

Presbytery of West Virginia's Nurture's Committee Leadership Development Coordinating Team Presents:

# "Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life"

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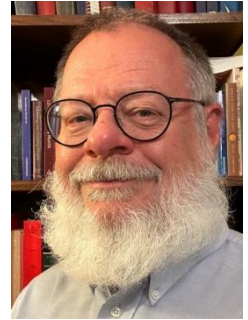
**Michael K. Girlinghouse**

**Saturday, October 28, 2023**

**9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

(with a break for lunch)

**on Zoom**



**Course Description:** Grief is a complex experience that includes emotional, social, spiritual, and physical dynamics. It is our common human response to loss. In this time of change, uncertainty, and upheaval, congregations face multiple losses, which result in grief upon grief. Congregations often get trapped in the "used-to-be's" as they try to cope with the challenges of the present. **Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life** is a day-long workshop that explores how congregations can work through their collective grief without forgetting or devaluing the past and embrace God's future by "remembering forward" as we draw strength and wisdom from the stories of our life together.

**Leader: Pastor Mike Girlinghouse** is the interim chaplain for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Episcopal Church at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ. Through **Gracepoint Renewal Ministries**, Pastor Mike offers workshops, programs, and presentations on grief, loss, and nostalgia in congregational systems based on his book *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past* (Fortress Press, 2019) and strength-based mission and strategic planning. Formerly the Bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA, Pastor Mike has extensive experience working with congregations in transition, exploring change, looking to expand mission, or moving toward concluding their ministry. Pastor Mike lives with his wife Terrie and their two dogs, Melbie and Shyanne. He is a devotional writer and enjoys cooking and photography.

Registration deadline: Monday, October 16. Cost: **\$40**, due with registration

To register and pay online, go to [www.wvpresbytery.org](http://www.wvpresbytery.org).

To pay by check, complete the form below and return it with a check to:

Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339.

Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell at [susan\\_sharp\\_campbell@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com) or 304-667-9428.

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"Loss, Grief and Nostalgia," Part of the **EXPANDING YOUR MINISTRY TOOLBOX 2023**

