AG 2026

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Leadership • Learning • Community

SESSION I	SESSION II
1:15 - 2:30 PM	2:45 - 4:00 PM

At-a-Glance Schedule

Choose a workshop by session and room, then find full descriptions and presenter bios on the following pages.

SESSION I • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL	**Let Your Light Shine - A Invitation to Renewable Energy and the Revitalization of Your Congregation**	Rev. Casey Tinnin
ROOM 113	**Black Wealth Builders Program - Moving Forward**	Rev. Barry Cammer
ROOM #117	**Trans 2.0**	The Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau
ROOM #116	**Psychedelic Medicines for Healing, Justice & Spiritual Growth**	Rev. Molly Baskette • Rev. Molli Mitchell
ROOM #118	**Stories of What We Saw and Came to Love Through Ecumenical Partnership on the I Love Taiwan Mission**	Qaisul Takihunang • Jennifer Jang • Elizabeth Huang • Andy Liu • Lucas Taylor

SESSION II • 2:45 - 4:00 PM*

ROOM #117	**Boundary Awareness for Lay Leaders**	Rev. Tara Barber
ROOM 113	**We HAVE Done This Before: Engaging Social Justice Through Christian Tradition**	Sheryl Johnson (she/her)
FELLOWSHIP HALL	**Ethics and Accountability in Ministry: Understanding the Fitness Review Process for Lay Leaders**	Rev. Carol Barriger • Rev. David Pattee • Winnie Hogoboom
ROOM #116	**What Does It Means to Be a Loyal American in 2026?**	Penny Phillips, MA, MDiv, BCC
ROOM #118	**SMOG Check for Churches**	Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon • The Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski • Rev. Rhina Ramos

SESSION I

1:15 - 2:30 PM • Full workshop descriptions and presenter bios

FELLOWSHIP HALL • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

Let Your Light Shine - A Invitation to Renewable Energy and the Revitalization of Your Congregation

Rev. Casey Tinnin

WORKSHOP

Join Rev. Casey Tinnin as he talks about solar energy not just as a way to save congregations money on their utility bills, but also as a way to welcome new ministry and members. Pastor Casey will be offering ideas for revitalization, and a vision for how churches might become hubs of safety and sustainability for their communities.

PRESENTER BIO

Former UCC parish pastor and now serving as the Director of Community Outreach and Impact for Sunsource/Grey Snow Sovereign Solutions.

FRONT OF THE ROOM 113 • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

Black Wealth Builders Program - Moving Forward

Rev. Barry Cammer

WORKSHOP

The workshop will reintroduce the Black Wealth Builders Resolution that was passed, share the progress of the resolution implementation, encourage congregations to participate, and provide guidance and support in that participation.

PRESENTER BIO

Rev. Barry Cammer will be the primary presenter. Rev. Cammer is a co-founder of the Black Wealth Builders Fund and a member of the NCNC Justice & Witness Committee.

ROOM #117 • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

Trans 2.0

The Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

WORKSHOP

The goal is for church folk, allies, and those still questioning, to learn what it means to be transgender from a trans woman. The workshop includes the short film “The Girl Wants Out,” an overview of four paradigms of human sexual identity, a short segment on the science behind being transgender, definitions and etiquette, and time for Q&A. Participants should come away with an understanding of what it means to be transgender, the four paradigms of human identities, the science behind being trans, and language and etiquette for going forward.

PRESENTER BIO

Having received her Master of Divinity at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia and ordained in the United Church of Christ at Old First Church in Philadelphia in 1988, Barbara went on to serve UCC churches in Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California. In 2010 Barbara began emerging into the beautiful and lovely person that had been laying dormant since birth. She has completed her four units of Clinical Pastoral Education and is a certified Intentional Interim Minister. As a trans-elder, now retired, Barbara lives in Berkeley with her spouse, The Rev. Dr. Susan Strouse, also retired, and their orange cat, Bisquick.

ROOM #116 • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

Psychedelic Medicines for Healing, Justice & Spiritual Growth

Rev. Molly Baskette • Rev. Molli Mitchell

WORKSHOP

Psychedelics have been studied legally for the last 25 years and have proven efficacy for treating depression, PTSD, anxiety and other mental health conditions; and are now being studied for their potential in treating TBIs, Alzheimer's and more. What do church folks need to understand about the safety, science, politics and spirituality of medicines like psilocybin, LSD, ketamine and MDMA? The workshop will also consider safeguards, ethics, access, and the potential for these compounds to enhance spiritual life individually and collectively.

PRESENTER BIO

Rev. Molly Baskette is a longtime UCC pastor and former co-senior minister of First Church Berkeley UCC, a retreat leader and author of books about church renewal, parenting, post-traumatic joy and more. Her newest calling is as a psychedelic-assisted spiritual care provider at a legal ketamine clinic in Walnut Creek, Transcendent Medicine, with a special focus on cancer patients and end-of-life distress. Rev. Molli Mitchell serves as pastor to Waverly Heights UCC in Portland, Oregon, and as a hospice chaplain in Vancouver, Washington. She completed a certificate from the UC Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics in Psychedelic Facilitation and is licensed by the Oregon Health Authority as a psilocybin facilitator.

ROOM #118 • 1:15 - 2:30 PM

Stories of What We Saw and Came to Love Through Ecumenical Partnership on the I Love Taiwan Mission

Qaisul Takihunang • Jennifer Jang • Elizabeth Huang • Andy Liu • Lucas Taylor

WORKSHOP

In July 2026, four young adults from NCNC joined the I Love Taiwan Mission for two weeks under the theme “Resilient Taiwan.” Rooted in ecumenical partnership with the Tainan Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, the journey immersed them in local congregations, youth summer camp, cultural encounters, and community life. Using personal stories, photographs, and reflections, they will share what they saw, what challenged them, and what they came to love, while exploring how cross-cultural connections can deepen relationships and broaden our shared imagination of the church.

PRESENTER BIO

Qaisul Takihunang is a Taiwanese Member in Discernment with the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and an M.Div. student at Pacific School of Religion. During the 2026 I Love Taiwan Mission, he accompanied the young adult delegation and coordinated with churches of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan to arrange their visits and itinerary. Jennifer Jang, Elizabeth Huang, Andy Liu, and Lucas Taylor are young adults from the Chinese Congregational Church of San Francisco who represented the Northern California Nevada Conference at the 2026 I Love Taiwan Mission.

SESSION II

2:45 - 4:00 PM • Full workshop descriptions and presenter bios

ROOM #117 • 2:45 - 4:00 PM

Boundary Awareness for Lay Leaders

Rev. Tara Barber

WORKSHOP

Leading from the pews can be challenging. Let's talk about how we navigate what's ours and what isn't and how to set limits that are life-giving for us and for our ministry settings.

PRESENTER BIO

Minister for Ministerial Support and Accountability. Having served in NCNC and the PNC, Tara's ministry provides resources, training, and consulting for conferences and Committees on Ministry throughout the denomination. She lives and works from her home in Seattle. She is a rare cradle-UCCer, with ministry spanning from youth to elders, and is looking forward to reconnecting with folx in NCNC.

FRONT OF THE ROOM 113 • 2:45 - 4:00 PM

We HAVE Done This Before: Engaging Social Justice Through Christian Tradition

Sheryl Johnson (she/her)

WORKSHOP

Social justice work can seem threatening to church members when it appears new and to be taking us away from beloved traditions and faith commitments. This workshop will help lay leaders and clergy think carefully about resistance to change and how we frame church engagement in social justice. The goal is to empower church leaders to constructively engage in social change work and to invite in those who may be hesitant or unsure about it.

PRESENTER BIO

Sheryl Johnson (she/her) is a UCC minister and professor at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. She is the author of Serving Money Serving God (Fortress Press, 2023) and the co-editor of The Business of God: Theological and Ethical Reflections on the Church Industrial Complex.

FELLOWSHIP HALL • 2:45 - 4:00 PM

Ethics and Accountability in Ministry: Understanding the Fitness Review Process for Lay Leaders

Rev. Carol Barriger • Rev. David Pattee • Winnie Hogoboom

WORKSHOP

Led by current and former members of COM-E, this workshop will cover the ethical expectations of authorized ministers, in particular the Ordained Minister's Code. Lay leaders should understand these expectations in order to support their pastors well and navigate a congregation with care and compassion through any potential question of fitness for ministry should that occur.

PRESENTER BIO

Rev. Carol Barriger is a retired pastor, member of FCC Palo Alto, former ACM and UCC polity teacher at PSR, and current co-chair of COM-E. Rev. David Pattee is pastor of Peace UCC, Santa Cruz, current co-chair of COM-E, with experience on Committees on Ministry, in seminary leadership, and on Conference staff. Winnie Hogoboom is a lay member of FCC Santa Rosa, past co-chair of COM-E, and currently serving on COM-A.

ROOM #116 • 2:45 - 4:00 PM

What Does It Means to Be a Loyal American in 2026?

Penny Phillips, MA, MDiv, BCC

WORKSHOP

What does it mean today to be a loyal American? The World War II Japanese American incarceration was a period of dark history, questioning the loyalty of U.S. citizens. The workshop asks how Japanese American history relates, or does not relate, to current immigration policies and detention centers. Pertinent vocabulary, including reparations, loyalty questionnaire, renunciation, and due process, will be discussed and resources shared for further exploration.

PRESENTER BIO

Retired Palo Alto VA Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain, 1992-2020. Certified Docent, Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 2023 to present. Tule Lake Segregation Center Pilgrimage, 2026.

ROOM #118 • 2:30 - 4:00 PM

SMOG Check for Churches

Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon • The Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski • Rev. Rhina Ramos

WORKSHOP

This workshop will provide tools and information for clergy and lay leaders to keep their communities thriving. Has your attendance decreased to an alarming point? Is your budget going in the red repeatedly? Is your church considering closing operations? The workshop will explore best practices to intervene before a church reaches a crisis and provide a space to connect with others, voice fears and concerns, and share hopes.

PRESENTER BIO

Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon is the Faith Director for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County and the Faith Communities Housing Liaison for the County of San Mateo. The Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski, known for his connection of spirituality and social justice, has served LGBT congregations in New York City, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Dallas, Texas, as well as serving as a denominational executive with Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). Rev. Rhina Ramos is Associate Conference Minister at NCNC UCC.