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## Workshops

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### Cultural Competence: White Fragility

White people in the U.S. live in a racially insular social environment. Because our racial perspectives are so rarely challenged within this environment, we have not had to develop the stamina needed to tolerate racial stress. I term this lack of stamina “White Fragility.” When we are challenged in cross-racial interactions, White Fragility triggers a range of defensive moves including: argumentation, invalidation, silence, withdrawal and claims of being “attacked” and “unsafe.” While these moves are effective at blocking the challenge and regaining our racial equilibrium, they are also damaging to people of color and prevent us from developing the skills we need to create a racially just society. This workshop will overview the socialization that leads to White Fragility and provide the perspectives needed for more constructive cross-racial interactions.



Leader: Dr. Robin DiAngelo is a former Associate Professor of Education. She is a two-time winner of the Student's Choice Award for Educator of the Year. Her scholarship is in White Racial Identity and Race Relations. In addition to her academic work, Dr. DiAngelo has extensive experience as a workplace consultant in issues of race relations and racial justice. She was appointed to co-design the City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. She has numerous publications and just completed the 2nd edition of her book, “*What*

*Does it Mean to be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy*. Her work on *White Fragility* has been featured in Alternet, Salon.com, NPR, and Colorlines.

### Imagining Excellence: Evaluating Our Worship Services

God deserves our best in worship; but too often our evaluation of a worship service is sabotaged by our own preferences. There must be more to the conversation than what we like or think is good. Make the shift from preferences to purpose. Create the space to have honest, healthy conversations about what is really going on and how to move forward. Clergy and laity will leave this workshop with the tools to shift the evaluation of worship services from preferences and feelings to concrete, constructive conversations that lead to action and change.



Leader: Eric Drew, Director of Worship, partners with churches in GNJ to make worship great. He is passionate about using music, preaching, multimedia, and the creative arts to bring the Word of God to life. Often you can find him writing at local coffee shops, jamming on the guitar, or reading the latest book on leadership.

### **Be Your Own Creative Coach: Unlock the Power of Your Imagination**

This workshop is for clergy only! Improve your health, relationships, and your spiritual and emotional well-being as you learn and experience how to harness the power of your imagination. A healthy, robust imagination can overcome the roadblocks that keep you from experiencing the fullness of life that God imagines for you. We will explore the all-important connection between imagination and spirituality using the tools and strategies that unlock and engage imagination as a resource for life and ministry.



Leader: Rich Hendrickson, Executive Director of GNJ Stewardship Foundation, helps churches in Greater New Jersey develop, articulate, and live out a compelling vision for ministry that motivates and drives vitality, mission, and giving. Rich's interests include creativity, storytelling, as well as cooking and traveling.

### **Five Strategies for Building a God-sized Brand**

Why do innovative strategies for effective brand building matter in a church? A great brand has a great story to share. Before you start the dialogue, the messages must be clear and aligned with the overall mission and vision of the church. If you do not define your brand, somebody else will.



Leader: Rabiah Duncan is a brand strategist with a diverse background in sales, marketing, and promotions. She currently manages VIP Guest Services for New York Fashion Week and serves as the Communications and Media Coordinator for St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair, N.J. She fosters the church's mission and improves the brand through social media platforms, advertising, public relations and traditional, electronic, and emerging media.

### **Little Habits, Big Changes**

Have you been imagining a congregation that attracts loads of new disciples, but you're not quite feeling up to orchestrating a full-scale revolution in your church? We get it. Instead, let's consider 10 incremental shifts that any church can make toward becoming a culture that consistently fosters new disciples. (And here's the secret, the full-scale revolution will follow!)



Leader: Trey Wince, Director of New Disciples, has 15 years of church leading, planting, consulting, and pastoring experience and has remained convinced that high impact churches are really just churches who know how to take care of the little stuff first. He has served as pastor of Kingston United Methodist Church, College Director (serving students at Vanderbilt, Belmont and Lipscomb Universities), Director of Young Adult Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville and international missions coordinator with Joshua Expeditions.

### Financial Security

Understand the resources that are available for clergy and spouses when it comes to thinking and planning for a healthy financial future. Learn about your benefits and how they will support you in retirement, free and optional services offered through The General Board, how to gain access to your online account and explore the helpful tools available and individual Retirement Benefits Projection.

Time is being set aside for questions privately before and after the presentation.



Leader: Peter Hang has been with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits since 1999, first as a team developer for the Pension Administration department and most recently as a benefits educator. In his current role, he travels to annual conferences to help conduct financial and retirement seminars for clergy and lay employees.