

New Hope Presbytery's Matthew 25 mini-conference

"Connecting with the Community"

Workshop Speakers



Rev. Rebecca Barnes

"Eradicating Systemic Poverty and Addressing Root Causes of Hunger: The Church's Role"

In this participatory workshop, we will share ideas about using our time, energy, church buildings, and ministries to address hunger and poverty in our communities. We will explore root causes of poverty and hunger as well as the spectrum of things that churches across the country are doing, as models to address poverty and hunger-- in worship life, Christian education, church building and grounds, advocacy efforts, financial support, and partner relationships.

BIO: Rev. Rebecca Barnes (she, her, hers) coordinates the Presbyterian Hunger Program, addressing intersectional, underlying causes of hunger and sits on a denominational team to discuss ways PC(USA) members can engage in eradicating systemic poverty. Rebecca is a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she earned a Master of Divinity and a Master of Art in Religion in 2011 and is author of "50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Help Make a Difference."



Rev. Jimmie Hawkins

"Jesus & Justice: Advocacy as a Spiritual Discipline"

My workshop, "Jesus & Justice: Advocacy as a Spiritual Discipline" is focused on the importance of justice to Christian discipleship and as a part of discipleship. You cannot read the Bible without constant references to living a just and compassionate life. God is a God of justice and challenges each one of us to speak out when injustice occurs in our local

community, nation, or world. We will explore teachings in the Bible on justice, talk about the work of the PC(USA) on justice advocacy, and how Presbyterians can get involved. We look forward to a time of engagement and visioning for a more just world.

BIO: Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins serves as the Presbyterian Church (USA) Advocacy Director of the Washington Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (NYC). He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA); and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA). He served as the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC, (1996 – 2016). He chaired several interfaith /ecumenical and non-profit boards: NC NAACP Executive Committee, Durham Congregations in Action, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham, Housing for New Hope (homeless advocacy), End Poverty Now, and others. His community ministry includes being a leader for the Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina and the Poor People's Campaign. He engaged in four actions of civil disobedience and has been active in justice advocacy throughout his ministry. His book, *Unbroken and Unbowed*, was released by Westminster John Knox Press, in February 2022. He is the son of Elsie L. and the late James P. Hawkins. He is married to Sheinita Hampton Hawkins, and they have two children: Kaela Renee and James Hampton.

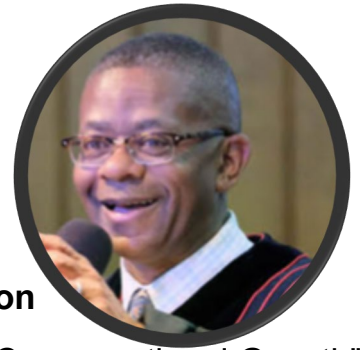


Rev. Edwin Gonzalez Castillo

“PDA, not just Public Displays of Affection”

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) dedicated to providing immediate and long-term aid to communities affected by natural and human-caused disasters. This workshop will offer a comprehensive overview of PDA's mission, detailing its core activities in disaster response, recovery, and preparedness. Emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships, attendees will learn how PDA collaborates closely with local and international partners, leveraging these connections to deliver effective, compassionate relief and support, while fostering community resilience and volunteer involvement.

BIO: Rev. González-Castillo manages the staff and programs of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, overseeing domestic and international response initiatives. He appreciates the opportunity to serve as the "face" of PDA, interpreting our mission in churches, presbyteries, and synods; and teaching, developing curriculum, and writing for various publications. He leads and supports collaborative efforts with neighboring ministry areas within the PC(USA) and among our ecumenical and interfaith partners in disaster response.



Rev. Jerry L. Cannon

“Sustainable Shared Ministry for Congregational Growth”

This workshop equips leaders and members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to navigate the changing landscape of ministry. Through interactive sessions, participants will explore: Sustainable Ministry: Learn practical approaches to ensure your church's ministry efforts are long-lasting and impactful; Shared Ministry: Discover how to empower and equip Pastors and members to contribute their gifts and talents to the life of the congregation; Congregational Growth: Develop strategies to attract and retain new members, fostering a thriving faith community. This workshop is designed for pastors, church staff, and interested members who want to see their church flourish.

BIO: The Reverend Dr. Jerry L. Cannon serves as Vice President, Ministry Innovation at the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). His service began as the agency entered a season of rebuilding, and he is responsible for strengthening connections to ministries that represent the growing diversity of the denomination. Jerry leads and directs the Board's dues incentive programs, exploring solutions that will break new ground in the support of small church and nontraditional ministries. He also manages the Board's relationship with churches and caucus groups, including the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches, and Hispanic/Latinx National Presbyterian Caucus. A lifelong Presbyterian who has long been active in the national Church, Jerry served more than 30 years as pastor of C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church, a thriving congregation in Charlotte, North Carolina, and one of the largest Black congregations in the PC(USA). The congregation nearly tripled in size during his service and engaged in extensive community-based ministry and bridge-building. Jerry has held several high-profile roles within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including leadership within the African American Intercultural Congregational Support Office. He also served as President of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and as a Minister of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with the Presbyterian Foundation. He is a former member of the Board of Pensions Board of Directors, serving on the Assistance and Pension committees, and currently serves as one of two Board representatives to the Diverse Voices Table of the PC(USA). Jerry holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Virginia State University, a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center (Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary), and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.



Natarsha Sanders

“Both Human & Divine: How Leaders can EQUIP for Maximum Impact”

Jesus was both human and divine. Although we focus a lot on his divinity, are there lessons we can learn from Jesus Christ's humanity? If so, what is there to learn? In this workshop we will explore if Christ's humanity can help EQUIP us for transformative leadership.

BIO: Natarsha Prince Sanders (she/her) currently serves as the associate for intercultural leadership development and recruitment in the office of racial equity and women's intercultural ministries for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. She is a 2023 Black Theologians Leadership Fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary and the 2021-22 Emerging Writer's Cohort at Collegeville Institute. An avid reader, writer and lifelong learner, Natarsha will earn her doctoral in educational ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary this year.



Rev. Alonzo Johnson

“Anchored in the Current Shift: Exploring Ways to Activate and Engage your Community in the Work of Discipleship and Effective Mission.”

Drawing from both Matthew 25 and from the wisdom imparted from communities and the work connected with Self Development of People, anchored in the Current Shift will look at how churches can engage in effective mission and discipleship in a shift-changing, post COVID world. This interactive workshop will also equip participants with missional strategies centered around community organizing to create and leverage congregational/communal power in engaging issues in the local church and community through direct action and advocacy. Using spiritual practices, biblical perspectives of justice and Presbyterian theological tradition, the workshop is also designed to encourage relationship, network and community building among participants. Several aspects of this workshop will focus on asset mapping, poverty eradication, the importance of trauma informed care, intersectionality, and systemic change.

BIO: Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson is the Coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People Program (SDOP) Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Johnson has

25 years of experience in missional church studies, urban, congregational based organizing, youth/education, creative arts, peacemaking, anti-poverty, prison, and social justice ministries.

Rev. Johnson pastored an urban congregation and trained in both Systems Theory and Missional Church in the Presbytery in Philadelphia. He was also a volunteer chaplain in prison ministry for 9 years. He is also the convenor of PC(USA) Education Roundtable and is an active staff member of the Poverty Consultant team -- an anti-poverty working group comprised of both PC(USA) national staff and Mid Council leaders.



Registration Is Now Open!

New Hope Presbytery's
Matthew 25 Mini-Conference
"Connecting with the Community"

Monday July 22, 2024
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Click the below link to register:

<https://nhpresbytery.org/events/new-hope-presbytery-mini-conference/>