jim works in Water and Sanitation.

C-04 Engaging In Aging That Is Changing Aging retirees and their families are often confounded by the complexity of issues facing the elderly. The church now faces the enormous task of addressing escalation needs, challenges, and changes faced by an aging and intergenerational congregation. These are days of tremendous opportunity in the community of faith. The church should be a part of this whole educational process. **Michele Hendrix** is the acting President of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN), a Caregiver Specialist, Master Trainer, and Class Leader for Powerful Tools for Caregivers. Working for over 25 years to advocate, educate, involve, and motivate individuals in the process of aging and self-care. The focus of my work is on intergenerational, interfaith, and evidence-based programs for aging adults, health promotion, respite for caregivers, fall prevention programs, and ministry programming and development for retirees, middle adults, and older adults.

C-05 Adult Education Galore This workshop will offer a bird's eye view of adult education, with specific tips on structuring classes, mentoring facilitators, and choosing curriculum. **Malinda Spencer** is the Associate for Curricula Training and Promotion for Congregational Ministries Publishing, a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Malinda is a Christian educator with experience in churches from several hundred members in size to churches with a few dozen members.

C-06 Developing Child Protection Policies for the Local Church How do our congregations create safe havens for children & youth? What are some best practices that our Presbytery will be following? What is new in Alabama law? The Presbytery's policy will be reviewed as a guide for congregations. **Lin Veazy (with Jay Wilkins) - Lin Veasey** is a CRE Commissioned to Church of the Covenant in Anniston and facilitating pastor and moderator for First Presbyterian Jacksonville. Lin has a deep concern for child protection and has served in PCUSA congregations and mission outreach for over 20 years. Her first involvement with child protection was in her role as founding chairperson of Conway Cradle Care, a non-profit that provides quality and safe childcare for the children of young parents seeking to continue their education. Lin is finishing terms on the Executive Council of PS&L and the Living River board and is looking forward to new opportunities for ministry with families in Calhoun county. Along with the great adventure of seeking to follow Christ, her first profession and deepest sense of call is being mom to the Veasey crew, six kids and a husband who still needs a little raising. **Jay** is the Transitional Presbyter for the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley.

C-07 When Opening Doors Isn't Enough: Creating Houses of Hospitality with Young Adults In and Out of the Church Anyone whose cracked the cover of any religious publications or blogs knows that there has been a lot written on why young adults (aka millennials) don't go to church. This workshop does not have the answer as to why they're not coming, but instead will explore how can the church reach out, support and love them. This will be a mix of presentation and conversation about

where we go from here. **David Seamon** is a child of Atlanta . He went to Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville where he theology, biblical languages and youth ministry. After college, he attended Nazarene Theological Seminary, where he earned a Masters of Divinity. David served as the Director of Youth Ministries at IPC for 3 years. Since then, David has served as youth director for three churches and planted a church in Seattle, Washington. He now serves as Director of Missional Engagement at Independent Presbyterian Church. David is married to Allison Waite Seamon. They have two daughters - Millie and Naomi.

C-08 African-American Leadership--"Disruptive Innovation" During this session, participants will explore disruptive innovation and what it means for the future of mainline African American Presbyterian leaders and their congregations. **Sterling Morse** is a Teaching Elder, Presbyterian Church USA. He has served churches in South Carolina, Michigan, and Washington DC, and as the Associate for Mission, National Capital Presbytery. Presently, he is the coordinator for African American Intercultural Congregational Support, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA.

C-09 Going Green The PCUSA has a designation for congregations who are working towards greener practices and environmental stewardship called Earth Care Congregations. Montevallo Presbyterian was the first congregation in Alabama to be designated an Earth Care Congregation, and, recently, with the help of friends from Montevallo, IPC has taken steps towards this designation as well. Come learn more about how congregations can be better stewards of the environment and how the Earth Care Certification process works. Congregations might be surprised to learn that this designation is within reach, even if there are challenges such as an aging facility or limited resources. **Elizabeth Goodrich, Bill McKelvey, and members of Earth Care teams at IPC and Montevallo PC - Rev. Elizabeth Goodrich** is an associate pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church. Her primary area of ministry is Christian Education. **Bill McKelvey** is Director of Operations at IPC. A seminary trained Scout and outdoorsman, Bill's love of nature led him to begin to think creatively about how to reduce IPC's environmental impact.

C-10 The History of Worship As Seen Through Art and Architecture Beginning with Temple and Synagogue, we will see in an extensive collection of slides via PowerPoint how worship spaces have developed throughout church history as the result of an ongoing conversation between architecture, liturgy and theology, demonstrating even today that where we worship dictates how we worship and vice versa. **Dr. Bill Carl**, Senior Pastor at IPC, has served as President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Senior Pastor at First Church, Dallas, and Professor of Homiletics, Worship and NT Greek at Union Seminary (VA). He has published 8 books, 75 articles, and spoken at places like Princeton, Cornell, Boston University, Oxford, Cambridge, South Africa and at divinity schools in Russia, India, Korea, & China.