

Celebration 2023

MOVING MISSION FORWARD

Central Conference Ministerial Association Workshops, April 27, 2023

Workshop #1 – 1:30 – 3:15 pm

Workshop #2 – 3:30 – 5:15 pm

Workshop #1 – Friendship as a Spiritual Practice

Rev. Terry Cathcart (1:30 – 3:15 pm)

Description: Prayer, reading the Bible, and worship are commonly understood as spiritual practices. This workshop will explore the idea of friendship as a spiritual practice. The Bible points out that two is better than one. Jesus earned a reputation for being a friend to sinners. Pastoral ministry can have an element of loneliness in a crowd. Participants in this workshop will be encouraged to consider friendship as a way of enhancing our ongoing conversation with God by being intentional about making space for soul friends.

Terry Cathcart is a graduate of the University of Chicago and North Park Seminary. He served as a pastor to three Evangelical Covenant Churches over the course of 32 years. In 2005 Terry returned to North Park as a member of Cohort #1 of the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction. His primary goal in returning to seminary was to seek training to provide spiritual direction to clergy. Since his retirement from pastoral ministry in 2010, he has served as a spiritual director, contemplative retreat facilitator, and interim pastor. Since 2016, Terry has backpacked 550 miles of the Upper Peninsula portion of the North Country Trail. Terry and his wife Sue have five children (two deceased) and five grandchildren and have made their home in Ishpeming, Michigan for the past 31 years.

Workshop #2 – Immediacy Behaviors: Promoting a Closer Relationship With God and Others, Rev. Dr. Theo Williams (3:30 – 5:15 pm)

Description: Immediacy Behaviors are a collection of communication related concepts all designed to promote closeness within various relationship contexts. When utilized correctly, they help tear down the barriers that separate us from others. Conversely, when used incorrectly (misused/abused) they create or further fortify barriers within our relationships. The aim of this workshop will be: 1) to introduce and effectively explain these concepts. 2) Highlight how Jesus often utilized immediacy behaviors in his relationships. 3) Promote how we as believers, especially ministers, should utilize these behaviors to strengthen and guard our relationships with Christ and with others within our respective ministry contexts.

Rev. Dr. Theo Williams is an associate professor of Communication at Bethel University where he has taught for almost 17 years and now serves as the chair of the Department of Literature & Language. He has a PhD in Communication from Regent University and MA in Urban Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He developed and facilitated his first workshop at a national conference in 1998 and has been actively involved ever since as a researcher, facilitator, consultant, and keynote speaker. He has developed and taught several classes within the field of communication. He has been married to Nicole Williams for over 20 years and is an ordained minister and pastor at Covenant Community Church in South Bend, Indiana. He has a heart and passion for young people, marriages, communication, theology, racial reconciliation, and social justice.