Friday Workshop Offerings | 3:30–5:00 p.m. *Choose one*

New Earth Literacy
Presenter: Rev. Penny Greer Room:
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
Presenters: LAMP Team / Rev. Adam Lassen Room:
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
Presenters: Rev. Keith Kraft & Deb Kraft Room:
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.

Strengthening Our Connections
Presenter: Deacons Room:
The local church, 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.

Growing Hope Ministries: Rural Churches Changing the World
Presenter: Mark Swanson Room:
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
Presenter: Rev. Ellie Hutchison, FaithINFO UCC National Ministries Room:
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.

Saturday Workshop Offerings | 3:30–5:00 p.m. *Choose one*

A Place at the Table
Presenter: Ken Evitts Room:
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
Presenters: Panel Discussion Room:
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)
Presenters: Rev. Libby Fairchild & Rev. Ken James Room:
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.

Artificial Intelligence: A Reader's Digest Introduction for the Church
Presenter: Rev. Mary _____ Room:
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.

The Marks of Faithful and Vital UCC Churches
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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.

(Tentative) Understanding the Heart of the UCC
Presenters: Rev. Kendy Miller & Rev. Emily Munger Room:
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.

Note for Participants
Workshops are offered concurrently from 3:30–5:00 p.m. Participants are invited to select **one workshop** each day. Some workshops may conclude before 5:00 p.m., allowing time for conversation, visiting exhibits, or connecting with presenters before the evening schedule begins.