



*All learning opportunities are free & offered via zoom
Good will gifts & offerings are accepted with gratitude.
Registration & info: <https://livingwaterone.org/spirecenter/>*

SATURDAY, JAN 13 • 9AM
CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In the place of Jesus' birth, turmoil and tragedy are once again destroying lives, hopes, and dreams. "How long, O Lord?" We long to alleviate suffering and sow seeds for "a future with hope," but our best efforts are hampered by the need to name who is right and who is wrong. Join us on the Feast of Epiphany as Dr. Peter Makari shines some light on this complicated situation.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Peter Makari, Global Relations Minister (Middle East and Europe) and Team Leader - Global Ministries Team

SATURDAY, JAN 20 • 10 AM - Noon
UCC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

We invite you to join a conversation on engaging communities in life-changing ministry. Our conversation partners include Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF), Council of Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) and United Church Homes (UCH). Each brings its own story and a call to action. This conversation is designed to equip your local congregation to begin – or to enhance –community engagement ministries.

FACILITATOR: Rev. Michael A. Howard, Association Minister of Faith in Action

MONDAY JAN 29 • 6:30-8 PM
PUBLIC GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR CONGREGATIONS

Discover how faith communities can tap into public funding for community engagement. We'll unravel the intricacies of grant eligibility and restrictions, guide you to valuable resources for grant seeking, and inspire creative collaboration for community transformation. Join us glean insights and tools needed to secure public grants, fostering a future where faith communities actively contribute to positive change in their neighborhoods.

FACILITATOR: Rev. Michael A. Howard, Association Minister of Faith in Action

THE SPIRE CENTER

S P I R E
The School of Possibility, Inspiration, Reimagining & Exploration



THE SPIRE CENTER

SATURDAY, FEB 3 • 9:30-11AM MODERATOR'S WORKSHOP

So, you just were elected president of Consistory or moderator of Council. Now what? Or you were just elected to serve *again* and want some fresh ideas on how to lead your congregation faithfully. Where do you turn? Rev. Nayiri Karjian has prepared a session just for you that's rich with "how to" advice and focused on the concerns of congregations like yours. In this session we invite the lay leaders of our congregations to share their hard-earned wisdom and to learn from one another.

FACILITATOR: Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister

TUESDAY, FEB 6 • 6:30-8 PM DECLINE OF THE WESTERN CHURCH: WHAT'S NEXT?

Concerned about continuing decline of the church? Join us for a presentation on a subject few of us have considered. Ryan Collins will share the results of his research into the effect of Anglo-Saxon culture on the health and vitality of the church. This timely topic promises new insights and renewed determination to live into the Beloved Community.

FACILITATOR: Ryan Collins is a Member in Discernment in our Association. He is working on his Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 21 • 6:30-8 PM RESTRUCTURING GOVERNANCE FOR SMALL CONGREGATIONS

Whether you're a pastor or a lay leader, your church's governing documents are your best friend. They'll help you manage conflict, prevent volunteer fatigue, and focus on what matters most. Our Association General Minister is experienced in helping churches right-size their organization. In this session, she presents a model of effective church governance for smaller congregations. You'll receive an overview of best practice for church governance and guidance on how to get the process of review and renewal started.

FACILITATOR: Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister