

Matthew 25 Summit

Workshops

January 16-18, 2024 | New Life Presbyterian Church | Atlanta, GA

Workshops – Session 1 – Tuesday, January 16 – 3:00-4:30 pm				
TRACK	MATTHEW 25 FOCI	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER(S)
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	An Introduction to Matthew 25	What is this Matthew 25 movement all about? My church, presbytery or synod is already doing Matthew 25 ministry, why should we join Matthew 25? How can I introduce Matthew 25 to my congregation or group? These and other questions will be discussed in this Matthew 25 workshop. Participants will take a deep dive into Matthew 25, engage in explorative discussions, gain practical tips on how Matthew 25 may be applied in their context and how it is helping to heal, transform and renew the work and witness of churches and communities.	Diane Givens Moffett
Seeker	Intersectional Priority: Gender Justice & Heteropatriarchy	What Does God Have to Do with Inclusion?	Matthew 25 charges us to dismantle structural racism, build congregational vitality and eradicate systemic poverty. This work cannot truly be done without embracing inclusion. Deepen your knowledge on how and why we must build the loving and inclusive kin-dom of God. Learn about Heteropatriarchy and how it shows up within the church. Deepen understanding around issues impacting LGBTQIA people. Leave with a (re)commitment to welcome, safety and love.	Samantha Davis
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality	Using Presbyterian Polity as a Decolonizing Practice	Presbyterian polity can be a powerful tool for decolonizing church practices. Grounded in the principles of justice, equity, and participatory governance, it can provide a framework for dismantling colonial structures within the church and fostering an inclusive and empowering community. Join us as we delve into the theological foundations and practical applications of using our polity to challenge and reshape structures to promote an equitable and just church environment.	Paul Roberts
Amplifier	Dismantling Structural Racism / Intersectional Priority: Militarism	Migration and Militarism: Root Causes and Border Enforcement	There are many causes that force migration, violent conflict caused by militarism being one of them. In their journey seeking security, migrants face militarized responses of border enforcement that are often racially biased. This workshop will look at many of the root causes of migration, including environmental, economic, persecution	Ellen Smith / Ryan White

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			based on religion or gender identity and sexual orientation, and violent conflict, as well as the increasingly militarized approach to immigration enforcement. Examples of how partner churches and organizations are responding will be highlighted from regions of the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, and Southern US borders.	
Amplifier	Building Congregational Vitality	Won't You Be My Neighbor? Supporting and Partnering with Immigrant and Nesting Worshipping Communities	As the church's cultural diversity increases, there are many new opportunities to become beacons of inclusivity and compassion. This workshop is designed to guide church leaders, volunteers, and members in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for immigrant congregations and nesting worshipping communities. By fostering understanding, embracing diversity, and building meaningful partnerships, churches can become places where individuals from all backgrounds feel valued and included.	Princeton Abaraoha
Amplifier	Dismantling Structural Racism	The History of Black Protest!	There have been many forms of Black protest throughout American history, from precolonial times through the George Floyd protests of 2020. These protests included slave ship mutinies, the abolitionist movement, and actions by leaders such as Frederick Douglas, W. E. B. Dubois, Sojourner Truth, and Booker T. Washington. There have been a variety of protests by Black institutions: Black Lives Matter movements, and the protests of today's Black athletes, musicians, and intellectuals, such as Lebron James, Beyonce, and Kendrick Lamar. Backlash included the Jim Crow era, the Red Summer of 1919, and modern-day wars on the Black community in the form of the War on Drugs and voter suppression. Black Protest has changed the nation and impacted the world.	Jimmie Hawkins

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Workshops – Session 2 – Tuesday, January 16 – 4:45-6:15 pm

TRACK	MATTHEW 25 FOCI	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER(S)
Seeker	Eradicating Systemic Poverty	Where Does Jesus Stand? Five Spiritual Practices to End Poverty	Join us to learn about five spiritual practices that Presbyterians engage to end poverty in local communities and around the world—in their worship, education, relationships, advocacy and sharing of resources. Walk away with practical tools and ideas for next steps! Facilitators will be national staff and mid-council leaders who sit on a monthly PC(USA) Matthew 25 work team on eradicating systemic poverty including: Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson (Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People), Rev. Carl Horton (Presbyterian Peacemaking Program), Ellen Sherby (World Mission), Rev. Rebecca Barnes (Presbyterian Hunger Program).	Rebecca Barnes / Carl Horton / Alonzo Johnson / Ellen Sherby
Seeker	Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty / Intersectional Priority: Militarism / Intersectional Priority: Gender Justice & Heteropatriarchy	Resistance and Resilience: How to keep bearing the light in hard times workshop for Compassion Fatigue Prevention and Resilience	This interactive workshop is offered in support of congregations, mid-councils and faith leaders who, in living out their commitment to Matthew 25 work, confront racism, heteropatriarchy, militarism, injustice, poverty, and structures of exclusion. It is for you who, in walking alongside the people and communities who daily live the challenges of these oppressive structures and systemic evils, hear painful stories and struggle with the traumas, large and small, of our present cultural and global realities. The work we do is demanding in ordinary times, requiring an investment of time, spirit and heart. During this hard season, this resiliency training is offered as a means of acknowledging the personal cost of commitment to our shared mission and providing tangible strategies to support and reinforce you as you continue to accompany others. LEARN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5 critical elements of professional resilience • Why self-care isn't enough • How to transform one's life from the stress of reactivity to the calm effectiveness of intentionality • How to maximize effectiveness in your work as a faith leader and activist 	Laurie Kraus / Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills to sustain longevity in your commitment to the Matthew 25 work of eradicating poverty, ending systemic racism and supporting vital, engaged, justice-seeking congregations • Integration of science and faith filled practices • Powerful tools to immediately integrate into your practice • To burn brightly and never burn out <p>“That which is to give light, must endure burning.” --Victor Frankl</p> <p>This workshop draws from Dr. Eric Gentry’s Accelerated Recovery Program - www.compassionunlimited.com</p>	
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	The Matthew 25 Movement in a Rural Context - How Much Traction?	"Congregational Vitality," "systemic poverty," "structural racism," "climate change," "gender justice and heteropatriarchy," and "militarism" - these may make perfect sense to your congregation, presbytery and synod, but they may not resonate in rural, politically conservative circles in the PCUSA. Let's start a conversation about the profound differences in our ministry contexts and explore how the Matthew 25 movement may gain traction in "your neck of the woods."	Carl Utley
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	Being a Matthew 25 Church: An Origin Story	Learn more about the Origins of the Matthew 25 Movement, stemming from a call for the PC(USA) to be a "Matthew 25 Church" by the 222nd General Assembly (2016). Members of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF) share about the role PPF have held in the Matthew 25 Movement.	Presbyterian Peace Fellowship / Aric Clark / Rick Ufford-Chase
Amplifier	Intersectional Priority: Militarism	U.S. Empire and Cop City	The U.S.’s global geopolitics of empire, like most empires historically, requires a domestic coalition of forces that produce a hierarchy of rule at home. Corporate power, white supremacy and hegemonic masculinity and resurgent US nationalism are forged into a pattern of “home rule” that mirrors empire’s work abroad. As James Baldwin wrote in No Name in the Street: there appears a “grisly pattern” whereby “what America is doing within her borders, she is doing around the world.”	Mark Lewis Taylor
			The workshop will be a collective exercise in examining the forces in play in The Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, commonly known as	

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			<p>“Cop City,” a police and fire services training campus under construction in the South River Forest area of Dekalb County near Atlanta. Special attention will be given to how the forces of US industry, forces of nationalism and white supremacy, military and law enforcement combine in this unholy alliance upon the land. And then, what might we say of a counter-imperial faith in the way of Jesus that through social movements might rival institutions of the corporate warrior elite that arise in our midst?</p>	
Amplifier	Dismantling Structural Racism	Learning from the Fullness of Church History and Why “Churches Dreaded Abolitionism”	<p>After the Civil War, Henry Ward Beecher reflected on the relationship between churches and Black liberation. Beecher belonged to a family of abolitionists, including his more famous sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, but he sometimes hesitated to support the cause when he was the pastor of several congregations, including Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and Plymouth Church in Brooklyn. Though the movement pursued God’s justice in seeking to end slavery, Beecher acknowledged that “churches dreaded abolitionism.” A good number of Christian individuals participated in abolitionism, but fewer churches were active in one of the most significant social justice movements in U.S. history. This workshop engages the fullness of history to confront why churches resisted abolitionism and explore how some of these reasons manifest in how churches approach poverty, racial discrimination, settler colonialism, and other social injustices. We will also discuss the specific theological convictions that inspired Christian abolitionists and how these leaders mobilized others as well as assemble lessons to apply in our ministries today.</p>	William Yoo
Amplifier	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	Matthew 25 in Costa Rica: Using Games and Role Play in Participatory Community Work (offered in Spanish and English)	<p>Facilitating community group work requires persistence, patience and faith that the Holy Spirit will blow through. All of that is easier when everyone is having fun. In this workshop we'll practice the art of having fun and we will develop and present dramatizations that highlight important issues in creative ways. This workshop will be bilingual, English-Spanish, so we welcome speakers of either and both languages.</p>	Mark Hare / Jenny Bent

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Workshops – Session 3 – Wednesday, January 17 – 11:00 am - 12:30 pm				
TRACK	MATTHEW 25 FOCI	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER(S)
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	What Can the Continent of Africa (or Other Parts of the World) Teach America About Matthew 25?	As the PC(USA) begins to imagine how to best embody the Matthew 25 initiatives into US congregations, presbyteries, and mid-councils, we must seek to understand how Matthew 25 is interpreted in the global landscape. This workshop will seek to answer the question, "How is the PC(USA)'s understanding of Matthew 25 shaped by the cultural and historical lenses of the United States?" This workshop will present and invite discussion on some historical factors that have produced the U.S.'s interpretation of the text of Matthew 25. We will then invite our African (or global partners) to share their cultural and historical interpretation of the text to experience new and transformative ways of understanding the Gospel of Matthew 25.	Cheryl Barnes, Moderator / World Mission Colleagues
Seeker	Dismantling Structural Racism	The Role of White Voices in Anti-racism	Join the Associate of Gender & Racial Justice, Samantha Davis and Rev. Dr. Marcia Whitney Mount Shoop for a radically honest conversation on the role White allies play in dismantling structural racism. Gain tools to be an effective ally, actively combat and/or leverage your privilege and learn from the ways white people have supported or hindered justice work throughout history.	Marcia Mount Shoop / Samantha Davis
Seeker	Eradicating Systemic Poverty	The Least of These: Theological and Missional Ways to Eradicate Poverty	Workshop content will help individuals navigate and engage in anti-poverty work and its intersections. This interactive workshop will also equip participants with missional and theological strategies centered around networking, community organizing to create and leverage congregational/communal power in engaging justice issues in the local church and community through the relationship building practices of direct action and advocacy. Using biblical perspectives of justice and missional based asset mapping, the workshop is also designed to encourage relationship, network and community building among participants.	Alonzo Johnson
Seeker	Intersectional Priority: Militarism	Militarism in an Era of Insecurity: Promoting	Militarism is more than a commitment to a strong military and its aggressive use; it is a claim that might of arms brings security—and that it may be the only thing that can do so. As such, it is a posture	Mark Douglas

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		Christian Hope During Turbulent Times	that can shape not only national policies and expenditures but the political sensibilities of non-state players as well. It is also a posture antithetical to both robust democracies and the witness of the church. The gospel’s narrative shapes a different posture—one in which Christians follow the Prince of Peace because we find our security in God’s promises and we pursue a politics of hope. This workshop will explore practices that are faithful to such a politics, thinking especially about the church’s engagement with the forces that drive insecurity and contemporary militarism.	
Amplifier	Building Congregational Vitality	What the heck are we singing anyway? The gift of honest, authentic, participatory music for faith communities	This workshop will help us think about what we're hearing and singing in worship, reflecting on how church music often fails to give expression to what we truly believe. We'll explore new resources for music, outline some strategies for writing new music and give examples of how to use music in liturgies that reflect God’s concern for justice, equity, and inclusion, and that open up space for faith as well as doubt, lament as well as praise.	The Many
Amplifier	Eradicating Systemic Poverty	Movement-Building, Public Policy Advocacy and Community Organizing: Real Models That Work to End Poverty	The work to end poverty is part of the ongoing struggle to achieve a world free of injustice and with abundant life for all. For decades, the work of Kairos Center leaders has been to build a social movement led by the poor as a united social force to end poverty. This workshop will explore the lessons learned from those decades of work in movement building, policy analysis, advocacy, and community organizing, as well as the theological and biblical foundations for ending poverty. Participants will be given resources relevant and applicable to their contexts.	Liz Theoharis

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Workshops – Session 4 – Wednesday, January 17 – 1:30-3:00 pm				
TRACK	MATTHEW 25 FOCI	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER(S)
Seeker	Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	A Cross for You: Reparations Denial, Supporting Apartheid, Surrogacy, and Whites Only Reconciliation--in Memory of the Work of Delores Seneva Williams	<p>This workshop celebrates 1st generation Womanist theologian Dolores Williams’ contribution to understanding what US American Protestantism owes to the global movement for Reparations.</p> <p>This workshop walks participants into a lively communal engagement with the doctrines of atonement and reconciliation that U.S. American Protestants love best at the intersection where these expressions of theology encourage, support, and reward apartheid and Reparations denial.</p> <p>Ultimately, this workshop invites attendees to prayerfully reconsider the habit of interpreting Jesus on the cross in ways that both obscure the full implications of the Incarnation and evade Reparations as a US American Protestant responsibility.</p>	Jermaine Ross-Allam
Seeker	Building Congregational Vitality	What Does It Mean to Be a Vital Congregation or Worshiping Community?	What new life is springing up in congregations, both legacy churches and new worshipping communities? Hear leaders serving faithfully - but in very different ways - as they bear witness to the strength and vitality of their communities, congregations, and neighborhoods borne from an expansive sense of mission and discipleship. This workshop will be facilitated by Veronica Cannon, Coordinator of the Vital Congregations Initiative and Nikki Collins, Coordinator of 1001 New Worshiping Communities and will feature congregations and new worshipping communities in partnership.	Nikki Collins / Veronica Cannon
Seeker	Intersectional Priority: Climate Change	Climate Justice, the Church and Ideas for Action (offered in Spanish and English)	We will explore together the most current science on climate change, the biblical and theological principles of why we care about climate change, and then we will focus a good part of our time together on sharing ways to act on climate change. We’ll share PCUSA (including Red Presbiteriana) climate resources in English and Spanish to learn more about climate change. This workshop will be presented in English and Spanish, by Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Coordinator of the	Rebecca Barnes / Gloria Lozada-De Jesus

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			Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Gloria Lozada-De Jesus, Co-Coordinator of Red Presbiteriana para el Cuidado de la Creación.	
Amplifier	Building Congregational Vitality / Dismantling Structural Racism / Eradicating Systemic Poverty	Moving from Partnership to Solidarity	Global Solidarity Network creates pathways between Presbyterians in the United States and global partners involved in the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s Joining Hands initiative. This workshop will explore how listening and intentionally sharing with mission partners opens our eyes and hearts to the interconnections between systemic issues we face here in the U.S. and those faced by communities around the world. From the sugar on our breakfast table to the components of smart phones and electric vehicles, we might take for granted our lifestyles without fully comprehending how they are often tied to injustices laid on our siblings around the world to make our conveniences possible. From studying the painful and continuing impact of the Doctrine of Discovery to hearing realities from our Joining Hands partners, you will walk away with a greater understanding of WHY solidarity is crucial to working with others to create a more just way of life for all.	Cindy Corell
Amplifier	Dismantling Structural Racism	Fighting Injustice in New Ways	Somatic Justice is a modality for how we confront racism, bigotry, and discrimination within our culture. It teaches how we unlock the benefits of interdependence between our mind, body, spirit, and actions. In this workshop, we will experience a brief introduction to how we dismantle structural racism beginning right at home within ourselves. This workshop will examine how we embrace liberation through embodied framework.	Shanea Leonard
Amplifier	Intersectional Priority: Gender Justice & Heteropatriarchy	We’re Still Here and We’re Still Queer: LGBTQIA+ Advocacy from 1970 to today and beyond	In 2022, the 225th General Assembly approved a resolution to create a standing advocacy committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity. This committee is tasked with advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community and monitoring the work of all PC(USA) agencies and entities to ensure the full inclusion and consideration of LGBTQIA+ people. The committee is excited to connect with advocates and allies like you. There is much to celebrate and much more to do as we work together to create truly safe and affirming spaces for all. This workshop will include an overview of the history of LGBTQIA+ advocacy work in the	Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity

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			<p>PC(USA) and a chance to network with others, including some of the new advocacy committee members. We hope you will come with your challenges, hopes, and ideas to share with the committee. We hope you will leave with a deeper understanding of where we have been and new connections with others committed to advocating with and for the LGBTQIA+ Community.</p>	
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