

Join us for the 9th annual

SMALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

“Ministry in the Wilderness”



9:15 AM – 3 PM

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Elk Hills Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Featuring Keynote Presenter Rev. Dr. Judi Slater

who previously presented at our 2019 & 2021 Small Church Conferences

Plus, your choice of two workshops

- **A Journey of Compassion**
- **Forum on PWV's Future Direction**
- **Commissioned Pastor: Could God Be Calling You? Or Someone You Know?**

9:15-9:45 AM	Registration and refreshments
10-10:45 AM	Worship and The Lord's Supper
10:45-11:30 AM	Keynote: A Journey of Faith <i>Rev. Dr. Judi Slater</i>
11:30 AM-12:20 PM	Lunch and fellowship
12:30-1:30 PM	Workshop choice 1 <i>see descriptions on back</i>
1:45-2:45 PM	Workshop choice 2
3 PM	Regather in sanctuary for closing prayer

KEYNOTE: A Journey of Faith

What is happening to the church? The church as we know it is changing and it may seem like we are wandering aimlessly in the wilderness with our ministry, but what if God is preparing us for and leading us to the promised land of blessing and purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today? What if God wants to change the world through us? The smaller congregations have a unique strength for this kind of journey and much to contribute. We can make a difference; God can change the world through us!

KEYNOTE PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Judi Slater

Returning this year as our keynote presenter is Rev. Dr. Judi Slater. Judi has been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne, PA, since 1992. Over the past 31 years, the church has evolved from an aging, white congregation without much connection to their under-resourced community to a multicultural congregation with many community ministries. It has become a Matthew 25 church, and this vision continues to guide the church's ministry in new and exciting directions.

In addition to pastoring First, Duquesne, Judi served in ministry for seven years as the Associate Presbyter for Pittsburgh Presbytery, working with smaller congregations. For three years, she also served as part of a Shared Ministry Team at Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, she has participated in many church revitalization programs over the years, most recently completing the Church Planting and Revitalization Certificate at PTS.

Judi and her husband Steve have three grown children and six adorable grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, who range in age from 2 to 9 years.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS **A Journey of Compassion**

Jesus was criticized for healing on the Sabbath by religious people who missed that Jesus was showing them a greater way of love and compassion. What does it mean for us to live a life of compassion? What would it look like for your church to be focused on compassion? What if the wilderness journey we are on in ministry today is one of changing our focus from religious traditions to ministries of love and compassion? Maybe God is leading us away from doing church to the promised land of being the church in the world. This workshop will explore ways in which God may be calling the church today to a journey of love and compassion in the world.

Led by Judi Slater

Forum on PWV's Future Direction

Everything is changing – in our world, in our churches, and in our presbytery. In order to be faithful to God and to our call, the Presbytery of West Virginia has chosen to enter prayerfully into a season of discernment. Come learn about the process, and bring your questions, suggestions, hopes, and fears as we listen for the voice of Jesus Christ leading us into our future.

Led by Dave Lee

Commissioned Pastor: Could God Be Calling You? Or Someone You Know?

Pastoral leadership is changing in the PCUSA and in the Presbytery of West Virginia. Where once upon a time, most congregations were led by a minister of Word & Sacrament, these days a number of our churches have called ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service to serve as their Commissioned Pastors. In the future, it is likely that more congregations will be served by Commissioned Pastors, and at times by those from among their own ruling elders. At times, it may feel like we're finding our way through the wilderness as folks sense a call to serve as Authorized Lay Preachers (who provide pulpit supply) and Commissioned Pastors, and as congregations seek to discern if their next pastor might be a Commissioned Pastor rather than a minister of Word & Sacrament. This workshop will be an opportunity to engage in conversation around leadership opportunities as to whether God might be calling you to be a Commissioned Pastor or your congregation to call a Commissioned Pastor.

Led by Susan Sharp Campbell