

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Alan Roxburgh lives in an extended household in Vancouver, Canada with his wife and two poodles. He's an avid hiker, cyclist and cook when not

reading books. Alan has served as pastor, seminary professor and consultant on leadership and missional transformation to church systems around the world. He has written 14 books on themes of missional life, leadership, and culture change within the church. He grew up in the inner city of Liverpool, immigrated to Canada as a teenager.

As a young pastor he saw that church growth was mostly a "circulation of the saints" as his own generation no longer saw the church as a meaningful response to the unravelling of Western societies.

As a teacher, writer, and consultant he sought to address the question of being the church in a massive unravelling. Those experiences convinced him that the Spirit is fermenting a movement of God's people than can no longer be contained in narratives of renewal, reform, or the fixing existing systems.

Alan has worked with congregations and denominational systems around the world. He is co-leader of the podcast *Leaving Egypt*. Currently, he is co-directing a major research project on the question of Christian life and economics in an age of unraveling. Learn more about Alan at <https://alanroxburgh.com/about>.

Stephaine (Stephy) Y. Nobles-Beans is a AAA Woman of God. She is Anointed, Appointed, and Approved by God. She is an Educator, Professor, Assistant Pastor, Campus Pastor, Speaker, Associate Chaplain for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Campus Ministries at [Whitworth University](#). Her passion is leadership and to help women step into their calling of leadership and vocation, and to help build the Kingdom of God. Stephy's voice can be heard as she hosts her podcast, [She-Brews With Mama Beans On Holy Grounds...Coffee And Conversations About Life!](#)



As a self-published author, producer, poet, Stephy loves the spoken word and has written 5 books, with

her newest authored work, ["Born To Be A Boss, Brown Skin Girls Lead Too,"](#) a resourceful tool designed to help women of color to create their own narrative. She is always ready to encourage, empower, and equip women for leadership, especially women of color. She has been called "Daughter of Thunder." Her website is: www.stephynoblesbeanscommunity.com/

Carol Seppilu, born and raised on St Lawrence Island, Carol Seppilu, a Siberian Yupik, lives in Nome, Alaska. Her love for nature is evident in how she spends much of her time outdoors. She shares her story with the hope of inspiring others.



Rev. Samuel Felderman, Director of Seminary Admissions at University of Dubuque, earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies at University of Dubuque



Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw, DMin, serves as associate professor of ministry at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, as dean of the seminary and vice president of the university. McCaw began her faithful service to UDTs nearly 20 years ago. She also serves on the Wendt Character Initiative's Advisory Board. Recently, she was a major author on a proposal that received \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish Plentiful Gifts: Nourishing Members for the Flourishing of Small Member Congregations. The NACCC is an inaugural partner in the grant.



The Rev. Dr. Ned Allyn Parker is the Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement for *Andover Newton Seminary* at Yale Divinity School. He is also an ordained

minister with the American Baptist Churches and served churches in Newton, Massachusetts, and Seattle, Washington. He regularly leads workshops on the intersection of storytelling and leadership for churches and organizations. Ned and his dog Lucky are currently training JR, the new puppy of the household, to be an upstanding member of the canine community.

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker (Washington Gladden) serves as the Director of Contextual Education and Visiting Professor of Community Engagement at Eden Theological Seminary. She is the



Founding Faculty Director of The Center of Lived Faith & Organizing. She has matriculated through post-secondary, where she earned the following: Bachelor of Science from Howard University, Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology.



Amana Talala Mbise; Since joining the First Congregational Church of Anchorage in 2019, Amana has been an active member serving as chair of the worship ministry, a board member of the Dancing Owls Learning Center (a proposed

after school program to serve the children of the University of Alaska Anchorage students) and playing in the handbells choir. He is also a member of the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council and served on the NACCC Racial Justice Task Team.

Outside FCC, Amana works as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He brings over ten years of experience in social work, global health, and community development in Tanzania, Denmark, and the US. His research interests center around immigration, human trafficking, and rights-based approaches to social work. Currently, he is leading the first health needs assessment for Black-Identifying Alaskans in collaboration with the Alaska Black Caucus.

Rev. Richard Miller-Todd**Congregational Church, Berwick, Iowa**

Rich's involvement with missions began as a child when his dad led the Piedmont College summer camp and worked with their thrift shop. Upon graduating from seminary, he was a student leader for the Odyssey 80' Program (South Church, Hartford), a mission tour to several countries. With International Congregational Fellowship, he traveled to conferences in Greece, Great Britain, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina, and the United States. Rev. Miller-Todd has visited and worked at NA missions abroad and at Hosanna Industries and Morgan Scott in the US.

Locally, he worked for food justice through IMPACT and the Berwick Church food co-op. After attending a Spanish speaking congregation for more than a year, he invited a group to meet for Bible Study in his church. There have been numerous local mission efforts at the church at home and in Mexico. As host for a NA missionary family, he arranged for them to visit Iowa churches. Missionary efforts are a part of who Rich is. He sees that missions have given life to their church.

PLENARIES / WORKSHOPS

WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT HAPPENED

Alan Roxburgh

Three Sessions:

Session One: Leaders and the people in our congregations are disoriented and confused. They now know there is no going back to normal even though many are still trying hard to make things work again. People want to know: What happened? Where are we? How did we get to this place for which little has prepared us? This session describes what has been happening and the unraveling that now confronts us. It describes a powerful story that has been shaping our churches and societies - a story that worked for a very long time but is now unraveling.

Session Two responds to the question leaders keep asking when they respond to session 1: What do we do? This session shares why this is the wrong question to be asking. It proposes that we need to ask a fundamentally different question: In Scripture and our traditions, how has God turned up with God's people when they have found themselves in disruption and unraveling? To do this we turn to Scripture.

Session Three proposes that our response to Session 2 is in how we cultivate communities of hope in a place we've never been before. It proposes three practices for forming communities of hope in a dark time: *Dwelling*, *Discerning* and *Exploring*.

IT'S A NEW SEASON, IT'S A NEW DAY!

Stephy Nobles-Beans

After praying and seeking the Lord and reading Ecc. 3:1-8, I want to share about the seasons of life. In our tradition, we can turn to Ecclesiastes, which talks about a time for every matter under heaven. It talks about the varying emotions and seasons we as men and women travel through on life's journey. Ecclesiastes is telling us to try our best to maintain the perspective when hard times come and when hard times go. And the one thing we know is that trouble won't last always, it won't always be bad. The wonderful thing that we should know is that God has a preferred future for each of us. It may be raining now in your life but know that the sun is going to shine, and that joy comes in the morning. In my presentation, I want to share ways that can help us move forward when these seasons come. When they come knocking at our door, we can be assured that God's promises are yea and amen.

FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

Carol Seppilu

"Footsteps of Faith" is the inspiring story of Carol, who faced the depths of darkness after giving up on life and found salvation through prayer. Despite the doctor's grim prognosis of permanent blindness and loss of speech, she forged forward, driven with belief in divine intervention, and emerged from the shadows. Following in the footsteps of her ancestors, Carol went from merely surviving to living with purpose. Her journey showcases the power of faith, granting her a new sight and a voice filled with the message of hope.

WHAT DO WE LEARN ON THE ROAD?

Rev. Dr. Ned Allyn Parker

Presented by Vitality Ministry Council

Using the Emmaus narrative as a model for shared ministry, shared leadership, and shared story.

Telling stories, shared leadership, and shared ministry all help us “do church.” This workshop will use the story about the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) as a way of weaving these skills together to inspire greater collaboration and empowerment among clergy and laity. We imagine the road to Emmaus as a somber, contemplative, anxious journey. When this workshop ends, the hope is that participants will be inspired by the road *from* Emmaus – that moment after Christ has been made known to them and they run *from* Emmaus, back to Jerusalem to tell their friends what had transpired.

BEING A CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR IN A MULTI-FAITH WORLD | Rev. Beth McCaw / Rev. Samuel Felderman – University of Dubuque **Presented by Growth Ministry Council**

In a world increasingly divided, what does it mean to live our Christian discipleship faithfully while inhabiting community with our neighbors of other faiths? In this workshop, we will learn both how to give an account for the hope that is within us, while offering hospitality and respect toward those with diverse religious and spiritual beliefs. Rev. Samuel Felderman, Director of Admission at Dubuque Seminary will guide us in understanding the religious practices of other faiths so that we may be thoughtful neighbors. Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw, Dean at Dubuque Seminary, will provide tools for dialogue and describe a model used by the Jewish, Muslim and Christian "Children of Abraham" members of the Dubuque community.

GETTING STARTED IN GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Dietra Wise Baker

Presented by Washington Gladden Society

Do you want to start a social justice ministry in your community? Know about all the problems in your community, but unsure of where to start? Worried about being too political? This workshop roots you in your faith and the beauty of bible and theology. You will practice proven organizing skills and leave the workshop with a plan of action.

EVERY SEASON IS A TIME FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: SHARING WHAT WE ARE DOING TO REFLECT THE HOLISTIC NATURE OF GOD’S FAMILY?

Amana Talala Mbise

Presented by Host Committee

“Remarkable and important things happen when people of faith share a passion. When their hearts and minds and spirits are moved, a transcendent union can emerge that makes a positive impact on the world.” These are the first two sentences of an article in *The Congregationalist* with the final report of NACCC’s Racial Justice Task Team. The report included recommendations for continuing the work of the Task Team so the NACCC, and its member churches, “can better reflect the diversity of God’s people.”

In this session, we will explore together how we are responding to the Task Team’s call to action. Two churches will talk about their experiences, and then we will participate in table responses to the guiding questions from the Task Team’s Final Report. The session will conclude with sharing from each table and a brainstorming about “Now what?” The presenters will compile the notes into a follow-up article for *The Congregationalist*.

THE MISSION ADVENTURE KIT

**Richard Miller-Todd, Chair, Missions &
Outreach Ministry
Mission Partner Workshop**

All are invited to explore Missions for their church or for themselves. This “Adventure Kit” will help you to learn more about the world of global missions. Mission partners will talk about service opportunities and tell stories about far away projects. The MOMC will share information about the fall cultural exploration trip. Please come to learn more about how the NACCC endeavors to provide mutual care and outreach in the name of Christ!