

E3 Workshop Blurbs & Bios

(Session 1) Where Do We Start? Leading Change That Actually Goes Somewhere

Most churches try to lead change by starting with a bold new vision (if we are even sure where to start) - but that's often step three, not step one. In this interactive workshop, we'll explore how real transformation begins with urgency, shared leadership, and clear direction. You'll leave with practical tools, spiritual insight, and fresh energy to guide faithful change in your congregation.

***Seth Normington** is the Transitional Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of East Iowa and the Interim Stated Clerk for the Synod of the Pacific. He holds Doctor of Ministry and MBA degrees. He currently splits his time between Iowa and Italy. He enjoys reading, cooking, running, and goofing around with AI.*

(Session 1) Tales by the Wayside – Our Stories of Encounters with God

The Scriptures are full of God's encounters with people. The Holy One continues to show up in our lives. Perhaps God has met you directly, and you have said, "God is here and real to me." We may be reluctant to share these stories with others; as one person once told me, "Presbyterians don't do that." In this workshop, we will recall and share an experience of the presence of God. Your experience need not be spectacular. These stories are the Gospel written in your life. You will leave with tools to help others to engage in this practice and joy in your heart.

***Loretta Ross**, ordained in 1982 by the Presbytery of East Iowa at First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, spent 40 years of ministry in the Presbytery of Northern Iowa. There, she began a church-adjacent, validated ministry, The Sanctuary Foundation for Prayer – a Spiritual Formation and Guidance center. She is the author of Letters from the Holy Ground and has published numerous articles and poetry, including a series of liturgical dramas for the seasons of the church year. As a spiritual director, she never fails to be amazed by the depth and power of God's way with souls.*

(Sessions 1 & 2) "Neurospicey Superpowers": Navigating the world of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder in the church

Rev. Elissa Bailey** is the Stated Clerk of East Iowa Presbytery and Great Rivers Presbytery. She is also a therapist in the State of Illinois with a certificate in ASD and Religious Trauma. Elissa is the mother of three neurospicey children. Elissa lives and works everyday in an understanding of what it looks like to see the world differently and advocates for a world and church that can be inclusive to those who are neurospicey instead of gatekeepers. In this workshop, we will learn about the powers of those who are neurospicey and how neurotypicals might find new and creative solutions to embrace those who don't think the way they do and assist them in their roles in the church instead of finding ways to exclude them. **THIS IS A TWO PART WORKSHOP (Sessions 1 & 2)

(Sessions 1 & 2) Communion Training For Ruling Elders

Michele Scott will be leading this two-part workshop. Participants will learn about the significance of the Sacrament of Communion as well as how to lead and administer it in their own congregation.

There will be required reading material sent ahead and this is a TWO PART WORKSHOP (Sessions 1 & 2)

(Session 2) Church Finance Update

Join us for emerging trends and topics on church finance, including a detailed discussion about the climate for church insurance and what you can do, the employment and tax status of pastors that will be useful for clergy and congregations alike. **Seth Normington & Rev. Dr. Ken Green** is a Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In that role, he consults with churches and presbyteries within the Synods of Lincoln Trails and Lakes & Prairies about employee compensation and benefits. He also leads seminars on preparing for ministry at regional seminaries and preparing for retirement for *Lifelong Learning*—the education branch of the Board of Pensions.

(Session 2) The Art of Discernment: Approaching Decisions with Imaginative Prayer

Whether facing a major life change (switching jobs, moving, retiring, pursuing a new degree, etc.) or a very simple, practical choice (getting a 2nd car, volunteering for something, choosing a destination for your summer vacation, etc.), there are many prayerful ways to approach discernment. This workshop will focus on one contemplative framework offered by Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (i.e. Jesuits), which I've found to be particularly helpful. Come prepared with a decision you're facing (whether big or small-- the more practical, the better!). Participants will not be asked to share any details about what they are trying to discern.

Bobby Outterson-Murphy is a Teaching Elder currently serving as a congregational mentor for PEIA in the Plentiful Gifts program through Dubuque Theological Seminary. Contemplative theologies and practices have long been a passion of his, with a particular interest in the exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. He lives in Iowa City with his wife and three children.

(Session 2) Writing Your First Sermon

Led by preacher **Katie Styr**. Four Page Sermon Structure: Just getting started with sermon writing and looking for some guidelines? Drawing from Paul Scott Wilson's four-page sermon principle, this workshop will present a very simple framework for writing sermons which are Biblically-based and relevant to today's world. Participants will experiment with the structure, share tips, and work through a sermon outline to take with them.

(Session 3) Shared Ministry Grants and Board of Pensions Q & A

Ken Green is the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Consultant from the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA. Can your congregation no longer afford a full-time pastor? Would the energy of a full-time pastor help reinvigorate the ministry of that church? This workshop on shared ministry grants from the Board Of Pensions and learn the process to help two such churches share a full-time minister of the Word and Sacrament and receive a dues subsidy from the Board Of Pensions to do so. There will also be some time for broader questions about the Board of Pensions.

(Session 3) Exploring the Spiritual Practice of Pilgrimage

Join **Stacie Hopmann** (Director of Camp Bear Creek) and **Troy Winder** (Pastor at Bettendorf Presbyterian Church) as they lead an exploration into the spiritual practice of Pilgrimage. In addition to looking into the definition and history of the pilgrimage, we'll explore some popular destinations and share a bit about our own journey on the Camino de Santiago this past fall.

(Session 3) Roundtable Discussion with Plenary Speaker Dr. Christopher James

Dr. Christopher James is the Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Join him after his plenary conversation to dive deeper into the Sacred Storytelling. Christopher is the author of the award-winning "Church Planting Post-Christian Soil: Theology and Practice" (Oxford University Press, 2017) as well as numerous articles. Dr. James is a regular presenter at academic and ministry conferences and has been featured in print, radio, and television, with stories featuring his research in SeattleMet Magazine, and NBC and NPR affiliates. When he's not in the classroom you're likely to find him park-hopping with his wife, Lindsay, and their two spunky kids or hosting a community conversation at the local nano-brewery.

(Session 3) Theology of Play

Sarah Hegar has spent years in youth and children's ministry but one of her favorite things is playing games with adults. Play is not just a frivolous activity but a way to experience God's creation, joy, and freedom. Something happens when we are able to let loose, relax, and be silly together. Join this time of participation and learning and take some ideas home to use in your own context.

E3 SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Gather, Coffee, etc
 9:30 AM Opening Worship, Rev. Katie Styr, Preacher
 10:10 - 11:00 AM Workshop Session #1

Workshop Key

Business Track

Worship Track

Spirituality Track

Out of the Box Track

Workshop Title	Leader
Where Do We Start? Leading Change That Actually Goes Somewhere	Seth Normington
Tales by the Wayside: Our Stories of Encounters with God	Loretta Ross
"Neurospicey Superpowers" Part 1	Elissa Bailey
Communion Training Part 1	Michele Scott

11:10 - 12:00 PM Workshop Session #2

Workshop Title	Leader
Church Finance Update	Ken Green & Seth Normington
The Art of Discernment: Approaching Decisions with Imaginative Prayer	Bobby Outterson-Murphy
Preaching Workshop	Katie Styr
"Neurospicey Superpowers" Part 2	Elissa Bailey
Communion Training Part 2	Michele Scott

12:00 - 12:50 PM Lunch

12:50 - 1:45 PM **Main Plenary: Simple Steps for Becoming a Sacred Storyteller**

Dr. Christopher James

1:55 - 2:35 PM Workshop Session #3

Workshop Title	Leader
Shared Ministry Grants and BOP Q&A	Ken Green
Exploring the Spiritual Practice of Pilgrimage	Troy Winder & Stacie Hoppman
Roundtable Discussion	Chris James
Theology of Play	Sarah Hegar

2:45 - 3:00 PM Sending & Evaluations