

**You are invited to the  
AC 2019 Laity Session & Workshops  
on June 7, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

Every lay person, Annual Conference member or not, is welcome to this jam-packed session on Friday evening. The music starts at 6:45 pm, Bishop Laurie talks at 7:00. Hear the choir from the South Sudanese (Mabaan) UM congregation and learn how they came to Des Moines. Recognitions and these four useful workshops round out the evening.

We think you will be happy that you came!

Your Lay Leader and the Board of Laity

**2019 Laity Session Workshops:**

These short workshops are planned to provide practical information on important topics that you can use in your congregation. We suggest that if more than one person is here from your congregation, you select different workshops to maximize the benefit to your church.

They are listed in alphabetical order, along with locations. To improve the acoustics over prior years, two are within Halls B and C and we have moved two immediately outside the Hall. There are signs and Board of Laity members will guide you.

**Connecting Your Church to the World;  
Making Missions Exciting in the Local Church!  
(FRONT LEFT OF STAGE)**

*Presenters: Mary Morris, Chair of the Iowa Conference Board of Global Missions and Judy Marnin, Iowa Conference Advocate for In Mission Together with the General Board of Global Ministries*

Get information that will help you make “missions” exciting for your congregation. This workshop will give you an idea of what mission outreach the Iowa Conference is involved in now, and how you and your church can share God's love locally, across the country and around the world. If you have questions about the change from *Rainbow Covenant* to *In Mission Together*, this is the place to get answers. Ideas from this workshop may make it easier for you to do a great job inspiring your congregation about mission as a natural response to God's love!

**Disaster Preparedness and Response  
(OUT THE DOOR AND RIGHT)**

*Presenter: Pastor Catie Newman, Iowa Annual Conference Disaster Response Coordinator*

Disaster can and does happen with barely a moment's notice. (Think about this year's floods and tornados.) In this session we will talk about preparedness tips that you can share with families, your congregation and community. When disasters strike, we want to help; our instinct is to reach out. In addition to how to be prepared, we will discuss how and when to respond to best help those who have survived a disaster. The United Methodist Church in Iowa has an extensive process for helping people prepare for and recover from natural disasters. Training is available and volunteers are needed. What you learn in this workshop may save a life and definitely will prepare you to help!

**From Entertaining to Empowering Youth  
(FRONT TO RIGHT OF STAGE)**

**Presenter:** *Eric Rucker, Simpson College campus minister and Youth Academy director*

This workshop aims to identify explanations for the decline in youth church attendance and to explore how the Bible can instruct our churches in viewing and relating to youth in a more effective manner. Eric will share what his community is learning about inviting, nurturing, and sending young people as Christian disciples in today's world. The session will include practical youth ministry tools applicable in local church settings, and brief information about connecting youth with IAUMC opportunities like the Youth Academy. Whether you are a formal youth leader or a committed lay person, please join us to explore how to raise up young faith leaders for the future church!

### **How Exposure to Nature Will Change Your Life; Churches and Camps Partnering**

**( OUT THE DOOR AND LEFT)**

**Presenter:** *Bryan Johnson, Director of Camps and Retreats for the Iowa Conference*

We already know that camps provide powerful experiences by sharing and learning about Jesus Christ. But what are some of the psychological outcomes of youth and adults partnering with a camping program? In this workshop we will discuss how God uses nature to ease anxiety, create empathy and improve general wellbeing – and how they translate back to your local congregation. Participants will learn how to get involved this summer with an Iowa United Methodist Camp. You will also gain an understanding of why it is important to support United Methodist camping opportunities. We can't wait to see you!