Why a Small Church Summit?

For several years we have been gathering and listening to small Iowa churches (under 25 Sunday attendance) — we’ve heard what they are most excited about AND their concerns about the shifting demographics in many parts of Iowa. Those conversations have led us to a desire to gather as many from these smaller congregations in one place for mutual support, for sharing what is going well, for building networks and community and for celebrating all the ways small churches contribute to the life of their communities. Ideas about such a gathering have developed into this Small Church Summit.

Who should attend the Small Church Summit?

The hope is that teams from the churches that have been involved in the four Small Church Quadrant Gatherings in 2019 would come and bring back to their congregations the inspiration and opportunities that are brainstormed from the Summit. Teams are not restricted to people in those congregations, but should be composed of people committed to working together as a team in their community. Teams and individuals from churches with larger than 25 average Sunday attendance are welcomed in the Summit tracks.

What are the plans for the Summit?

There will be four large group plenaries with special speakers to help focus and inspire. Team members will choose in advance one of the 4 topics to dive deeper into with the guest speakers during 6 hours of Track Time. It is hoped that each team will have at least one team member in each track. On Sunday morning ALL Summit participants gather at a World Café to reflect and determine what will be most helpful for them to take back home and what some ongoing opportunities might be.

Summit Plenary Sessions OPEN TO ALL

(Friday, 6:30 pm) Authentic Love, Divine Power, Deep Connections: Theological Reflections on Small Church Life, Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook,

(Saturday, 9:30 am) Quality of Life and Community Well-Being in Small Places, Kimberly Zarecor and Deborah Tootle

(Saturday, 1:00 pm) Organizing for Success: A Panel Discussion on Strategic Planning and Small Church Success Stories with Iowa small church leaders

(Saturday, 7:00 pm) Connecting our Communities through Fresh Expressions of Church, William Poland

FAQ and online registration are part of the Summer Ministry School & Retreat webpage at:

www.IowaEpiscopal.org
Or Call 515-277-6165
31st Annual
Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
Summer Ministry School & Retreat
June 26-28, 2020 at Grinnell College Campus

What about kids & families?

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Summer Ministry School & Retreat
at Grinnell College Campus

Call with questions: 515-277-6165
Register online at www.IowaEpiscopal.org
Or pick up a brochure from the Church Office

Register online at www.IowaEpiscopal.org - on the Mission & Ministry dropdown menu choose Summer Ministry School & Retreat. Then click the "registration" button on that page to reserve your spot. You can pay upon registration...or better yet, select "pay by check" and send/bring a check. You should register first even if you plan to apply for a scholarship!

2020 Learning Tracks

Track 1: The Theology and Inspiration of Small Church
(Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook)

Track 2: Shrinking Smart... An understanding of vitality in the midst of shrinking populations
(Kim Zarecor & Deborah Tootle)

Track 3: How to move forward as thriving small churches
(Sue Ann Raymond, Diane Eddy & Keila Eddy)

Track 4: Connecting our Communities: Becoming New through Mission and Relationship
(William Poland)

Track 5: Advocacy for Sustainability (Matt Russell)
Track 6: Back to the Bible: Basics (Donna Scarfe)
Track 7: The Bible and the Quran (Kate Campbell)
Track 8: Prairie Pilgrimage (Jenn Latham)
Track 9: Liturgy and the Hope to Which We are Called (Jean McCarthy and Kathleen Milligan)
Track 10: Developing a Spiritually Vital Church (Kevin Goodrich, O.P. and Susan Forshey)
Track 11: Solo Retreat (ages 18 and up)

What about kids & families?

Track A: Childcare (entering grade 3 and younger) completely free! Sharing a dorm room with a guardian on a family floor, all childcare and meals are FREE!

Track B: YMDT Lock-in (entering grades 4-12) Fellowship and lock-in accommodations at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church just south of campus. Swimming on Saturday is traditional. Youth entering grades 10-12 may choose a track OR join the lock-in.

How do I register to attend?

First, plan to register before Memorial Day for Early Bird savings. Then, check to see if a team of 3 or more from your church are planning to attend the Summit. It’s best if you have one team member register your church’s whole Small Church Summit team. Carpooling is encouraged!

To register yourself (or your family) independent of a team, use the form on the Brochure in the Church office or go to www.IowaEpiscopal.com - on the Mission & Ministry dropdown menu choose Summer Ministry School & Retreat. Then click the “registration” button on that page to reserve your spot. You can pay upon registration...or better yet, select “pay by check” and send/bring a check. You should register first even if you plan to apply for a scholarship!