

Keynote Tracks Workshops

In order to go deeper than any single workshop usually allows, this year at District Assembly we will go deeper on fewer issues. After encountering two keynote addresses, participants will be invited to attend a series of workshops led by each of our keynote speakers and others, to explore and engage in authenticity and depth.

Keynote by Patricia Infante **“Spiritual Strength for Bold Living”**

Impact Workshop

Friday Night 8:40pm—9:30pm

We will:

- Introduce the characteristics of a “spiritually strong” congregation.
- Explore how faith development for all ages is a key factor in bold living.
- Consider the value of healthy leadership and a strong mission in living out a bold vision.

Interconnection Workshop

Saturday Morning 9am—10:15am

We will:

- Consider the meaning of “covenant” in a spiritually strong congregation.
- Introduce tools for starting or re-energizing small group ministry.
- Practice healthy communication skills within the congregation.

Innovation Workshop

Saturday Morning 10:30 am—11:50am

We will:

- Consider ways in which using “theme-based ministry” can challenge and grow a more spiritually mature people.
- Look at how “theme-based ministry” can be applied across the lifespan.
- Introduce other innovative ideas such as full faith week and the flipped classroom.

Keynote by Mark Bernstein **“Where Two or Three Are Gathered: The Power of Congregational Connections”**

Impact Workshop

Friday Night 8:40pm—9:30pm

We will:

- Explore the benefits of connecting with other congregations
- Consider the compelling reasons why congregations will not want to connect
- Present additional examples of congregational connections

Interconnection Workshop

Saturday Morning 9am—10:15am

We will:

- Consider the model that best fits your congregation
- Look at the “readiness” factors in your congregation
- Discuss the first steps to take and the process to follow

Innovation Workshop

Saturday Morning 10:30 am—11:50 am

We will:

- Discuss the concept of change in the congregation and sources of potential resistance
- Explore ways of enrolling the congregation in the change process
- Share available resources to support congregations in this endeavor

Open Workshop - Taking Community beyond the Congregation - Saturday, 3pm – 4:15pm - Presenter Jim Wehner

This workshop will address how we engage the communities around our churches through innovation and interconnection. Together we will think about ways that every church member can engage in holistic and innovative service that honors and builds the community around the church.

Jim joined the FCS team in September 2008 as the Executive Director of Charis Community Housing. In January 2014, Jim moved to the role of President at FCS. With experience in for-profit and non-profit sectors, Jim brings a balance of ministry experience and business skills to this non-profit, community development organization. Prior to joining the FCS team, Jim spent nine years as the lead pastor of Common Ground Fellowship, a participating member of the Evangelical Free Church of America and approximately nine years in retail sales and management with Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI).

Jim has led and participated in multiple workshops at the Christian Community Development Association conference and at churches regarding Responsible Charity, Affordable Housing, the impact of the foreclosure crisis on neighborhoods, and Neighborhood Dynamics of Redevelopment. He has also worked with multiple churches and leadership teams to aid them in developing a vision for ministry in the communities where they serve. Jim supports multiple organizations at the board level assisting them as they develop thinking and best practices around organizational structure, board governance, and team development.

Open Workshop - From Districts to Regions - Saturday, 3pm – 4:15pm - Presenter JPD Board of Directors

Five years ago, the Boards of the Joseph Priestley District, the Metro New York District, the St. Lawrence District, and the Ohio Meadville District began a journey of closer collaboration. That journey has grown into ongoing discussions about what might be possible in the future. In this workshop, the JPD Board of Directors will share with you the current planning of the Regionalization Transition team formed by these four Boards, and will begin the process of gathering feedback from our congregations. The goal is to find ways to maximize the support that is provided to our congregations and also honors the history and characteristics of the JPD.

Open Workshop - People of Color Caucus - Saturday, 3pm – 4:15pm

As a part of the District's ongoing mission to help build community and power among People of Color in our congregations, this workshop will continue the series of People of Color caucuses that have been sponsored by the District's Director for Racial Justice. In this caucus, members of the CERG Transition Team will be present to hear concerns that People of Color may have in the process towards regionalization, and to vision how we can expand some of the important work begun in the JPD to other parts of our movement.

Leadership Conversations — Saturday, 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Facilitated by members of the UUA Central East Regional Staff, you are invited to attend one of several conversations about the programming and support different areas of congregational life need in order to live the mission of our congregation. These are listening sessions, designed to help Regional Staff to determine the programming needs of our congregations. Sessions include:

Congregational Board Members and Officers

Search and Transition Team Members

Religious Education / Faith Development Leaders

Membership and Hospitality Leaders

Worship Leaders

Social Justice Leaders

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leaders