

**THE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY  
2017 NATIONAL GATHERING  
WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES**

**WORKSHOP SESSION A, 3:30-4:30PM**

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**Disciple-Making Through Missional Communities – Alex Absalom**

Whether missional communities are new to you, or something that you already have up and running, come learn from Alex Absalom, who has overseen the planting of over 125 mid-sized missional communities in three very different churches across the U.S. in the past 9 years. Alex has coached hundreds of church leaders in the practicalities of how to use mission-focused groups of 20-50 to grow your disciple-making culture. This session has VERY practical content, with lots of inspiring stories!

*Led by Gathering Speaker Alex Absalom*

**For Leaders of Smaller-Membership Congregations: Missional Identity – Lisa Culpepper & Herb Codington**

This two-part workshop series is specifically designed to nurture leaders of smaller-membership congregations. The first hour will examine the church from different perspectives to better appreciate our call to be the missional church. We will also look at doable missional initiatives for smaller congregations.

*Lisa Culpepper and Herb Codington are both pastors of smaller membership congregations with a combined experience of 30 years of participating in missional clusters. Lisa serves in leadership of five churches in New Harmony Presbytery and has been involved in short-term cross-cultural mission for 25 years. Herb pastors three smaller congregations in Laurens County, SC, serves with a small mission agency with work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and has led the Laurens Missional Cluster of 16 congregations for 25 years.*

**The Poor You Will Always Have With You – Maurice Lattimore, Matt Seadore**

In this workshop you will hear how North Avenue Presbyterian Church, a church in urban Atlanta, is leaning into the missiological challenge to develop a faith community with the marginalized at the center of church life. This has led to rethinking the “how” and “why” of ministry programs, benevolence structures, and leadership paradigms.

*Maurice Lattimore, a Deacon at North Avenue (and one of our Racial Justice and the Gospel panelists), grew up in the projects of Atlanta, and after years of substance abuse and crime, he accepted Christ in a prison cell in 2004. He was experiencing homelessness when he first came to North Avenue, and with God’s transformative grace, is actively involved with several organizations in Atlanta. Matt Seadore serves as Director of Missions and Outreach at North Avenue Presbyterian Church, and has a Master’s degree in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. Matt also serves as a lead trainer for The Chalmers Center.*

**Elders as Shepherds of People: How to Partner with the Elder Leadership Institute (ELI) and Transform Your Session – Eric Laverentz**

Do you dread Session meetings? As a church leader, are you feeling burned out? The Elder Leadership Institute (ELI) works to help elders embrace their biblical and historical role as shepherds of people. Learn what Shepherd Elders look like, some practical tips for helping elders become servant leaders, and how ELI will partner with you to effect this transformation in your Session.

*Eric Laverentz is the coordinator of the Elder Leadership Institute and Lead Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Edmond, Oklahoma. His Doctorate of Ministry studied the historical and biblical role of elders, and he is the author of two books.*

### **Going and Coming: Short Term Mission Trips Seen from Both Sides – Marilyn Borst, Carlos Emilio Ham**

Despite the “controversy” around cost and effectiveness that often surrounds the topic of “short term mission,” the Global Church still welcomes our presence! And as we move out of the comfort zone of our familiar pew, we encounter God at work in new ways as we, by necessity, must relinquish control and yield ourselves to all that he will do *to* us and *through* us and *for* us as we cross borders. This workshop will highlight WHY mission trips still matter, especially when they seek to build long term, reciprocal partnerships. We will focus on the best ways to prepare teams, as well as launch them towards “next steps” upon their return.

*Marilyn Borst is an Associate Director of The Outreach Foundation and a veteran of over 90 such partnership journeys. Carlos Emilio Ham, President of the Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba, has received many short-term teams.*

### **Big Church? Small Church? Developing a Plan That Can Really Work! – Marty Guise**

All too often, church leaders and members alike can see the needs that exist in the church and in the community. And yet, the ability to take God’s plan and move it forward through the ministries of the church falls far short of what we dream it can be. During this interactive workshop, attendees will work through the steps to design a plan using their own input. They will learn how they can take this model, make it their own, and implement it to see significant spiritual growth and outreach!

*Marty Guise is the Executive Director of Lay Renewal Ministries (LRM), a national church health and consulting organization focusing on leadership, renewal and Christian growth resources. Since joining the ministry in 1996, Marty has authored *Seeing from the Summit*, *Giving Life to Vision*, several devotional books for LRM events, and contributed to numerous books, magazines, and newspapers.*

### **Back to the Future: Perspectives on Partnering with Millennial Leaders – Terry McGonigal**

The mission of the Office of Church Engagement (OCE) at Whitworth University is “Equipping disciples and engaging culture with the good news of Jesus.” Three recent graduates of the University have led us on a journey of networking, cultural exegesis, and vision casting. Through their leadership, the OCE has expanded and deepened our work in supporting churches in navigating the complex cultural changes required for successful multigenerational ministry. We will discuss the guiding questions directing our work in Church Engagement through the perspectives of millennials seeking to communicate the gospel clearly, passionately, and faithfully.

*Terry McGonigal serves as the Director of Church Engagement at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. Previously serving as Dean of Spiritual Life and Campus Pastor for 20 years, Terry also teaches biblical studies and has travelled extensively with students and faculty in Latin America, Japan, Africa, and Europe.*

## **WORKSHOP SESSION B, 4:45-5:45PM**

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### **Disciple-Making Through Missional Communities – Alex Absalom**

*See the description under Workshop Session A listing.*

### **For Leaders of Smaller-Membership Congregations: Forming Missional Clusters – Lisa Culpepper & Herb Codington**

During the second hour of this workshop, we will reflect on the advantages of smaller churches collaborating in mission, and we will suggest some steps in forming missional clusters. Examples of smaller churches doing mission together will also be provided.

*See the description of part one of this series under Workshop Session A listing for more information.*

### **The Poor You Will Always Have With You – Maurice Lattimore, Matt Seadore**

*See the description under Workshop Session A listing.*

### **The (Six) Purpose Driven Church – Joe Small**

The “Great Ends of the Church” is not a typical mission statement. Instead of setting out an idealized description of who we are, it challenges us by telling us *who we are to be*. This workshop will introduce the Fellowship’s Great Ends of the Church video, together with other congregational resources.

*Joseph Small served as Director of the Office of Theology and Worship from 1988-2011. In retirement, he is church relations consultant at the Presbyterian Foundation.*

### **The Good News/Bad News About Christian-Muslim Relations: What in the World is God Doing? Begin with the End in Mind. – Cody Watson**

We get the bad press, but underneath it all God is doing a new thing. More Muslims have come to Christ in the 20 years than all of previous history. This workshop will share the stories. It will give resources for engagement. It will share hope and vision. What will be your legacy?

*After seminary Cody taught English in South Korea for 3 years, then pastored 2 small churches in SC before serving at the US Center for World Mission. There he married, and he and wife served for 3 years in Bangladesh. For the last 22 years he has been on staff with Frontier Fellowship.*

### **TFC’s Theology Project: Reformation 500 – Jerry Andrews, Richard Burnett, Bryan Burton**

As we prepare to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation, what precisely are we celebrating? An event whose effects are vital to the well-being of the Church, more so now than ever? Less so from here on out? Too soon to tell? Too late to ask? What work of the Reformation remains? Think with others on these questions. We will also share an update on TFC’s Theology Project.

*Dr. Jerry Andrews is Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA, Dr. Richard Burnett is Executive Director and Editor of Theology Matters, and Dr. Bryan Burton is Pastor of North Lakeland Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, FL. The three serve together on The Fellowship Community’s Theology Task Force that Jerry chairs.*

### **Church Planting & New Worshipping Communities: What’s Working in San Diego and San Fernando Presbyteries – Mike McClenahan, Jim Milley**

After decades of failed attempts to start new churches and revitalize existing churches, The Presbytery of San Diego and San Fernando have created new strategies for planting churches, starting new worshipping communities and training leaders for ministering outside of church culture. This is their focus for the next 10 years and living results have already emerged. Mike and Jim will share highlights of the journey and encouragement for presbyteries, congregations, and local leaders to take new steps toward becoming vital agents of God’s mission in the world.

*Mike McClenahan has served Solana Beach Presbyterian Church as senior pastor since 2003 and recently served as Moderator and Chair of the Executive Committee of the San Diego Presbytery. Mike’s passion is for the church to be place of authentic transformation that makes a tangible difference in the world.*

*Jim Milley loves helping leaders live out their call to make new disciples, start new ministries, and foster new Christ-following communities, all outside of existing church culture. Drawing from his over 20 years of experience as a PCUSA missionary in Ethiopia, a GA staff member, and an Associate Pastor at La Canada Presbyterian Church, Jim has helped the Presbytery of San Fernando start new congregations, foster new worshipping communities, and equip members to live their lives like missionaries in their own neighborhoods and networks.*