

Diocese of West Missouri Convention Gathering Presentations Friday & Saturday, November 4th & 5th –At Bartle Hall, KC, MO

Select one from each of the following: (Note – Presentations with (Part 1) and (Part 2) designations are two-hour presentations. Both Breakout Sessions should be marked to attend the full presentation.) PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!

Friday, November 4th - Breakout Session 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Gathering Presentation 1 – The Roles of Deacons & Licensed Lay Ministers (Part 1)

Gathering Presentation 2 – Creating a Vision and Practical Planning in Youth Ministry

Whether you have one or one hundred youth, ministry to youth begins with a vision of where you want to go. From there, practical planning, together with the investment of time and talent, can empower both individuals and entire congregations to ministry.

Gathering Presentation 3 – Spiritual Knitting

Following the edict of "Hands to Work, Hearts to God" the presentation discusses knitting as a kinesthetic meditation and prayer process for the knitter, reviews knitting for charitable giving (including suggested projects and recipients) and concludes with suggestions for setting up parish knitting/needlework guilds.

Gathering Presentation 4 – Talking Like Leaders

Much as leaders may understand the complex nature of organizational management, they often overlook something pretty simple: the need to communicate with people. Although we are well into an Information Age, we are not exchanging meaningful knowledge. The Talking Like Leaders presentation will tap into the collective experiences of organization communication consultants and examine the leader's role in creating knowledge based organization. We will examine what is and is not effective communication. The Talk Like a Leader concept is built on the foundational belief that effective leaders value dialogue.

Friday, November 4th - Breakout Session 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Gathering Presentation 1 - The Roles of Deacons & Licensed Lay Ministers (Part 2)

Gathering Presentation 2 – Challenges in Christian Formation

Participants will engage in conversation about the particular challenges of offering formation programs for all ages in their congregations. It will be an opportunity to network, gather resources, and work toward active and exciting Christian Formation.

Gathering Presentation 3 – What You Need to Know About Hospice

The goal of this talk is to give a brief history of the hospice movement, share the hospice philosophy and explain the general guidelines of how, why, and when someone should become a hospice patient. Within this presentation will be information about supporting patient self-determination through the Advance Directive.

Gathering Presentation 4 – An Extended Advent

Are four weeks of Advent really enough? In the secular world, Christmas decorations arrive in the stores shortly after the celebration of Halloween. Should not the Church also begin our preparation for Christ's coming at an earlier time as well? This session will explore the historical precedence for an extended season of Advent, current practices of other churches (Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox), and discuss the experience of keeping a pre-Advent season at St. Mary's in Kansas City.

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Friday, November 4th - Breakout Session 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Gathering Presentation 1 – Best Practices in Social Media in Ministry

Facebook and Twitter are the new frontiers in ministry outreach, and any church, regardless of size or financial resources, can use these tools to better serve its own congregation and community. This presentation will show current practices in social media ministry and easy, free resources to get you going.

Gathering Presentation 2 – The New Face of Racism/Bigotry (Part 1)

Participants will explore the shifting paradigm of racism, its manifestations, its impact upon the nation and the church and how to combat its influence.

Gathering Presentation 3 - Liturgy & Music in Small Congregations (Especially Without Priests)

Let us gather to discuss the needs and concerns in small congregations which involve liturgy and music, especially in small congregations without priests or with regional priestly oversight. Let us share ideas about how we can deal with these challenges.

Gathering Presentation 4 – Ripe for the Harvest (Part 1)

Ripe for the Harvest is a practical, simple, repeatable, proven process that aligns local parish vision and mission around the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Having a 98% success rate in 41 Cases, it has resulted in increased leadership and laity participation in ministry, increased giving, transparent budgeting, efficient organization of parish programs, ministries and administration, as well as facilitating needed meaningful changes in the parish structures. Its foundations are best business practices, statistical analysis, Trinitarian Theology, Scripture, and the life practices of Jethro, Moses, Jesus, St. Paul and modern business leaders of today.

Friday, November 4th - Breakout Session 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Gathering Presentation 1 – Nature: Disaster or Docent? The Possibility of Creation as Teacher for Living a Holy, God-filled Life

Christians have a particular concern for “this planet Earth, our island home.” However, Mother Earth is in dire distress. Some have accused Christianity of exacerbating such problems. But in *biomimicry*, Earth is our teacher and guide, and we learn and benefit (for example, Velcro). In this workshop, we will explore what we can learn from non-human creatures about prayer, ethics, peace, balance, freedom, and relationship.

Gathering Presentation 2 - The New Face of Racism/Bigotry (Part 2) See Part 1 above.

Gathering Presentation 3 – Small but Mighty: How our small churches can thrive in the 21st Century

This is a forum for those in small churches that either cannot or in the future will not be able to afford professional clergy leadership, but the focus will be how to thrive rather than merely to survive.

Gathering Presentation 4 - Ripe for the Harvest (Part 2) See Part 1 above.

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Saturday, November 5th - Breakout Session 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Presentation 1–Art and the Image of God–Uncovering Our Relationship (Part 1)

This is a two hour workshop with a short break in a small group setting (12 maximum) to explore your individual spiritual journey in relationship to God, both historically and developmentally. From our individual and collective journey spring various images of God and our own soul that cannot be perceived directly. As we long to deepen and express our love towards God and neighbor, we understand ourselves through images, symbols and language. We will spend time in dyads, writing, art exploration and pilgrimage. We are working with right brain function of creativity to balance the intellectual understanding of God, Christ and Spirit.

Gathering Presentation 2 – Milestones Ministry – Would this be helpful in your congregation?

A faith milestone is a marker along life's journey that says, "This is something important and God is here, too." Milestone Ministry is a biblically-based spiritual practice in both home and congregation that helps all generations recognize God's presence in all of life.

Saturday, November 5th - Breakout Session 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Gathering Presentation 1 - Art and the Image of God – Uncovering Our Relationship (Part 2) See Part 1 above.

Gathering Presentation 2 – Backpack Shepherds: One Church’s Experience Feeding the Hungry

Find out how to feed hungry children and their families in your community through a backpack ministry. You’ll learn how to set up a program, do’s and don’ts, and fundraising ideas. Veteran backpackers will be there to answer your questions.