

Come, be refreshed at the

OASIS

2009 Mid-Central Region APCE Event

October 18-20, 2009

The Elms Resort and Spa
and
Barbee Memorial Presbyterian Church
Excelsior Springs, MO

Welcome!

The desert is a dangerous place. It is always moving, so it is hard to know where you are. There is little water, so you get thirsty and you can die if no water is found. Almost nothing grows there, so there is almost nothing to eat. In the daytime, it is hot and the sun scorches your skin. In the night, it is cold.

These words from the Godly Play story "The Great Family" made a great deal of sense to me as my husband and I traveled across the New Mexico, Arizona and California deserts recently. Signs such as "No Services Next 60 Miles" and "Be Sure You Have Water" warned us of the dangers of these desert places. And even in 21st century America, there were miles and miles where we had no cell phone service, reminding us that in a very real way we were isolated and vulnerable to the natural environment. As we covered the many hundreds of miles between the Midwest and San Diego, each town along the way was an Oasis where we could find food, water, gas, and even shelter for the night.

My online dictionary offers these definitions for oasis: "something that supplies refuge relief, or a pleasant contrast; a fertile area in the desert where a perennial supply of fresh water is available." That's what I hope Mid-Central APCE's Oasis Christian Education Event will be for you—a place and time of refuge, pleasant contrast from your daily activities, fresh water to re-energize and refresh you.

The planning team has worked very hard to create an event which will offer a variety of worship, study, fellowship and fun experiences for all who attend, plus the opportunity to simply rest, relax and enjoy the beauty of the Elms Resort and the fall season. I hope you will make Oasis a priority on your fall calendar and that you will invite and encourage others to join you.

In Christ,
Ann Bouchard
Moderator, Mid-Central APCE Region

Conference Theme

Through worship and interactive reflection, participants will explore the place for refreshment that an oasis can provide in our busy lives. God's promise of streams in the desert (Isaiah 40) provides hope, as we walk the dusty paths of our daily journeys.

You will receive new experiences for your personal journey, creative ideas for your ministry setting and deeper connections with others in the community of faith.

"Come on in, the water's fine!"

Conference Schedule

Sunday, October 18

Hotel Check-in Begins	4:00 p.m.
Registration begins	5:00 p.m.
Tapas (appetizers)	6:30 p.m.
Worship/Reflection	7:30 p.m.
Dessert and coffee	9:00 p.m.

Monday, October 19

Breakfast on your own	
Morning Prayer	8:00 a.m.
Workshop 1	9:00-10:15 a.m.
Workshop 2	10:30-11:45 a.m.
Lunch on your own	
*See page 5 for <i>Interest Lunch</i> topics	
Workshop 3	1:30-2:45 p.m.
Workshop 4	3:00-4:15 p.m.
<i>At Barbee Memorial Presbyterian Church:</i>	
Dinner	5:30 p.m.
Worship/Reflection/Communion	6:30 p.m.
Dessert/Book Signing	8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Morning Prayer	8:00 a.m.
Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
Mid-Central APCE meeting	
Workshop 5	9:30-10:45 a.m.
Worship/Reflection	11:00 a.m.
Lunch on your own	

Conference Leadership:

Judith A. Todd is co-author with *Valerie Isenhower* of two books on spiritual discernment: *Living Into the Answers: A Workbook for Personal Spiritual Discernment* and *Listen for God's Leading: A Workbook for Corporate Spiritual Discernment*. She is one of the founders of Water in the Desert Ministries, a center for Christian spiritual renewal in Albuquerque, NM. Judith is a gifted teacher with years of experience in adult education and spirituality. She has taught Old and New Testament at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, now teaching at the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry in Albuquerque as well as being an adjunct faculty in the Religious Studies Department at the University of New Mexico. She has a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the Graduate Theological Union, is an ordained Presbyterian minister, and a Kansas native.

Valerie K. Isenhower is the former Coordinator of Ministry of Worshipful Work and is one of the founders of Water in the Desert Ministries. Val has led spiritual formation retreats and taught classes in spiritual formation across the country. She specializes in facilitating discernment processes for group as well as using photography/visual arts in spirituality. As a photographer, Val focuses on meditative and discernment photographs. Her photographs have been published, won awards, and displayed in galleries. Val has a M.Div. from Central Baptist Theological Seminary and is an ordained American Baptist minister as well as a Kansas native.

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Workshops 1 Monday 9:00-10:15	
1A	Discernment as a Spiritual Practice (extended session) Seeking God’s yearning for our lives and the decisions we make becomes a journey toward the heart of God. Discernment places God at the center of all we do. When we ask the question, “God, what is your longing for my life?” we begin a pilgrimage toward a deepening relationship with God. This workshop will guide participants as they begin exploring how to use discernment in the spiritual formation program of your church, your committees, and in your own lives. (Note: Must sign up for 2A also.) <i>Valerie Isenhower and Judith Todd</i>
1B	Calvin’s Legacy for Christian Educators John Calvin believed that there are four leaders in the Church: pastors, elders, deacons, and “doctors” (educators). His commitment to education was firm: he founded the Academy of Geneva, which is today the University of Geneva. This workshop will explore the importance of Christian education in the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions, and Calvin’s contribution to those traditions. <i>Mary Newbern-Williams is the General Presbyter of John Calvin Presbytery.</i>
1C	Creating and Sustaining the Broadly Graded Sunday School Churches throughout the denomination are called to organize dynamic educational experiences for children, youth and adults. Sometimes the best faith formation takes place in a multi-age setting. Come and explore creative ways to sustain and support the broadly graded Sunday school. <i>Candace Hill is Coordinator for Educational Ministries, Congregational Ministries Publishing, Presbyterian Church (USA).</i>
1D	Spiritual Beading Meditate, create, and communicate. Participants in this class will retrace the ministry of Christ on earth by guided meditation, silent prayer, song, and conversation. They will create a bracelet or prayer cord to take with them. <u>NOTE: There is a \$10 charge for materials, collected at the time of the class.</u> <i>Nancy Toland and Pattie Fiedler are DCE serving congregations in Kansas.</i>
1E	Facebook 101 If you don’t know where to start on Facebook, this is the workshop for you. Even if you don’t have a laptop to bring, come watch a Facebook page take shape. <i>Carla Hilton is a DCE at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO, and enjoys helping people with Facebook.</i>
Workshops 2 Monday 10:30-11:45	
2A	Discernment as a Spiritual Practice (continued from 1A)
2B	Civilized Group Building Through Recreation Come experience recreation that is appealing to both youth and adults. See examples of leadership styles and recreation activities that help you know the participants better, leading to deeper relationships. It’s fun! <i>Michelle Phillips and Emily Dixon are youth directors serving congregations in the Kansas City Area</i>

2C	<p>Home and Church as Partners in Faith Formation: 168 Reasons to Stick Together</p> <p>The number one reason for homes and churches to stick together and provide quality faith formation for children and teens: life. Although we may not uncover 167 more reasons to partner for faith, we will have the opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen partnerships that nurture disciples. <i>Candace Hill is a Certified Associate Christian Educator and former church educator who supports the educational ministries of congregations in the PC(USA) through online resources and Christian education networks.</i></p>
2D	<p>When Sabbath Becomes a Verb!</p> <p>If you do not take responsibility for the care of yourself, then who will? Participate in this workshop to discover what stresses you. Find your best way to care for yourself and design a plan to do that. Lots of participation will give all direction for activating the Sabbath! <i>Don Schroeder is an honorably retired pastor and a Certified Christian Educator who was very active in the Presbyteries of Southern and Northern Kansas and on many boards, including APCE. His message given to you in his storytelling style of teaching will stay with you for a very long time.</i></p>
2E	<p>Stand Up for Jesus: Experiential Children’s Sermons</p> <p>For every children’s sermon that includes a storybook or begins sitting quietly in the front pew, there is an alternative method of engagement for teaching the good news. The experiential children’s sermon engages young people with Biblical truth and connects with the adult members of the congregation. This is a “how-to” workshop providing resources and materials, and expecting the engaging interplay of participants. There will be a small teeny-weeny pre-workshop assignment, so please note if you plan to participate that you will be responsible for some advance work.</p> <p><i>Nancy Kahaian served as a pastor in the congregational setting for 19 years before serving as a pastor in the middle governing body setting as the interim Synod Executive for the Synod of Mid-America. She recently earned a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary with her M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School.</i></p>
Lunch	<p>Interest Lunches: Join One or Start Your Own</p> <p>Purchase your lunch and participate in an Interest Lunch. (<i>Youth Ministry in the Synod</i> interest lunch provided by Nancy Kahaian, interim synod executive; email your registration for this lunch to executive@synodma.org) Look for more information at the registration table.</p>
Workshops 3 Monday 1:30-2:45	
3A	<p>Finding Yourself in the Psalms</p> <p>An introduction to using the three types of Psalms to revitalize our prayer lives (as individuals and as congregations.) (Note: Must sign up for 4A as well.) <i>Carolynn Winters-Hazelton is parish associate at First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence, KS, and is a frequent speaker at events.</i></p>

3B	<p>Nurture and Development of a Young Adult Ministry (18-30 Year Olds) What makes possible a ministry with young adults in a congregation? The workshop will present basic guidelines for such a ministry incorporating faith development and ways to practice orthopraxis. It will suggest ways to sustain such a ministry. <i>Thad Holcombe is Campus Minister for Ecumenical Christian Ministries at the University of Kansas. He has co-facilitated numerous workshops on congregational-based campus and young adult ministry. Holcombe is ordained in the PC (USA) and the United Church of Christ.</i></p>
3C	<p>Education in the Small Church The workshop will include information on how to use multiple intelligences, abbreviated workshop rotation model, and typical teaching methodologies with children in the small membership church. We will examine ways to adapt curricula, to think creatively about calendars, and to use computers as aids in educational events. In addition, we will look at the possibility of engaging adults in both intergenerational and traditional learning settings with the use of the internet and groundbreaking curriculum materials. <i>Pat Roller is a pastor in a small church and an educator. Her dissertation, published by Bridge Resources under the title of Grand Friend, Young Friends, is a manual for developing mentoring relationships within the church. This past year she received a grant from the GA Office of Small Church Development to create and field test a curriculum for small membership churches.</i></p>
3D	<p>Stand Up for Jesus: Experiential Children’s Sermons (repeat of 2E) <i>Nancy Kahaian</i></p>
3E	<p>Facebook 201 Do you already have a Facebook page but would like to learn more ways to use it in your ministry? Bring your laptop if you can, and learn from everyone in the room. <i>Carla Hilton is a DCE in the Kansas City area and an avid user of Facebook.</i></p>
<p>Workshops 4 Monday 3:00-4:15</p>	
4A	<p>Finding Yourself in the Psalms (continuation of 3A)</p>
4B	<p>Using Scripture in Daily Life This workshop will look at both how people are spiritually formed as Christians and also how families can use Scripture in daily life. You will have the opportunity to create something which will encourage Scripture use in your family. <i>Karen Van Galder, currently in the St. Louis area, has served over 30 years as a Christian educator in diverse Presbyterian churches. She is a Certified Presbyterian Educator and the Mid-Central APCE representative.</i></p>
4C	<p>Financial Discipleship: Stewardship for Educators Education is essential to developing the spiritual exercise of financial discipleship and faithful stewardship in our congregations. In this workshop, we’ll explore how and where generosity is taught. We’ll discuss the cultures of giving that emerge in congregations and the resources and tools to nurture shifts in our cultures of giving. <i>Charles Spencer in the Executive Presbyter in Heartland Presbytery. He has been active in stewardship ministries for many years and was with the General Assembly Office of Stewardship for six years.</i></p>

4D	<p>Tilling the Tough Turf: Doing Youth Ministry with “Tough” Congregations and/or “Tough” Kids</p> <p>Some of us who are called to youth ministry find ourselves dealing with resistant churches, resistant young people, and sometimes both at the same time. Through the presentation of some recent church and psycho-social research, small group discussion and multimedia, this workshop will share some strategies and invite participants to more effectively work through the resistance with “At-Risk” youth and “At-Risk” congregations to do faithful youth ministry.</p> <p><i>Keith Harris is Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry at McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church in Champaign, IL, and a former long-time youth workers in the Heartland Presbytery and the Synod of Mid-America who still LOVES youth ministry!</i></p>
4E	<p>Are You Thirsty?</p> <p>There are times in our lives when we thirst, when we feel drained and need replenishment. There are times when we long for spiritual renewal. During this workshop participants will have the opportunity to explore his or her own spirituality and need for renewal. We will discover ways to quench our spiritual thirst through the use of spiritual practices. This will be an opportunity to find ways of nurturing your faith and growing in your own spirituality.</p> <p><i>Rev. Laura Frazey is the Associate Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wichita, KS, where she has served since 2007. Prior to church ministry, Laura served as both a hospital and hospice chaplain.</i></p>
<p>Workshops 5 Tuesday 9:30-10:45</p>	
5A	<p>Visual Arts and Spiritual Formation</p> <p>We use many words in our society today, and yet many people are visual and tactile learners. The Holy Spirit often uses creative avenues to speak to us, beyond the written and spoken word. This experiential workshop will explore ways to deepen your faith through the use of visual arts.</p> <p><i>Valerie Isenhower and Judith Todd</i></p>
5B	<p>Fresh Wine in “Old” Wineskins: Youth Ministry Round Table</p> <p>Are you having trouble coming up with new programming ideas that work? Are you achieving breadth, but not depth, with your youth group? Or are you just looking for some new ideas to mix in with what you’re already doing? This interactive workshop is designed to assist new and veteran leaders alike with some “cutting edge” youth ministry plans that can be taken back to your church to use right away. The only requirement for this workshop is that you bring at least one written-out youth program that has worked well for your own youth group(s). Participants can expect to leave with a variety of new ideas, and hopefully new energy for sharing and leading in the wonderful task of youth ministry. <i>Keith Harris</i></p>
Hallway	<p>Display of newly-redone <i>We Believe</i> curriculum and information about the POINT (Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching) network</p> <p><i>Candace Hill</i></p>



Registration Information and Fees:

Registration covers three group meals and conference participation. See lodging information below.

- Early bird registration deadline, August 27 (\$159)
- Registration, August 28-September 30 (\$179)
- Late registration after September 30, (\$199)

Register online at <http://churchresourcecenter.org/>

For help with registration or other questions, call Malinda Spencer at 816-923-5486

Payment can be made via PayPal or mail your check to Heartland Presbytery/Oasis, 3210 Michigan Ave, KCMO 64109

Mid-Central APCE is offering a \$15 rebate to APCE members.

Applications for the rebate will be available at the Oasis event registration table.

For APCE membership: <http://apcenet.org/membership/join/htm>

Hotel Reservations and Information:

The Elms Resort and Spa
401 Regent Street
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
<http://www.elmsresort.com/>



Accommodation Rates
Single/double/triple/quad . . .
\$89 per night, plus tax*

*Bring a copy of your church's Tax Exempt Certificate and avoid sales tax.

For reservations
Call The Elms 1-800-THE ELMS

To receive the special conference room rates, be sure to tell them you are with the Mid-Central APCE event. Reservation requests will be confirmed only if accompanied by one night's room deposit or guaranteed by a major credit card.

Hotel reservations made after October 11, 2009, will be subject to availability and at the prevailing rate.

Sharing Rooms

The person who makes the reservation should communicate the confirmation number to the others who will occupy the room. It is your responsibility to find your own roommate(s). If you plan to share a room, one person who plans to occupy the room should make the reservation. (Make sure you get a confirmation number!)

Note Regarding Hotel Accommodations

The Elms Resort and Spa is a beautiful, historic hotel once frequented by the wealthy desiring to partake of the healing waters. The current building dates from 1912. Spa services are available; for more information, contact The Elms. Come early, stay late. Conference rate applies for weeknights; it's only \$10 more for weekend nights.

Directions to the Hotel from Kansas City

Take I-35 North to Exit 20 (Excelsior Springs/Lawson exit) via 69 Highway. Follow 69 Hwy 10 miles to Route 10. Go East on Route 10 to Kansas City Ave. Go right onto Kansas City Ave and the hotel is on the left.

We want to see you at The Elms—so contact us if you need other travel assistance!



