

Ministers Week 2012 Workshops

Wednesday Afternoon—February 8, 2012

I. Prophetic Hospitality (2:00 pm and 3:45 pm)

This workshop will explore creative ways that spiritual leaders and congregations can respond to diverse and often conflicting political and ethical positions. How can we advocate for justice, which often involves protest and challenge, while remaining in conversation with those whom we oppose? This workshop will integrate spiritual practices, biblical wisdom, theological reflection and practical application. **Bruce Epperly**, Theologian, pastor, author, and leader in lay and pastoral faith formation.



II. Virtual Faith (2:00 pm and 3:45 pm)

This workshop explores the moral and spiritual dimension of digital technology. Our focus will fall to three areas: the nature of digital technology, social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.) and spirituality, and the life of faith in a digital culture. The first section will lay the groundwork by presenting the essence of all digital technologies. The second section explores more practical considerations such as Facebook and the afterlife, Twitter and the public self, and the blog as confessional. The final section brings the first two together in an exploration of how the nature of digital technology is impacting the life of faith, both in and out of the church. **Sage Elwell**, Assistant Professor of Religion, Art, and Visual Culture, Texas Christian University.



III. Christian Faith and Zen Practice: A Primer on Silent Sitting (2:00 pm only—1.5 hrs)

Christian faith has deep roots in ancient contemplative disciplines, a part of our inheritance that remains largely untapped in most Protestant expressions of faith. This workshop will offer an introduction to Zen as a framework for contemplative experience and a window into the wisdom and compassion shown to us in Christ Jesus. Come prepared to sit together in silence. **Valerie Forstman**, Director of Admissions, Brite Divinity School and a Zen Teacher in the Sanbo Kyodan Tradition.



IV. An Experience with the Courage to Lead[®] for Clergy Leaders (2:00 pm and 3:45 pm)

Join colleagues in an exploration of the Courage to Lead[®] for Clergy and Congregational Leaders, an initiative to help clergy and lay leaders sustain and renew their passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to faithful leadership in the congregations and communities they serve. In this workshop, you will be introduced to the principles and practices that create space where “the soul can show up”. No sage on the stage in this workshop as we gather, as a community of colleagues, to explore how we can live out our calls to ministry in a way that is sustainable over the long haul. **Cynthia Johnson**, L.M.S.W.-A.P., Founder and Lead Facilitator for Courage & Renewal – North Texas.



V. Missional Transformation (2:00 pm and 3:45 pm)

What does it mean to be "missional"? Is it just a fad? Or is it more than that? How can so many churches across the theological spectrum all consider themselves to be missional? I'd like to suggest that any church



can (and should) be missional, and in order to move towards becoming missional, it's going to require not just revitalization but transformation. Let's talk and learn together! **Steve Knight**, Leadership Development Consultant for Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and Community Architect for TRANSFORM Network.