



Disciples – Called, Equipped, and In The Neighborhood!
Mt. 28.16–20; Eph 4.11–16; Jn 20.19–20

2023 Workshop Descriptions

Session I: Introduction to Escaping the Church Growth Graveyard

Ryan Braught – Room F

Do you feel caught in old paradigms of church movement? Join this *missional church track* with Ryan Braught to explore the ways you can mobilize your church-planting, and church contexts by cultivating people to participate in the mission of God. More than ever before, the church needs to explore a dispersed posture as we bring the kingdom to bear in the places we live, work, and play.

Learning to Wash Feet: Discipleship Across the Brethren - 1st session

Josh Brockway, Andy Hamilton - Room B

The Brethren movement has centered on the idea that discipleship means doing what Jesus said to do. In these two sessions we will explore a definition of discipleship and then identify key practices that form Brethren disciples of Jesus across cultures.

Humility's Trajectory - 2 Cor 5:11-21

Dr. Dennis Edwards – Room A

Drawing insights from his forthcoming book, *Humility Illuminated: The Biblical Path Back to Christian Character* (IVP Academic), Dennis will examine humility's biblical foundations and explore how it functions to revitalize Christian community.

ROCK(#ministrywithyouth)HARD PLACE – Room D

Becky Ullom Naugle

Is your ministry with youth stuck between a rock and a hard place? Youth are busier than ever, which means getting on their schedule is nothing short of a miracle. Moreover, many youth are not as familiar with scripture, Christian community and worship, or a personal relationship with God as we would want. Gather with leaders who care deeply about the faith formation of young people; leave with rekindled hope and resources! We will talk about generational trends, swap stories, and consider resources. “Silver bullets” will not be distributed, but ideas and possibilities will be shared generously!

Session II: Mission: What's Keeping us Stuck?

Ryan Braught – Room F

What Should We be Measuring for our Church? - 1st session

Jessie Cruickshank – Room A

We've all heard some version of the saying, *baptisms, bucks, and behinds* - that is what we measure in the church world. We all know that there is something inherently wrong with that perspective, but despite our best efforts, we all continue to default back to it. The problem is that we have not come up with a good solution as to what we should be measuring instead. In this workshop we will look at what scripture has to say about metrics, faithfulness, and fruitfulness. And we will brainstorm together a practical list of what we can start measuring instead to gauge both short-term and long-term Kingdom goals.

The Priesthood of Regular People

Nate Polzin – Room D

In the Church of the Brethren, we proclaim that each Christian is part of the priesthood of all believers. We go on to state that our baptism is our ordination into ministry. Yet we usually call out those among us with gifts and talents for leadership into formal ordination and then have that group of people we call the clergy do much of the ministry. What then do we mean when we say every disciple is called “into the neighborhood?” If I am not a pastor, what does it mean for me to be “called?” If I am a pastor, what does it mean that everyone in my congregation is called? This workshop will dive into what Jesus’ call means for all of us and how we can live into it!

Planting a Church from Start to Flourishing /

Plantar una iglesia desde el principio hasta que florezca" (English/Spanish)

Rigo & Margie Berumen, Russ Matteson – Room B

Pastors Rigo and Margie Berumen and Executive Minister Russ Matteson will share about the journey of Centro Ágape en Acción from church start to where they are now and where God will lead the church next. / Los pastores Rigo y Margie Berumen y el ministro ejecutivo Russ Matteson compartirán sobre el viaje del Centro Ágape en Acción desde el comienzo de la iglesia hasta donde están ahora y hacia dónde Dios guiará a la iglesia a continuación.

Session III: Context: How should we go?

Ryan Braught – Room F

Church as a Neighbor: The Geography, Biology, and Theology of Presence
Shannan Martin – Room A

Eleven years ago, Shannan’s young family moved into the neighborhood and joined a tiny, “dying” UMC congregation two blocks away. Through ups and downs, they simply stayed put, a decision that fundamentally shaped them. Shannan will share the electric, ever-unfolding story of how St. Mark’s UMC was resurrected through its incarcerated neighbors and what they’ve all learned about discipleship along the way. Join Shannan for this personal, practical exploration of a multi-generational, multi-racial church in an overlooked neighborhood and what it really looks like when we practice presence in our kitchens, sanctuaries, and the sacred spaces where the lines blur.

Building Trust in Congregations /Confiar y Obedecer si Dios es Presente
(virtual/Spanish)
Carol Yeazell – Room B

Las Iglesias de los Hermanos tiene un deseo a ver sus miembros trabajo junto. Un dictador no va aceptar mando de otras. Para que el trabajo Dios quiere ver no es logardo. Que lo hace a ver la iglesia creciendo?

The Churches of the Brethren desire to see their members working as teams to share responsibilities and bring in more members. A dictator doesn’t accept leadership from others. That means the work God wants is not accomplished. What should you do to see the church grow?

Discernment – Paying Attention to Consolation and Desolation
Connie Burkholder – Room D

Explore spiritual consolation and desolation as signs of how God’s Spirit is nudging us as we consider our calling and our everyday decisions.

Session IV: Community: What holds us together?
Ryan Braught – Room F

Learning to Wash Feet: Discipleship Across the Brethren - 2nd session
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Liderazgo Ministerial; estilos y manejo de conflictos (Ministerial Leadership; Styles and conflict management) (Spanish, virtual)

José Otero – Room B

Se estará explorando los diferentes estilos de liderazgo, sus riesgos y oportunidades. Se examinará la figura de Jesús y cómo ejerció los diferentes estilos de liderazgo en diversas situaciones. Finalmente se hablará brevemente sobre cómo identificar posibles fuentes de conflictos y cómo el líder debe manejar los mismos dentro del grupo.

We will be exploring the different styles of leadership, their risks, and opportunities. The figure of Jesus will be examined and how he exercised the different styles of leadership in various situations. Finally, there will be a brief discussion on how to identify possible sources of conflicts and how the leader should handle them within the group.

Who is My Neighbor? Discovering Your Congregation's Neighborhood (virtual)

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey – Room D

We know that a central component of Christianity is to love one's neighbor. But like the law expert in Luke 10:29, we may find ourselves asking, "who is my neighbor?" This question is especially important to ask as we seek to lean into our compelling vision. In this workshop we will explore how a congregation's assets, identity, and location can provide helpful information when seeking to move into the neighborhood.

Session V: Formation: How are we shaped?

Ryan Braught – Room F

Jessie Cruickshank – Room A

Churches under 200 in decentralized networks have unique challenges when it comes to revitalization. They do not have access to centralized resources (money or expertise) to help them relaunch, and the few off-shelf-tools that exist are designed for larger church congregations. How does one relaunch when everyone who shows up already does as much as they can? In this workshop we will talk honestly about the challenges faced by the average church in America. Together we will explore what might be the new goal, God's goal, for the church in North America. No silver bullets will be offered, but rather practical tools to discern God's next steps for your church.

A Nonviolence Method of Transforming Trauma **Samuel Sarpiya – Room B**

Fighting injustice can trigger trauma; we need to learn how to process it and take healing action. Mental disorders such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression are prevalent in conflict-affected cities, countries, and regions. But there has been little focus on other reactions to extreme forms of injustice, such as explosive anger that ensued as a result of PTSD. Women and minority communities may be at unique risk of fierce outrage because of the particular conditions of human rights violations and hardships they suffer in today's settings, including exposure to racial and gender-specific abuses and bearing a disproportionate burden concerning poverty and child-rearing. Explosive anger, in turn, may impact minority and women's health and their interpersonal interactions in the family and the wider community. At a more general level, it is crucial to determine whether high levels of anger amongst minority community undermine the critical role they play in achieving social stabilization and development in the aftermath of conflict.¹

Since conflict has become eminent, can the nonviolence method be of any help in transforming trauma? My workshop would attempt to show the connection and possibility for which a nonviolence approach can help an already traumatized person providing such individual with skill to develop nonviolence resilience and, therefore, be reintegrated to society, thereby becoming a productive, constructive contributor in developing a peaceful future.

¹ Steel Z, Chey T, Silove D, Marnane C, Bryant RA, et al. (2009) Association of Torture and Other Potentially Traumatic Events With Mental Health Outcomes Among Populations Exposed to Mass Conflict and Displacement. JAMA 302: 537–549.

When We Become Love: a No-Strings Approach to Sharing Jesus with the Community (virtual) **Martin Hutchison – Room D**

Every church dreams of making an impact in its community. In the past 24 years, Community of Joy has moved from a little-known congregation in the community to a widely known church which is often invited to the table in places churches don't normally get invited. In this workshop you will hear some of the strategies employed and be given some ways you can become love in your community too!

Session VI: Practice: Where do we go from here? **Ryan Braught – Room F**

Meeting the Needs of Christ and His People (virtual) **Founa Augustin Badet – Room B**

We are the Bible. What better way to serve, evangelize and love your neighbors if not by being present! Join us to discover where the needs are in your neighborhood, and how to demonstrate Christ. This workshop will illustrate how hybrid and physical presence impacts communities.

Effectively Board - Eder Financial

Nevin Dulabaum – Room A

Nevin Dulabaum has served as president of Eder Financial, which until May 2022 was known as Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, since 2008. He is passionate about helping pastors, church workers, and congregations know how to better manage their retirement plans, their health-based insurances, and their organizational funds so that they can go about their ministries without worry. As a former newspaper reporter and church board member, he also believes in strong governance of organizations, which means how best they should conduct themselves as a business to avoid conflict of interests, to ensure everyone is headed in the same strategic direction, and that business is conducted fairly and openly. This includes congregations!

Effectively Board is a workshop Nevin has developed and presented many times at Annual Conference to discuss good church board governance.

