

Saturday, April 1, 2017
Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave.
Henrico, VA 23229

Both laity and clergy are invited to attend (450 limit).

Registration Cost: (\$10 – includes lunch)

Registrations will be received at

<https://www.etches.com/bishopsconvo>

Deadline is **March 27**.

Contact: MarcBrown@vaumc.org



SCHEDULE

9:30 – 10:00.....	Gathering
10:00 – 11:00.....	Plenary
11:00 – 11:15.....	Break
11:15 – 12:15.....	Workshop Groups
12:15 – 1:00.....	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00.....	Workshop Groups
2:00 – 2:15.....	Break
2:15 – 3:00.....	Worship with Eucharist

BISHOP'S CONVOCAATION ON PRAYER



Rev. Juanita C. Rasmus

The Rev. Juanita C. Rasmus is a pastor, Spiritual Director, and contemplative with a passion for outreach to our world's most impoverished citizens. Juanita co-pastors St. John's United Methodist Church located in downtown Houston with her husband Rudy. Beginning with

9 existing members in 1992, over 9,000 people are now a part of the St. John's family, making it one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country.

Juanita travels extensively speaking on spirituality and on the lessons she learned after a life-altering major depressive episode in 1999. She is a Certified Spiritual Director and has served as a member of the Board of Directors

The Rev. Juanita Campbell Rasmus
will be the plenary speaker. There will also
be small group learning opportunities in
the areas of prayer and Wesleyan
spiritual disciplines.

of Renovaré Inc. and its ministry team, founded by renowned author Richard Foster. Juanita has blogged for Renovaré.com, the Conversations Journal, and has written for the Upper Room's Alive Now publications.

Rev. Rasmus' plenary presentation will be "God How Would You Have Us to Pray?" "Throughout scripture we get glimpses of Jesus staying in tune with God the Father. Even as a teenager he steals away from his parents and he is 'lost' in the temple, God's home as it was understood at the time. We see Jesus praying for 40 days in the wilderness before entering ministry and being led by the Spirit and being served by the angels.

Why? Because Jesus needed to hear from home? Jesus models for his apprentices the way in which we too are called to be engaged in prayer, prayer that leads us to the next step. Prayer as the Life With God Bible states, is the 'interactive conversation with God about what we and God are thinking and doing together.' So, how is God calling us to pray?"

In addition, Juanita will present a workshop on "God, How Would You Have Us to Pray?" as part of the convocation.

Spanish translation will be provided for the plenary session.



God, How Would You Have Us to Pray?

Rev. Juanita C. Rasmus

It has been said that Westerners talk more than they listen in prayer. This workshop will attune our ears to do twice as much listening, “being” as talking and then to follow suit with the necessary “doing” that prayer also invites. Contemplation and Action are both necessary to the model of life in the Kingdom of God. Join us as we explore both listening and acting the next step in prayer.

Your Eucharist Is Too Small! Grateful Living in Native American Traditions

Rev. Larry Jent

Join us as we explore life as a joyous gift to be given away. We'll learn how nature teaches us the Great Thanksgiving, and all Creation sings of Eucharist.

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. David Canada

We will explore the deeper meaning of the prayer and together we will experience the prayer as an invitation to an ongoing spiritual journey.

Praying the Book of Nature

Beth Norcross, Founding Director of Center for Spirituality in Nature

Together we will open the Book of Nature to see how it reveals a deep and ancient way of being with God, and with all our neighbors -- human and non-human. We will explore how the natural world provides a sacred, “thin” place where we experience both the transcendent and the immanent God and how it opens us to a loving relationship with all the creation. We will also try some spiritual practices designed specifically for deepening our relationship with God in and through nature.

Convocation participants may attend two of these workshops.

Please indicate workshop preferences with registration.



Prayer Walking

Mr. Marc Thompson

Prayer Walking is simply using one of the “Means of Grace” and “takin’ it to the streets.” Join us as we learn about “praying on-site with insight.”

Wesleyan Spirituality

Rev. Lindsey Baynham

“What is this ‘witness (or testimony) of our spirit’? What is the ‘testimony of God’s Spirit’? And how does God ‘bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God’?” These questions asked by Wesley in his sermon “The Witness of the Spirit” are still worth asking today. Together we will explore the rich meaning in our Wesleyan heritage and theology. We will investigate the scriptures, writings of Wesley, our experience and tradition to fully find ‘still a more excellent way’ to live out our Wesleyan Spirituality.

Praying with the Scriptures

Rev. Judy Worthington

Invites participants into a deeper understanding of scripture through prayerful reflection, guided by the Holy Spirit. The class will explore the history and use of Lectio Divina and will provide opportunities for participants to participate in its practice.

Teach Them How To Pray: Introducing the Next Generation to a Life of Prayer

Paulo Lopes

When the group of (mostly) young disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus didn’t answer with a formula, or “5 best practices of prayer,” neither did he offer them books or resources on the subject. He simply prayed, asking them to do the same. During our time together, we’ll discover ways to move from information to imitation as we encourage our young disciples to have lives of prayer.

Devotional Prayer for Meetings

Rev. Don Jamison

The workshop will explore the use of devotion at the beginning and during meetings within the church environment. Contemplative, written devotions and Lectio Divina prayer enhance the meeting space as well as preparing us to experience and discern the will of God.

El Poder de la Oración

Rev. Veronica Barrell and Rev. Ileana Rosario

El taller explora el poder de la oración y como orar con poder utilizando la Palabra de Dios y nuestros sentidos.