

highlight some of the most fruitful practices for connecting with every generation. These are practices that churches from any size or setting can implement.

## **Soul Care for Veterans and their Families**

*Leader: Leader: Chaplain (Col – Ret) David Smith*

Our many veterans face unique and often extremely difficult challenges. The church is uniquely positioned to heal the soul and strengthen the spirit of the veteran and the veteran's family. During the breakout session, we will explore the theological and practical resources available to church leaders and members, and develop skills in order to design mission and ministry to welcome, reintegrate, and journey with our veteran community.

## **The Best Rest: Sabbath and Spiritual Practices**

*Leaders: Matthew and Nancy Sleeth, Blessed Earth*

Have we forgotten how to rest? Are we confusing activity with godliness? This "Sabbath 201" follow-up to 24/6 is designed for clergy, lay leaders, and spouses who would like to deepen their connection with God through intentional spiritual practices. Through small group discussions, we will focus on integrating six specific spiritual practices into Sabbath keeping and carrying those Sabbath moments into the rest of the week. Each participant will leave with an individualized (inaction!) plan for rediscovering God's eternal rhythms of holy rest.

## **Welcoming**

*Leader: Craig Catlett*

Welcoming resources and training have been giving churches new hope, new ideas and new challenges since 2001. Building upon the ideas and exercise of key resources, Welcoming training offers suggestions for sustaining a congregations efforts toward welcoming, inviting, and making disciples. We will provide ways of looking at existing materials and offer new suggestions for helping your entire congregation embrace Welcoming Ministry fully. Our goal is to help your church live the promise of "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." Welcoming Ministry will support your congregation by nurturing a welcoming ministry of radical hospitality!

Breakout Sessions will be held on Friday, June 17 beginning at 8:30 am. The specific location of each breakout session will be determined on how many we have register. Location designations will be provided in your Conference Workbook that you receive at Registration.

**Please return the pre-paid postage registration card by May 15 so that we can plan accordingly.**



## **Annual Conference 2016**

*Please complete the enclosed registration card and return it by May 15, 2016.*

Conference Secretary's Office  
North Carolina Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
700 Waterfield Ridge Place  
Garner, NC 27529

# Breakout Sessions

## AGAPE Generosity

*Leader: Rev. Bill Haddock, NCC Mission Interpreter & Nara Melkonyan*

During this session, participants will make AGAPE Christmas boxes to send to Nagorno-Karabakh. Nara Melkonyan will be with us to share her experiences working with AGAPE in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Over the years, our Conference has worked with the Western NC Conference to provide humanitarian assistance in an area where no such assistance is otherwise available. We have also sent hundreds of Christmas boxes to children of the region—many of whom are refugees from Syria.

## C4C

*Leader: Pat Litzinger*

The NC Conference's Congregations For Children (C4C) initiative encourages churches to partner with public schools in their community to provide support related to helping children living in poverty. Improving K-3 literacy; providing for basic needs (food, clothing etc.) and increasing parental involvement are among the focus areas of C4C. This breakout session will highlight several cases in which United Methodist churches have partnered with other elements in their community (i.e. churches of other denominations, local non-profits, government agencies etc.) around C4C related activities. It will also include testimonials from pastors of churches (of varying sizes) regarding the positive impact C4C has had on their congregations and overall church growth.

## Courageous Conversations

*Leader: Scott Hughes of Discipleship Ministries*

Courageous Conversations aims to inspire and equip local churches to have meaningful dialogue around contentious issues (hot button social issues or local church issues). The outcome of Courageous Conversations includes being better disciples of Jesus Christ who model active listening, build compassion, engage real issues, and reflective learning.

## Effective Ministry within God's Economy of Abundance

*Leader: Rev. John Edgar*

Authentic ministry with diverse people is grounded in personal relationships of mutuality. These relationships become the channel for building an inclusive body of Christ that constructs a front porch of the kingdom of God using principles of asset-based community development that embrace God's economy of abundance.

## Full Life Stewardship

*Leaders: Members of NCCUMC Financial Discipleship Committee*

God's call to be effective stewards requires our attention to all aspects of life: our talents and skills, the environment, loving our neighbor, our church and family, and our finances and generosity. All comes from God and we are entrusted by God to care for them in ways that glorify God. This workshop will look at the full spectrum of stewardship and how our lives can glorify each part of it.

## Multiple Pockets of Generosity

*Leaders: Staff of the United Methodist Foundation, Inc.*

Generosity comes from multiple pockets; Annual Income, Accumulated Assets and Estate Gifts. Dispel myths of Planned Giving. Learn why an Endowment Ministry will actually increase annual giving. Discover what motivates people to give and how to recognize those that are likely to make a planned gift. Envision your church and its community decades into the future and learn how to set the course for ministry to be funded for future generations. Be the courageous forebear for your church. Participants will receive tangible resources. A continental breakfast will be provided for registered attendees.

## NCCUMC Community Anti-Racism Intervention

*Leader: Rev. Willard Bass*

Focus on developing a partnership with the NCCUMC to create the opportunity for intentional and meaningful understanding of the ways in which racism continues to affect, and infect, our community life. We seek to join that issue, as a community, in real terms and real time. We anticipate that this process will culminate in action.

## Raising Generous Children

*Leaders: Members of NCCUMC Children's Ministry Committee*

Raising generous children does not just happen. We live in a greedy society in which having more, consuming more, and wanting more are parts of daily life, even for children. It is never too early to teach children responsibility over their God-given talents and resources. This workshop will offer ideas and resources for doing just that.

## Reaching Every Generation

*Leader: Rev. Steve James*

You've probably heard a dozen reasons why generations are drifting away from the church – or are missing all together! Wouldn't you like to know why and how churches are connecting with and keeping people of all ages? Based on hundreds of interviews of active disciples who joined churches and stayed involved, this workshop (breakout) will



## Breakout Sessions

*Please complete the enclosed registration card and return it by May 15, 2016.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select one Breakout Session that you will attend.**

- AGAPE Generosity
- C4C
- Courageous Conversations
- Effective Ministry within God's Economy of Abundance
- Full Life Stewardship
- Multiple Pockets of Generosity

- NCCUMC Community Anti-Racism Intervention
- Raising Generous Children
- Reaching Every Generation
- Soul Care for Veterans and their Families
- The Best Rest: Sabbath and Spiritual Practices
- Welcoming