BIG TENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

In addition to Big Tent worship, Bible study, workshops, meals, and other activities, the schedule includes pre- and post-Big Tent opportunities. Please review this entire schedule before you begin to register and make travel plans!

All activities (except for the Friday evening visits to area churches) are in various locations on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

There are several opportunities for education and networking before Big Tent begins, starting as early as Tuesday evening. Washington University residence hall accommodations are available from Tuesday for those who will participate in one of these pre-Big Tent events. Additional charges for Tuesday and/or Wednesday night are included in the fees for most of these events.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Middle Eastern Pastor's Leadership Development Conference
Begins Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., ends at 12:00 noon on Thursday.
Fee: $100 (includes Tuesday and Wednesday lodging). Includes Tuesday dinner, Wednesday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Thursday breakfast and lunch.
This conference provides a lifelong learning experience in the areas of evangelism, church revitalization, and pastoral leadership to Middle Eastern pastors and lay leaders. This training event is also an opportunity for Middle Eastern pastors and leaders to meet for fellowship, reflection, mutual encouragement, spiritual nourishment, and sharing best ministry practices. By invitation only - For more information contact Magdy Girgis (Magdy.Girgis@pcusa.org)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

Middle Eastern Pastor's Leadership Development Conference continues

Presbyterian Intercultural Pre-Conference
Sponsored by the Office of Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries (PMA) and the Presbyterian Intercultural Network
Begins at noon on Wednesday, July 5, and ends with lunch on Thursday, July 6.
Fee: $125, (includes Wednesday lodging), $175 (includes Tuesday and Wednesday lodging) or $60 (no lodging). Each fee includes Wednesday lunch and dinner and Thursday breakfast and lunch.

To be the church, always reforming, the church God is calling us to be in this time and place, requires safe “sacred space” for honest, open, and often difficult conversations about the power of race in our lives, white privilege, “black lives matter,” institutional racism, power imbalances and power sharing. Enter this “sacred space” during this pre-conference. Learn to recognize the power of racism. Learn to speak truth to power. Learn to build genuine, mutual, and just intercultural relationships and communities. Experience the holy, transforming power that enters our lives through truth telling, genuine listening that seeks to
THURSDAY, JULY 6

Middle Eastern Pastor’s Leadership Development Conference continues, concluding with lunch.

Presbyterian Intercultural Pre-conference continues, concluding with lunch.

Face to Face
Open 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., with an orientation from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m., and PNC Training from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Continues Friday and Saturday morning.

Young(ish) Mid Council Leaders Gathering
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fee: $20, includes lunch.

Egypt - Christians in Tumultuous Times
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
No fee, but advanced registration is encouraged. Attendees may bring their own lunch.

BIG TENT OPENS!

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  Big Tent Gathering and Community Building
Welcome to the 2017 Big Tent! Join us as you arrive for community building. Yes, there will be cheesy activities, space set aside for introverts, and a chance to meet each other in an informal setting.

2:00–5:30 p.m.  Children’s and Youth Programs
4:00–5:15 p.m. **Big Tent Plenary I** – Graham Memorial Chapel
**Grounding Big Tent in the St. Louis Context**
People of faith in the St. Louis area have faced profound challenges and opportunities over the last several years as national attention has focused on racial, civil, economic strife in Ferguson and elsewhere. What does it mean to this community for Big Tent to be gathering here and what does it mean to the Presbyterian Church? We begin this conference with an opportunity to set our work in the context of their experiences by inviting local leaders to share their stories and lessons of engagement in St. Louis.

5:15–7:00 p.m. **Dinner** – South 40 Dining Hall

7:00–8:30 p.m. **Gathering Worship and Communion**—Graham Memorial Chapel
*Preacher*— *J. Herbert Nelson II*, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

8:30–10:00 p.m. **Thursday Evening Fellowship and Relaxation** – South 40 Dining Hall

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**FRIDAY, JULY 7**

6:30–8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**– South 40 Dining Hall

8:30 –noon **Children’s and Youth Programs**

8:30–9:45 a.m. **Big Tent Bible Study**—Graham Memorial Chapel

8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Face to Face in operation**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Face to Face Call Seekers’ Training**

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon **BIG TENT WORKSHOPS**—SESSION AB
*Note that these workshops continue through both morning workshop sessions; if you select one of these you will not select another workshop for Session A (10:15 a.m.) or B (11:15 a.m.)*

**Advocacy and Organizing 101**
Learn basic skills in how to organize a group to take collective action and advocate to the government. In this introductory training, we will explore how groups of people build power to act for justice, and teach and practice the building block skills of facilitation and organizing one to one. Participants will walk away with a understanding of power relationships between the private sector, the public sector and the civic sector, and organizing strategies to influence public policy. *Led by Nora Leccese, associate for Domestic Policy and Environmental Issues, PMA’s Presbyterian Office of Public Witness.*

**Black Presbyterian Churches: A Call to Effective Stewardship in the Wilderness**
Reflect on the historic relationship between African American churches/leaders and the PC(USA) since reunion in 1983, and how to be faithful and effective stewards on the changing landscape of mission. *Led by Rev. Sterling Morse, coordinator for African American Intercultural Congregational Support, PMA, and Rev. James Reese, minister for Specialized Interpretation, Presbyterian Foundation.*

**Changing Face of Ministry**
Two trends foreshadow significant change for the PC(USA) in the coming years. Demographic information about inquirers and candidates in the preparation for ministry process suggests they are more diverse than
the PC(USA) as a whole. As they prepare to move into ministry, we will also be seeing increasing numbers of current teaching elders entering retirement. Considering the changing needs of congregations, what can we do to support the future of ministry in the PC(USA)? How can congregations and judicatories assure we are welcoming to all who are called into ministry? Join a guided conversation that will include recent research and key conversation partners. We welcome the wisdom, experience, and questions of all God’s people. Led by Tim Cargal, assistant stated clerk and manager for Preparation for Ministry, OGA and Lee Hinson-Hasty, senior director for the Theological Education Fund, Presbyterian Foundation.

The Christian Identity Formation and the Second Great End of the Church
The second great end of the church call us to the “shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.” Embedded in this end, we find profound connections to the themes of this year’s Big Tent—Race, Reconciliation, and Reformation—and our baptismal vow to guide and nurture those within our faith communities. This end beckons us to dig more deeply into what it means to “shelter,” not only those within, but also those outside our congregations. It calls us to reconsider how we “nurture” and cultivate Christian identity as a part of life-long faith formation. It challenges us to understand “spiritual fellowship” as a radical act of reconciliation. And, perhaps most relevant for our current context, it opens our eyes to what it means to be called the “children of God” and how that adoption changes the manner in which we must live in this world. Led by Jason Brian Santos, coordinator for Christian Formation, PMA.

Environmental Racism and Justice
We will explore past and current examples of environmental racism in the U.S. and around the world, talk about movements fighting for change, and how Presbyterians can get involved. Led by Rebecca Barnes, coordinator for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, PMA, and other Compassion, Peace and Justice colleagues.

Exploring Our Past, Present, and Future: Presbyterian History, Racial Reconciliation, and the Most Segregated Day of the Week
Join two church historians providing relevant primary source materials and sharing insightful lessons from the past that explain who we are as a Church in the present and help guide our future steps. The nuanced presentation aims to identify faithful moments of Presbyterian ministry and witness as well as address historical realities and challenges in order to invite everyone to collaboratively reflect on past reforms, refine present initiatives, and reimagine future ministries. Setting the context for the contemporary conversation of a predominantly-white (91%) PC(USA) seeking to become diverse, this workshop explores how our congregations and denominations understood and interpreted different waves of new immigrants and refugees, the civil rights movement, and ministries on racial-ethnic representation throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Led by William Yoo, assistant professor of American Religious and Cultural History, Columbia Theological Seminary and Rev. Beth Shalom Hessel, executive director of the Presbyterian Historical Society and associate stated clerk, OGA.

Human Caused Disaster Ministry
Violence changes everything, and it necessarily requires different skills and focus from responding to natural disasters. After violence, survivors suddenly and severely become engrossed in emotional, psychological, and spiritual chaos. Learn definitions and guidelines for human-caused disasters, trauma, trauma treatment, clergy care, congregational care, worship and liturgy, media relations, and long-term emotional and spiritual care. This presentation is the result of the best practices and lessons learned to-date by members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) National Response Team who have been responding to human caused disasters since 1999. Led by Rev. Laurie Kraus, coordinator of PDA; Rev. David Holyan, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, St. Louis and member of the PDA National Response Team; and Rev. James Kirk, associate for Disaster Recovery (U.S.) for PDA.

Israel-Palestine: For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace
In response to the mandate from the 2014 General Assembly, the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy conducted a study of Israeli occupation of Palestine, asking what progress if any had occurred toward a two-state solution and whether the church should focus its concern on other dimensions of the situation.
The report concludes that the PC(USA) should advance those efforts that best accord with its values, especially:

- The dignity of all persons
- Self-determination of peoples through democratic means
- Building up community and pursuing reconciliation
- Equality under the law and reduction in the separation that fosters inequality
- Recognition of our complicity and the need for confession and repentance
- Solidarity with those who suffer.

These values have relevance in any political arrangement, including but not limited to that of two sovereign states—Israel and Palestine. *Led by Steven Webb, ruling elder, co-chair of ACSWP and a retired economist from the World Bank.*

**Loving our LGBT Neighbors: Making Peace in Your Church Through Dialogue with the LGBT Community**

Perhaps the most polarized conversation in the church is around LGBT persons and their roles within the church. As society has seen avenues of reconciliation and dialogue break down in favor of warfare and division, it is easy to believe that healing and restoration are no longer possible. There is a rising tide of aggression, one that says the only victory can come from defeating your enemies. Sanctuary and Level Ground are two different non-profit and 1001 worshipping communities that work to foster reconciliation between LGBT people and communities of faith. Level Ground works through the arts, music, and film to create space for dialogue and relationship. Sanctuary creates safe worship space by hosting online and in-person community groups, teaching theology classes, and hosting LGBT-friendly worship services. Both provide resources to leaders, individuals and communities looking to have conversations marked by peace, unity, and reconciliation. In this workshop we will share more of our own stories and learn from the stories of LGBT Christians. We will also provide resources, guidance, and next steps for pastors and leadership teams who want to create healthy and restorative conversations about faith, gender, and sexuality within their local contexts. *Led by Samantha Curley, executive director of Level Ground, Pasadena, CA, and James Farlow, executive director of Sanctuary, Glendale, CA. Both are 1001 New Worshipping Communities.*

**Racial Identity Formation of Refugees/Immigrants and the Challenges of Immigrant Churches**

Changes in racial identity for refugees/immigrants as they enculturate, and forms of cultural adaptation will be discussed. Impacts of racial prejudice and internalized racism will be explored. This workshop will also address how these factors present challenges to immigrant churches and their ministries. *Presented in Mandarin. It will be presented in English in the Friday afternoon session. Led by Hsin-hsin Huang, associate professor of Pastoral Theology at Aquinas Institute of Theology.*

**Reformed but Always Reforming? Practical Workshop on Salvation, Christ, and Reformed Theology**

This workshop will mix lecture, small-group discussion, and whole-group discussion and help participants reflect on what it means for all Presbyterians to be practical Reformed theologians. Leaders will describe a debate about salvation and the centrality of Jesus Christ to Reformed Christianity that a series of Presbyterian Panel questions and results helped trigger. Participants will then grapple individually, in small groups, and eventually in the whole group with how they would respond to a limited number of questions from the August 2016 Theological Reflection Presbyterian Panel about salvation, Christ, and Reformed theology. Finally, workshop leaders will help summarize the discussion and brainstorm with participants about how to continue churchwide reflection about Reformed theology and identity. This workshop will give participants ideas, resources, and practice that will them engage others in their congregations—both old and new Presbyterians — about how Jesus Christ is Lord and what it means to be a Reformed Christian. *Led by Perry Chang, research associate, PMA, and Charles Wiley, coordinator, Office of Theology and Worship, PMA.*

**Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God**

Effective adult education in the church prepares us to claim the core values of hospitality and reconciliation. This workshop will offer practices to create an environment of learning and transformation. We will consider practical ways to widen the welcome of adult education: how to structure classes, equip facilitators,
include supplementary activities, and choose curriculum. Curriculum samples will be available. *Led by Malinda Spencer, associate for Curricula Training and Promotion, PMA.*

**Short-term Mission Trips from A to Z**
Join with others to learn and share best practices to plan, lead and follow-up on mission trips. Gain practical and insightful resources to bring back to your congregation or presbytery, and explore new ways of understanding mission trips. *Led by Ellen Sherby, coordinator of Equipping for Mission Involvement, PMA.*

**What if the Women Left? Shattering and Reframing the Stained-Glass Ceiling**
Women comprise 58% of our denomination, yet they are under-represented and under-appreciated in leadership roles. Shattering the stained-glass ceiling by ordaining women was a start in the right direction, but recent research shows that we have a long way to go. How can we reassemble the pieces into inspirational highways that are wide enough for everyone to walk side by side? Expect lively discussion! *Led by Angie Andriot, research associate, and Deborah Coe, coordinator, both with Research Services, PMA.*

**Writing Parables That Address Racism**
Learn about the 25 years of the Presbyterian Inter-Racial Dialogue (PIRD) in Winston-Salem, NC. Participants will also experience speaking about racism from the perspective of the five senses and be guided in how to develop their own parables as a vehicle to expand the dialogue and prepare to use a similar technique when they return home. *Led by Rev. Samuel Stevenson, honorably retired, Winston-Salem, N.C. and Rev. Stephen McCutchan, honorably retired, St. Petersburg, Fla.*

**2020 Vision Team Listening Session**
Come and meet your 2020 Vision Team, tasked by the 222nd General Assembly to develop a guiding statement for the PC(USA). This statement will "help us name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future." We want to engage each other in listening and questions of God's movement in the PC(USA) for the future. Repeated Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. *Led by members of the 2020 Vision Team.*

10:15–11:00 a.m.  BIG TENT WORKSHOPS—SESSION A

**Church Trends Website Replacement for Ten Year Trends and Comparative Statistics**
Church Trends replaces both the Ten-Year Trends and Comparative Statistics websites. Eight new report formats with greater detail are provided. Participants will be able to review their church's information and provide comments for continued site improvement. *Led by Susan Barnett, research associate, PMA, and director of the US Congregational Life Survey.*

**E-giving: A New Tool for Increasing Offering**
Fewer people today are using cash and checks for their financial transactions. As a result, churches have an opportunity to expand their giving opportunities. Churches need to support a variety of ways to encourage their members from giving faithfully and regularly. Online giving is here to stay. Why not embrace technology when it can aid members in their financial planning and provide an easy way to give and meet their stewardship commitment? Now more than ever we need to offer people more options to be extravagant givers. This workshop will discuss a variety of electronic giving solutions available to congregations today. *Led by Olanda Carr, ministry relations officer for the east region, Presbyterian Foundation.*

**Good Book Studies on Racism Discussion**
A number of new and old books are being discussed in book studies on racism. Let's share books we're using, models of leading discussion, and actions that arise from the studies. *Led by Rev. David Maxwell, acquisitions editor at Westminster John Knox Press.*
11:15 – noon  BIG TENT WORKSHOPS – SESSION B

**Interpreting the Peace and Global Witness Offering**
For generations in the Reformed faith, benevolence has flowed directly from the Communion table. Learn how the Peace and Global Witness Offering expands upon the historical understanding of our sacramental calling and commemorates World Communion Sunday with the promotion of reconciliation and peace in cultures of violence – including our own. *Led by Bryce Wiebe, director of Special Offerings, PMA.*

**Making Sausage: A Think-Tank on the Process Observation App Being Modified for Mid Councils**
New Tool for Mid Councils: The OGA is modifying the Process Observation Web Application (POWA) from GA to be useful for mid councils. Process Observation looks at what happens in a meeting and can show patterns of participation when present. This can be useful for leaders as they plan for full participation in their council, for deeper understanding of the community, and for designing means for under-represented groups access the council. It has been a tool to show the impact of implicit bias in meetings of the GA. Come with your questions, curiosity and expertise to give feedback on what we have so far. *Led by Molly Casteel, assistant stated clerk and manager for Equity and Representation, OGA and Vicente Guna, manager of Technologies, OGA.*

**Reconciling Differences: A Collaborative Approach to Climate Change**
In the heightened climate crisis, come and join a conversation on what actions on environmental issues we Presbyterians can propose/collaborate on—across differences of opinion—as we seek to care for God's good creation. *Led by Rob Fohr, mission coordinator, PMA, and Rev. Deborah Meinke, Interim Associate Pastor, First Pres, Stillwater, OK and Stated Clerk, Cimarron Presbytery*

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch – South 40 Dining Hall

1:00–2:00 p.m.  Face to Face Call Seekers’ Training

2:00–5:15 p.m.  Children's and Youth Programs

2:00–3:30 p.m.  BIG TENT WORKSHOPS—SESSION C

**75 Years On: Presbyterian Engagement with the WWII Incarceration of Japanese Americans**
Introducing the history of the mass incarceration of Japanese American residents and citizens during World War II, this workshop explores the ways that congregations, presbyteries, individuals, and the denomination responded or failed to stand up for justice. Ultimately, this experience was the engine for many Presbyterians to engage in what is called the "long Civil Rights Movement" and for Japanese Americans to help develop an Asian American liberation theology. *Led by Rev. Beth Shalom Hessel, executive director of the Presbyterian Historical Society and associate stated clerk, OGA.*

**Actualizing the DREAAM: Addressing Issues Facing African American Boys in Early Education**
Based out of Champaign, IL, the DREAAM (Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males) program is a community-school collaborative partnership designed to reach, teach and support African American boys at risk in early education. In this reality based, interactive workshop, DREAAM project presenters will present best practices, provide analysis and results of program intervention, and discuss tools for partnership building and family responsive methods in addressing issues facing young, at-risk African American boys. Addressing issues such as school-to-prison pipeline, low academic achievement, poverty, racism and violence, interactive methods will be used to teach and engage workshop participants in ways to utilize culturally responsive methods used to create a more culturally appropriate and effective learning environment. The workshop will also address important components of working with kindergarten readiness, social emotional learning and meeting school expectations. Participants will interact...
with the DREAAM families and have dialogue with DREAAM parents through a parent panel. *Led by Director Tracy Dace, creator/director of the DREAAM program, along with youths and parents of the program.*

**Best Practices and Stories for Mission that Works: Lessons from Ministries with Women Around the World**

Be inspired and equipped for service through stories about women working around the world to create change in their communities. Grow your vision of God’s mission in our global church and gain best practices and practical tools for faithful, effective ministries at home and across the globe. *Led by mission leaders from the US and PC(USA) mission co-workers from around the world.*

**Communications Justice: Anti-Racist Writing and Photography**

Language and images are some of the easiest and most powerful ways to bring about social change and dismantle racism. Yet the language and photos that we continue to use for communicating about people often perpetuates divisions rather than fostering respect and justice for all. Come, explore, and learn the role of language in perpetuating racial myths, erasure, and violence. Become aware of key resources in the Anti-Racism Digital Library (ADL) for creating and contributing inclusive, God-honoring words, images, and stories. An interactive, rich media presentation will be followed by time for participants to experiment with their choice of activities:

- How to speak and write about race/ethnicity
- How to take anti-racist photos
- How to identify racist news media headlines and what to do about it
- How to contribute your items on anti-racism to the ADL.

Activities may be done using your favorite device, so bring your cell phones, tablets, camera, etc.

**Creating a Culture of Generosity**

Is your congregation’s approach to stewardship stuck in a rut? Are you living in a state of scarcity and longing for abundance? Do you long for your church’s members to enjoy the spiritual rewards of a generous life? This workshop is designed to help you move your church from conducting a traditional stewardship campaign to building a year-round, spiritually-based culture of generosity. You will walk away with ideas on organizing your generosity/stewardship leadership group, communicating with the different generations that exist in your congregation, integrating all aspects of your church into the life of generosity, and teaching the spirituality of generosity. Be prepared to evaluate your current program, and walk away with a new excitement and energy about generosity for the future of your church. *Led by Robert Hay, Jr., ministry relations officer for the southeast, Presbyterian Foundation.*

**Cuba, Israel-Palestine, Korea and Mexico: The Church’s Stories and Struggles of Reconciliation**

What does reconciliation look like in different cultures and contexts? How do we show faithful Christian witness in the face of geopolitical tensions? Through the stories of sisters and brothers around the world, learn how the church is responding through advocacy, development work and relief efforts. *Led by Mienda Uriarte, area coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, World Mission, PMA; Amanda Craft, manager of Immigration Advocacy, OGA; Victor Makari, PC(USA) mission co-worker and associate for ecumenical partnerships in Israel-Palestine; and David Cortes and Josey Saez, PC(USA) mission co-workers with the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba.*

**Disrupting Racism: Building the Intercultural Community**

This workshop will equip participants to initiate conversations around antiracism in their own congregations and communities. This experience-based workshop will help participants gain a deeper understanding of the systems of power and privilege that perpetuate racism. It will challenge us to move from seeing and treating people as “others” to embracing all as part of God’s family. Resources presented will range from interactive activities to newly developed PC(USA) resources, including a study guide on Waking Up White. Participants will spend time examining their own experiences related to race, power, and privilege and will learn about the tools and resources for disrupting racism and engaging in antiracism work. *Led by Rev. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, associate professor of Theology, Earlham School of Religion and Mark Koenig, coordinator for Racial Justice, PMA.*
Do You Love Me? Becoming Intercultural Allies for Justice
Reflecting on John 21:15-17, participants will explore the ways and means of becoming allies with those in the struggle for justice and equality. Becoming allies requires the power of the Holy Spirit working in a community of intentional spiritual formation. It is here with our allies that we are able to hear this haunting question and risk our lives in saying, “Yes, Lord, I love you; send me.” Led by Rev. Sterling Morse, coordinator for African American Intercultural Congregational Support and Rev. Ray Jones, associate director for Evangelism, PMA.

Faithful Interfaith Formation: A New Mission Toolkit for Congregations
What does it mean for Muslims and Christians to live peacefully together as children of God? Learn about a new resource toolkit that will help prepare your congregation to engage in interfaith relations. The toolkit (which is being unveiled at Big Tent) will guide your church in practical and creative ways to engage in interfaith conversations and learning, to interrupt Islamophobia in your community, and to connect with rich stories of interfaith relations around the world. This workshop will prepare you to bring resources and activities home to teach and inspire your congregation, and connect you with PC(USA) staff who can help. Led by Rick Ufford-Chase, associate director for Interfaith Formation, PMA and co-director of Stony Point Center, and Ellen Sherb, coordinator, Equipping for Mission Involvement, World Mission, PMA.

Intercultural Care Giving: Power Reconsidered, Power Redefined
Genuine awareness of power dynamics in care giving relationships allows us to be present with another person in truly helpful ways, providing effective care. Without this awareness our best efforts as care providers can be seriously undermined—even when we have the best intentions, carefully honed skills, and years of experience. In fact, without clear understanding of power dynamics, our care giving can result in real damage. For effective multicultural and intercultural care giving, dealing effectively with power issues and imbalances is an imperative, not an option. This workshop can enhance your care giving in multicultural and intercultural contexts—and, actually, enrich all of your relationships. Led by Rev. Princeton E. Abaraoha, First Presbyterian Church, Midlothian, Texas, and Rev. Sharon L. Mook, a fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Both are members of the board of the Presbyterian Intercultural Network.

Interracial and Intercultural Mission Planning
This workshop will share useful information on how to create a foundation for inter-racial and inter-cultural planning for economic development and youth services, placing real faces on real problems. Make theology come alive! Led by Rev. Reginald Tuggle who has experience as church redeveloper, community activist, college administrator and not-for profit organizer.

The Least of These: Engaging Presbyterians in the Work of Preventing and Alleviating Poverty
How is the PCUSA engaged in the work of preventing and alleviating poverty? How does poverty impact you? This workshop will examine poverty in the US context and how it affects us all. Attention will be given to issues such as living wages, homelessness, education, healthcare, mass incarceration and how each intersects with race, class and gender. Workshop will also equip participants with strategies to engage the issues in their local communities through direct action and advocacy. Workshop will also include an activity designed to encourage participants to interact with each other and interface with the issues of poverty in America. Led by Carl Horton, coordinator, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

Partnerships that Reform Ecumenism and Foster Change
Working for the full recognition of the rights of marginalized communities in today's political context requires diverse and strong partnerships. The PC(USA) has a long history of partnering with other churches to speak with a unified voice about our shared faith and the need for reform of discriminatory policies and laws. The presenters have experience in creating and nurturing partnerships in the midst of crisis. Learn from their experience and take home tools to help build partnerships that reform and update notions of ecumenical involvement and renew a communal commitment to justice. Led by Melissa Davis, manager of Ecumenical Relations, OGA, along with ecumenically involved Presbyterian pastors.
Presbyterian Worship: Always Being Reformed
Even as we mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, God’s Word and Spirit continue to reform our worship. This event will consider recent and upcoming changes in three significant documents — Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, the PC(USA) Directory for Worship, and the Book of Common Worship — as signs of ongoing renewal and reform in the understanding and practice of Presbyterian worship. Particular attention will be given to the difference these documents make in Christian faith and life through the formation that takes place in Christian liturgy. Indeed, through our worship, God is reforming us. **Led by Rev. David Gambrell, associate for Worship, PMA and co-editor of the revised Book of Common Worship.**

Race and Gender Justice in the PC(USA)
Participants will be provided with a framework for thinking through the intersections of gender and racial justice. A goal of the workshop is to lift up the work of the advocacy and advisory committees of the PC(USA), demonstrating how each addresses racial and gender justice in the life of the church. Significant time will be given for group discussion, inviting participants to suggest ways in which these three committees of the General Assembly might more effectively promote social justice, reconciliation, and reformation in the PC(USA) and larger society. **Led by members of the ACWC, ACREC, and ACSWP.**

Racial Identity Formation of Refugees/Immigrants and the Challenges of Immigrant Churches
Changes in racial identity for refugees/immigrants as they enculturate and forms of cultural adaptation will be discussed. Impacts of racial prejudice and internalized racism will be explored. The workshop will also address how these factors present challenges to immigrant churches and their ministries. **This workshop will be presented in Mandarin Friday morning. Led by Hsin-hsin Huang, associate professor of Pastoral Theology at Aquinas Institute of Theology.**

Walk with Me: The Adult Role in Youth Ministry
Explore the ways in which adults are called to accompany youth in the passage through adolescence and faith formation. **Led by Gina Yeager-Buckley, associate for Ministries with Youth, PMA.**

We've Been Doing It Wrong: Measuring Congregational Vitality Is More Useful than Counting Heads
We are learning that congregational health and vitality depends on so many more things than the number of people it includes and the size of its budget. Come and learn about an exciting new resource for assessing congregational health that emphasizes how a congregation is living into its sense of calling to be a faithful witness in its community and in the world. The second half of the workshop will give participants a chance to try the assessment tool to get an approximate assessment of their own congregation's vitality. The discussion of results will provide a glimpse of how it will be used to help resource congregations in the very near future. **Led by Ray Jones, associate director of Evangelism, PMA and Deborah Coe, coordinator for Research Services, PMA.**

2020 Vision Team Listening Session
Come and meet your 2020 Vision Team, tasked by the 222nd General Assembly to develop a guiding statement for the PC(USA). This statement will "help us name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future." We want to engage each other in listening and questions of God's movement in the PC(USA) for the future. Also held Friday morning and Saturday morning. **Led by members of the 2020 Vision Team.**

3:00–5:30 p.m. **Face to Face PIF reviews by appointment**

4:00–5:15 p.m. **Big Tent Plenary II**

Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, Co-moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)
ENGAGEMENT IN ST. LOUIS CHURCHES

Several Presbyterian congregations in the area are inviting Big Tent participants to spend Friday evening with them to show how they have engaged in “Holy Conversations around Race.” These have been intentional conversations around the racial divisions and mistrust that have so affected St. Louis and the wider United States. These congregations are inviting Big Tent participants to join with them as they continue these conversations. Participants will see this process of honest and challenging conversations about race in action, and leave with some tools applicable to their home congregations.

The host congregations will provide dinner, model these conversations, equip the participants to return to their homes and do likewise, and celebrate God’s presence together as a connected church. Transportation is provided from Washington University, departing around 5:30 p.m., and returning to campus by 9:30 p.m. Please sign up for one of these opportunities as you register.

Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church
Located in North St. Louis, this is a predominately African-American community with an active role and relationship with its neighbors immediately around the church and the greater neighborhood. Our outreach ministry includes a food pantry and clothes closet, Thanksgiving and Christmas family support, and a benevolent fund to help families in critical times of need. Workshops and classes offered throughout the year provide education and information in areas of banking, housing and business development, and Community Bible Study each Tuesday. A church scholarship fund supports college-bound students. Cote Brilliante collaborates in a community garden on church property, and provides access to the garden and its produce to all of our neighbors. Soon, Cote Brilliante will reorganize its senior activities and youth activities programs. There is a need in the community for independent and assisted living housing for seniors that Cote Brilliante plans to address collaboratively.
Big Tent participants who visit Cote Brilliante will engage in dialogue that covers topics from Ferguson to America’s 45th President. We have a response! Our clarion call to our neighbors is the urgency to “Wake Up and Stay Woke!”

First Presbyterian Church, Ferguson
Big Tent participants who visit this church will get a glimpse of the larger Ferguson community and get a different context as to the events that have taken place in Ferguson since 2014. We are the oldest Protestant congregation in Ferguson and have tried through the changes that have taken place in our 140 plus year history to be faithful to the call of the Gospel. Justice, service, and growing youth into faithful adults have been the mainstays of our “always reforming” approach to ministry.

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
This is a small, mission-oriented, urban congregation. Our neighborhood is changing and so are we! We’re becoming more diverse. We’re getting used to having folks call this place home and participate in events or programs or life together, without signing names to the membership rolls. We are active in neighborhood and city life. We started and run AMEN St. Louis, a place where teams come and stay and serve here in the city. We have a close relationship with the local neighborhood association, which is one of many local groups who meet in our building. We are very involved in local community organizing and activism, especially with our partner organization Metropolitan Congregations United. We take the Ferguson Commission report seriously, and used that as the basis for creating new outreach programs for youth-keeping Youth at the Center. We have an open gym night for neighborhood youth, we host special service and learning events on days off school, and we partner with a local small business for our famous Human Foosball outreach. We also started a Touchy Topics Book Club for adults who wanted to read and discuss issues of race, gender, class, etc. We are not all on the same page or of the same opinion here, but we are working together in faith to be God’s people and to witness to God’s love in this little corner of our great city. “With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve and grow.” Note that steps to the entrance and narrow doorways at this church make wheelchair access difficult.
Second Presbyterian Church
This historic urban congregation made the decision in 1961 to stay in the city, instead of moving out to the suburbs. (The vote was 511-500!) That decision has shaped the mission and purpose of the congregation ever since. With an elegant, historic building, stunning windows and a large pipe organ, Second Church continues to provide creative, traditional worship with progressive and prophetic preaching. Over 150 of its 210 members are involved in some form of ministry or outreach (Food Pantry, inner-city tutoring, urban Girl Scout troop, weekly meals for homeless women, environmental activism as an Earth Care congregation, etc.) Following the events of police brutality and public outrage in Ferguson in 2015, Second Church has been actively engaged in conversations around racism and racial justice, with many members engaged in community change around the court system and the juvenile justice system. The congregation is currently 16% African-American, with a growing commitment to diversity (age, gender, sexual orientation). As the congregation awaits a new pastor in late 2017, the challenges and opportunities for growth and witness are many.

Third Presbyterian Church, St. Louis
Third Presbyterian Church seeks to glorify God through the implementation of ministries that provide physical, spiritual and educational resources needed for the strengthening of its congregation and surrounding community. Big Tent participants are invited to join members for a hot meal, a discussion centered on where we are and where do we go from here, and fantastic music and an informative and enlightening worship service.

For those who elect to not go to one of these congregations, Friday dinner is on-your-own; there are affordable options on-campus and nearby.

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Taize Service – Umrah Lounge
For those who do take part in the congregational engagement.

8:30–10:00 p.m. Friday Evening Fellowship and Relaxation – South 40 Dining Hall

SATURDAY, JULY 8

6:30–8:30 a.m. Breakfast – South 40 Dining Hall

8:30-11:45 a.m. Children’s and Youth Programs

8:30–noon Face to Face open

8:30–9:15 a.m. Bible Study Breakouts

9:30–10:00 a.m. Bible Study – Graham Memorial Chapel
Leader – Eric Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary.

10:30–11:45 a.m. BIG TENT WORKSHOPS—SESSION D

Adopt Your Local Prison
Today’s criminal justice system focus on breaking and not forging community, by separating certain groups (minorities, disenfranchised, the poor, people of color and so on) from others. This is a global trend, and the Prison Industrial Complex continues to further strengthen this process in our country. The idea of “Forging Community” is as old as the Greek idea of “Polis” (City or local community). In fact it is much older - it is found in most early human tribes and societies. Restorative Justice is the Polis idea as it relates to those who break the rules of society. This is a community based justice system focused on the healing of broken relationships, in direct opposition to today’s outdated, punitive model. In this Restorative Justice
model, each jail and prison becomes a place for churches and ministries to engage in community outreach, healing and reintegration. This workshop will offer analysis of the intersection of economics, race, class and power and how they are operative in the current predatory system of mass incarceration. With its biblical basis in Matthew 25, it will provide and explore examples of rehabilitation programs (artistic, academic, spiritual, etc.) and exemplify the recidivism reductions and reductions in cost to society. This workshop will also provide skits and other activities designed to help participants better understand the idea of Restorative justice and how it can be used in the context of ministry to the incarcerated. Led by Rev. Alonzo T. Johnson, coordinator of the Self Development of People, PMA and volunteer prison chaplaincy at Luther Luckett Correctional Facility, LaGrange, KY and Hans Hallundbaek, criminal justice coordinator, Hudson River Presbytery, NY and founding member, Board of Trustees Rehabilitation Through Arts program at Ossining Correctional facility.

Communication Justice: The Right to Speak and to Be Heard
Injustice takes many forms, including the inability to communicate: to remember and tell one’s own story, whether as an individual or as a group, and have that story heard. This workshop will look at the critical place of communication and language in justice work, which includes actively ensuring voice, listening to support appropriate action, and using language to build up and include. Participants will discuss the impact of communication and language as they relate to spirituality, dignity, community, participation, accountability, cultural diversity, and connectedness. Led by Susan Jackson Dowd, executive director, Presbyterian Women and an adjunct professor in writing, organizational culture dynamics, and global leadership, Spalding University, Louisville, KY.

Courageous Race Talk: Be Reconciled, but First Be Discomforted
Focusing on dialogue and small group discussion, participants will practice together to go deeper on race, examining our actions and their impact. Race must be confronted as it divides and dismisses children of God and keeps us from living fully together as church. Led by Molly Casteel, assistant stated clerk and manager for Equity and Representation, OGA and Elona Street-Stewart, executive, Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

How to Survive a Church Building Project
Building projects create excitement as congregations envision new ministry possibilities. Along with the excitement comes anxiety. Is this the right time for our congregation to consider this project? What is the best way to get started? Can we really afford a project of this size? How will we pay for the project? Will this affect our ministry budget? Learn about best practices for successfully navigating church construction projects of all sizes, and about pros and pitfalls experienced by hundreds of congregations as they moved from the visioning stage through debt retirement. Led by Clare Lewis, vice president of sales and marketing, and Catherine Lynch, east coast representative, both with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

How We Struggle: Race, Reconciliation and Young Adults
Racial reconciliation is one of the core values of Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. As a result, it is a central theme at each of our 21 YAV sites and a main focus at YAV Orientation. The YAV program’s efforts has been in two main areas: 1) Be a racially just program that offers spaces for young adults from diverse communities. 2) With the rapidly changing national conversations around race, provide leadership development to today’s young adults who are being challenged to think and act about race in different ways. This workshop will address the current trends seen in how young adults talk about race and the YAV program’s ongoing efforts to meet the needs of today’s young adults on racial reconciliation. We hope this workshop will provide practical steps and conversation points on how to address such topics in your own contexts. Led by Lydia Kim, associate for Administration, World Mission, PMA; Rev. Richard Williams, coordinator, Young Adult Volunteers Program; and Blake Collins, associate for Recruitment and Relationships, PMA.

Inspired by Belhar: The Church, Race and Reconciliation in South Africa and the U.S.A.
As the struggle against apartheid reached a crescendo in South Africa in the late 1980s, the Confession of Belhar became one of the key statements of Reformed theology that motivated deepening involvement of Christian leaders in ending white supremacy. Three decades later, the PC(USA) adopted the Belhar Confession as a fundamental expression of our faith at a time of renewed quest for racial justice in the U.S. Meanwhile in South Africa, Belhar remains a resource for our partners as they confront issues of racism and
human dignity. Join us to discuss the central themes of the Belhar Confession, the exciting work for racial justice and reconciliation that Belhar continues to animate in South Africa and Belhar’s implications for discipleship and prophetic witness in the United States. **Led by Matilde Moros, a ruling elder and adjunct professor of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, who co-chaired the GA Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar.**

**Perspectives on the European Refugee Experience**
Learn about Rev. Ryan and Alethia White’s experience working with Iranian refugees and migrants in Berlin. Hear stories, explore how the German church is responding, and come away with practical ways to support work with refugees and migrants in Europe and in the US. **Led by Rev. Ryan White and Alethia White, PC(USA) mission co-workers serving with Iranian Presbyterian Church in Berlin, Germany.**

**Reliable Records and Secure Speech**
Reliable recordkeeping is essential to Presbyterian polity; secure online speech is essential to your ministry. For clerks of session and other organizers, this workshop will guide users through the hybrid paper and digital recordkeeping environment, and introduce you to tools for secure communication. Participants should bring the computer or mobile device they use most. **Led by David Staniunas, Records Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society.**

**Responding Faithfully to the Global Crisis for LGBT People**
In many parts of the world, sexual minorities live in fear. Homosexuality is illegal or criminalized in 81 countries. Even where sexual minorities face no legal penalties, they often suffer persecution and discrimination. For 40 years, the PC(USA) has consistently and explicitly affirmed the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people—even if we have disagreed on other questions of sexuality. This workshop will examine the nature and scope of the legal and social obstacles to LGBT rights and dignity, assess the ways that faith communities, including the PC(USA), have responded to these challenges, and identify practical actions that people of faith can take to demonstrate solidarity with sexual minorities and promote reconciliation and protection of civil and human rights. **Led by Michael Adee, former executive director, More Light Presbyterians and currently director of the Global Faith and Justice Project of the Horizons Foundation.**

**Social Media for Churches**
This workshop will provide an overview of the major social media platforms and how to use them to communicate the stories of your community in this reformation year. **Led by Mari Graham, social media strategist, PMA.**

**The Things That Make for Peace: Introducing Your Congregation to the New Commitment to Peacemaking**
The Commitment to Peacemaking has been refreshed and is being reintroduced to Presbyterians this year. Come and learn about the updates to the commitment and the ways in which you and your congregation can take part in a peacemaking commitment for our time. **Led by Carl Horton, coordinator, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, PMA.**

**True Solidarity: Showing up for Justice in Humility**
God calls us to stand for justice with communities facing oppression and persecution. How do we do so with integrity and faithfulness. How do we express solidarity rather than display solidarity? How do we become accomplices in peoples’ struggles for liberation? **Led by Rev. Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow, interim executive director, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum; Valerie Kiriishi Small, assistant stated clerk and manager for GA Nominations, OGA; and Mark Koenig, coordinator, Racial Justice, PMA.**

**The View from Here - Discussing the Future of the PC(USA) with the Stated Clerk**
The Stated Clerk will share brief insights on the theme “The PC(USA) is not Dying, but Reforming” and respond to questions from participants. The Stated Clerk will both share, hear and help participants process the way ahead for our denomination. **Led by Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.**
Viewpoints of the Church in the Middle East on Christian-Muslim Relations and Reconciliation
Listening to voices from the Middle East this workshop will offer an insight into Christian-Muslim relations in the region and the prospects for reconciliation in deeply divided societies.

Where Abundance Begins: Re-forming our Understandings of Wholeness
Financial stress is one of the primary factors for clergy burnout and is detrimental to one’s overall sense of wellbeing. The Board of Pensions, through Board University, provides educational opportunities to encourage and strengthen the wellbeing of church leaders and those who support them in their ministry. Leaning into its Theology of Benefits, the Board seeks not only to remind employers of the Church’s commitment to justly compensate those who serve it, but also to employ a holistic approach to education about benefits. The Board seeks to expand its educational framework beyond financial wellbeing to one that deliberately attends to the intersecting aspects of physical, emotional, and economic vitality so that all may live life abundant. The PMA’s Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism, through its financial aid for service program, provides scholarships to students and loan repayment assistance to those who serve in order to offset the cost of education. In light of demographic patterns that emerge in the application process, the PMA is interested in enhancing clergy wellbeing by expanding utilization of educational debt management resources available to clergy and church workers in order to reduce debt-related stress.

Participants in this session are invited to a round-table conversation about how aspects of culture, social background, racial identity, gender, and other forms of human diversity present in the church, directly influence our shared understandings of and practices related to spirituality, vocation, health, and finances.  

Led by Rev. Lori Neff LaRue and Melonee C. Tubb, debt assistance specialist, Office of Financial Aid for Service, PMA.

Working Towards Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan
South Sudan, the worlds’ youngest country, has been entrenched in a tragic state of civil war and conflict since December of 2013. Learn how the PC(USA) has accompanied the Church in the long, hard road towards peace and reconciliation in multiple ways: through Presbyterian World Mission’s on-the-ground capacity building through the South Sudan Education and Peace Building Project; mission co-workers accompaniment; and addressing the macro issues of the conflict through the advocacy efforts of the Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Mission to the United Nations. These complimentary efforts beautifully represent a Reformed approach to mission and ministry which our South Sudanese partners greatly appreciate. The foundation for peace and reconciliation is being laid!  

Led by Rev. Peter Tibi, executive director, RECONCILE, Catherine Gordon, PMA’s Office of Public Witness, Ryan Smith, Presbyterian Mission at the United Nations, and Debbie Braaksma, Africa area coordinator and former mission co-worker, PMA.

2020 Vision Team Listening Session
Come and meet your 2020 Vision Team, tasked by the 222nd General Assembly to develop a guiding statement for the PC(USA). This statement will "help us name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future." We want to engage each other in listening and questions of God's movement in the PC(USA) for the future. Also held Friday morning and afternoon. Led by members of the 2020 Vision Team.

11:30 – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch – South 40 Dining Hall

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  Closing Worship—Graham Memorial Chapel  
Preacher—Christine Hong, Assistant Professor of Worship and Evangelism, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary

4:00 p.m.  Presbyterian Intercultural Young Adult Network Post Conference  
Theme: Race, Reconciliation and Reformation

Begins at 4:00 p.m. ends after lunch on Sunday.
Open to all young adults attending Big Tent at no additional fee (but advance registration is required). We are a testifying community who believes in transformative discipleship and the
liberating healing of Jesus Christ. As young adults in the PC(USA), we come together to witness God’s good work in our lives both in and outside of the church. We recognize that our unity is enlightened by our different cultures and backgrounds, and from a mosaic of generational traditions and beliefs. We are committed to the work of the Holy Spirit, especially in being disciples and by making disciples of others for the establishment of the Realm of God.

For more information, please contact Mei-Hui Lai (mei-hui.lai@pcusa.org).

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Presbyterian Intercultural Young Adult Network continues, concluding with lunch.

3/15/17