



Brief Workshop Descriptions for The 2014 Summit on the Black Church

Where Have All the Prophets Gone? Reclaiming Prophetic Preaching in your Context will be led by Dr. William Bobby McClain—One writer states, “Prophetic preaching in the American pulpit has suffered a decline in the last 20-25 years.” This workshop will serve as an opportunity for clergy and laity to learn the importance of being relevant when preaching the Good News; the need for establishing justice ministries within our context; and being equitable with our resources.

HIV and AIDS Awareness will be led by Reverend Paul Gasque—This workshop will educate participants as it relates to the statistics and the various challenges of HIV/AIDS. Dialogue will be shared also as to how churches can collaborate and build partnerships to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, and how to begin an HIV/AIDS ministry.

How to help your Church engage its Community will be led by Jada Charley. Participants will learn techniques and strategies as to how to get involved with pre-existing programs and services in their respective communities, as well as approaches to help persons serving in non-profits. This workshop will help to examine some ways that believers can become doers and get involved in their communities and make a real impact on those in need of services.

Strengthening Children & Families will be led by Dr. Carolyn Prince and Joan Johnakin—“Poverty is the worst form of violence” (Mahatma Gandhi) and in order to strengthen families and children in poverty we must address all of the circumstances that negatively impact their lives, be it joblessness, health disparities, access to nutritious food, housing, transportation, incarceration, substance abuse, and educational inequities. This workshop is designed to assist clergy and laity in identifying methodologies, strategies, best practices and available resources to create changes that will stabilize families and eradicate poverty in their communities.

Building Relationships with Schools in Your Community will be led by Dr. Debbie Rice and Robert Maddox—Education, business, and community development alone cannot prepare youth and families for today’s economic and social realities. Church and school partnerships represent a strategic approach for appropriate and effective collaboration. This workshop will discuss the importance of those relationships and provide examples of work being done through NC Circles Plus, ACTS (Abundant Community Transformation Stories), and the Lexington Four School District in SC.

The Evolution of Housing Solutions: A Habitat Perspective will be led by Stefanie Barnette, the Community Outreach Director for Habitat for Humanity of York County will be led by Stefanie Barnette — This workshop will examine the changing housing needs of the most vulnerable citizens in South Carolina and explore ways the faith community can help.

Finding the Voice of Advocacy will be led by Reverend Bernie Mazyck. Advocacy ministry is a central part of our biblical call! Remember Jesus challenging the unjust systems of his society that oppressed women, lepers, Samaritans, the poor, and the ill. And as we take stock of the challenges to equal access and affordability of health care, just to name a few, we need the church to be in the forefront with a prophetic voice to speak truth to power and fight for justice. As Christians, we should be committed to helping United Methodist congregations and ministries in local communities across South Carolina engage in the public square with a hopeful, prophetic voice. This session will provide tools and opportunities for the church to be active in advocacy.

Creating Healthier Communities will be led by Lee Porter and Birley Wright, Children’s Trust of South Carolina—There are tremendous numbers of children in local communities across our state who live in poverty. The circumstances related to their lives often create poverty, disadvantages, and tremendous obstacles to becoming healthy thriving youth and adults. Then wonder is not the number of persons who have overcome such circumstances, the wonder is that even higher numbers of persons do not succumb to these circumstances. Faith communities have not known how to recognize or respond to this reality. How can local faith communities be engaged in making a difference and building authentic partnerships and relationships that transform communities.