JAM Workshops

Learning is one of the gifts of gathering together. JAM workshops offer opportunities to deepen your faith, strengthen your leadership, discover new resources, and connect with ministries that are shaping the future of the church. Whether you're a pastor, lay leader, or curious learner, we hope you'll find a workshop that inspires and equips you for the journey ahead.

New Earth Literacy

How do we live faithfully in a changing world? Through practices of listening, lament, and hopeful action, participants will explore spiritual disciplines that deepen our relationship with creation and inspire faithful responses to environmental challenges.

Called to Serve? Exploring Lay Ministry and Ministry Education through LAMP

Curious about where God may be calling you? Learn about lay ministry opportunities, educational pathways, and leadership development available through LAMP and the Nebraska Conference. Whether you're discerning a call or encouraging others, this workshop offers practical next steps.

Talk Saves Lives

Learn the warning signs of suicide, how to respond with compassion, and ways congregations can support mental wellness in their communities. This workshop offers practical tools, current information, and hope for faithful ministry in difficult conversations.

A Place at the Table: A Presentation by Evangelical Conservative Orthodox or Traditional Ministries (ECOT) of the United Church of Christ

Healthy churches create space for honest conversation across differences. Explore practical tools for facilitating respectful dialogue, building understanding, and strengthening relationships within diverse congregations.

Open and Affirming in Small Town and Rural Churches

Hear stories from Open and Affirming congregations serving rural and small-town communities. Panelists will share their journeys, lessons learned, and practical insights, followed by an extended question-and-answer session.

Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)

Learn about the ministry and mission of the Council for American Indian Ministry, its partnerships within the Dakota Association, and opportunities for churches to deepen relationships through Neighbors in Need and Indigenous ministries.

(Tentative) Understanding the Heart of the UCC

Ever wonder why the UCC functions the way it does? Explore how our history, theology, and polity continue to shape our identity today. Discover what makes the United Church of Christ distinctive and why our covenantal way of being church still matters.

Strengthening Our Connections

The Local Church, Association, Conference, and National Setting each have unique gifts to offer. Explore how these ministries work together, discover available resources, and strengthen partnerships that support the whole church.

Artificial Intelligence: A Reader's Digest Introduction for the Church

Artificial Intelligence is changing how we live and work—but what does it mean for ministry? This accessible introduction explores the opportunities, challenges, ethical questions, and practical uses of AI for congregations and church leaders. No technical background is required.

Empowering the Sheep: Thriving in Bi-vocational Ministry (Tentative)

As more congregations move toward part-time or bi-vocational ministry, new models of shared leadership are emerging. Explore practical resources that help pastors and congregations thrive together in changing ministry contexts.

Growing Hope Ministries: Rural Churches Changing the World

Rural churches are uniquely positioned to make a global impact. Experience *The Global Farmer Experience*, an interactive simulation that reveals the daily challenges facing smallholder farmers around the world. Discover how your congregation can respond to global hunger while celebrating its own rural identity, strengths, and mission.

The Marks of Faithful and Vital UCC Churches

What makes a church unmistakably UCC? Drawing from the *Manual on Local Church*, we'll explore the Marks of Faithful and Vital UCC Churches—not as a checklist, but as an invitation to deeper discipleship, courageous community, and faithful witness. Through conversation and shared reflection, you'll discover practical ways these marks can shape your congregation's identity, strengthen its ministry, and inspire hope for the future.