

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY
Report of the Executive Presbyter

On behalf of the planning team, we offer these survey responses from the Toolbox for Practical Ministry event, held in Springfield in March.

1. Opening Worship:
 - Great way to open and prepare for the learning of the day
 - Very nice service from the music through the message
 - Outstanding Music! The prayer, choice of scriptures, and sermon were inspiring
 - Compelling
 - Very inspirational
 - Terrific. Her message was a perfect introduction to the theme and purpose of the workshops
 - I felt a great energy right from the beginning of the day. Opening worship was wonderful. It was like I knew everyone in the room. The music was beautiful. Then Dr. Beth's words spoke straight to my heart about the need for the church, and the promise of the presence of Christ in our lives and the lives of the discouraged and hopeless.
 - It was well-done, and appreciated
 - Welcoming and encouraging; sermon was both scriptural and personal, giving us material to ponder for our own.
 - Very good
 - Worshipful and meaningful – the music and message were great
 - It was a wonderful way to start the day

2. 1A – Showing Up for Those Waiting for the Church
 - Attended part. Presenter was great, involved the attendees in the discussion
 - Good info
 - Good information to take back to the Session and congregation

3. 1B – New Life in the Psalms
 - Excellent. Good resources for future use.
 - I learned about several good resources for working the Psalms into worship.
 - This was an informative and helpful session.

4. 1C – Cultivating Holy Habits: This is Your Brain on Grace
 - Excellent! Too Short!
 - Fascinating insights on use of “meditation” techniques and just quiet times to open ourselves to using all of our senses more effectively. Needing to move from the world's stressors that keep people in a constant “fight or flight” mode so that they/ we can actually learn and “ see Grace at work in our brokenness”. Leader: Behold what you are. People: May we become what we receive.
 - NA

- She packed in good brain science and information about spiritual practices in a fresh way, giving us a little time to experience them as a template for future use.
 - This workshop was well attended and very informative. Dr. Susan's presentation was very interesting, and provided time for questions and discussion.
 - Very informational and helpful to reflect on myself.
 - Very interesting. Dr. Forshey was such a good speaker. Just when you think you know so much, someone comes along to let you know there is more!
 - Will be a real blessing for my future spiritual life.
5. 1D – A Conversation for Pastors and CREs Only
- Dynamic Encouraging
6. 2A – Caring Presence with those Hurting
- Again I learned new and informative material. Dr. McCaw provided very positive information
 - Excellent! This is an area where I need to grow. I need regular reminders of how to be present – not helpful in a problem-solving way, but in a spiritual support way.
 - Good information for those of us on both sides of the hurting spectrum.
 - More good info.
7. 2B – The Purest Gospel: Preaching 1 John in Easter
- I missed the first part. Interesting discussion. Good ideas for sermons or Bible studies.
8. 2C – Praying in Space and Time: Using the Book of Common Worship in Home, Church, and Life
- Attended first ½ hour. Presenter was great, engaged the group. Wish I could have stayed for all the session.
 - Learned so much about the Book of Common Worship and will use more at home.
 - This was also an informative and helpful session.
9. 2D – A Conversation for Ruling Elders ONLY
- Great discussion
 - Jerry provided wonderful advice on serving as a RE in a unique and entertaining way
 - Lots of energy with Jerry. Good discussion amongst a full classroom of people.
 - Loved Jerry Cannon, and it was great to be in a room of elders from all over the Presbytery. Jerry kept us engaged and interested in the important topic of understanding the need to be prayerfully Christ-focuses in our everyday lives and in the work of church leadership.
 - So very helpful! It was timely, provocative, and inspiring. Only wish everyone could have participated who fears for the future of our church as we know it.
10. Closing Worship
- Again, worship times felt charged and full like something I had longed for and found. The music was moving and up-lifting. And Reverend Jerry has a lively and

- authentic way of connecting the room. I had to ask my husband later if I had dreamed it, but Jerry had the whole auditorium of Presbyterians saying Amen!
- Another terrific service, and a great send off for the day. Music was great.
 - Fantastic preacher
 - Great closing! It put an exclamation point on the whole day.
 - Great way to conclude the day. Jerry Cannon kept our attention and sent us out as God's people, renewed and refreshed.
 - Inspirational
 - Invigorating and inspirational
 - Loved it
 - Pastor Jerry was so inspirational with his message in a unique way (great for us frozen chosen!)
 - Uplifting and a great service for wrapping up the day
11. If you are currently pastoring a congregation, we would like feedback on the value of the event as member enrichment.
- I felt like people were pleased with the event. Good opportunity to meet others, share ideas, and learn from the leaders.
 - I used some of the information and experiences in my service the very next day.
 - I would encourage JCP to consider another event like this one. I believe that the range of topics was excellent, and that all of them offered practical and useful ideas for the attendees.
 - Very valuable for elders from the church. They were glad they came.
12. We thank Trinity for making their space available! Please share any thoughts about the location.
- A few more directional signs would be helpful
 - Great location and inside the signage made getting around very easy!
 - Great venue
 - Great. Serving lunch in the basement was a good choice. Last year they had to serve upstairs. This was much better.
 - I was especially conscious of the facility partnership between a Presbyterian Church and Brentwood Christian Church. It was encouraging to see the diverse denominations working together for a common purpose.
 - It worked well
 - It worked well, easy flow.
 - Perfect location. Thanks to the Trinity congregation for their hospitality.
 - Spaces were conducive to the various workshops, and to chatting among attendees.
 - Wonderful church. Very easy with the detailed map to get to class on time. Great sound system in the sanctuary
13. How about the food?
- A+
 - Bambino's food is always good. Volunteers essential in facilitating a quick trip through the line.

- Delicious
 - Delicious!
 - Excellent! Probably too much.
 - Good
 - Tasty
 - The food was excellent.
 - Thoughtful consideration for gluten intolerant and vegetarians for lunch. not so good for diabetics. Thankful for a salad and some fruit options on the snack table
 - Very good
 - Well done, tasty. Don't need so many sweets however.
 - Wonderful
 - Wonderful selection.
 - Wonderful.
14. Is there anything else you'd like to tell the planning team?
- Y'all did good!! Well worth leaving home at 0630 and being gone 11 hours.
 - Might have included questions about:
 - the publicity
 - the registration process
 - how you will share this information with your church members
 - topics for potential future workshops
 - On one hand, if it had been scheduled to end later, I might not have attended due to an evening commitment. On the other hand, I definitely felt like the workshops were rushed and could have benefited from 50% more time.
 - Such an excellent job! Kudos all around. My only criticism is that with the lead title chosen, I think many elders just brushed it off. I wish it could have either emphasized leadership tools or Ministry for everyone, as those might have sounded more inclusive.
 - Thanks for all the time and energy involved in the planning for this event. Please know your efforts are appreciated.
 - Thanks for the hard work
15. What is one takeaway for you from this event?
- A good event for the benefit of the people in our presbytery. I hope there will be a next time and more people attend. So good to spend time with faith-filled friends!
 - Also, several presenters said they would send links for all that material to the leadership. Would really appreciate having access to that, especially the information from Jerry Cannon.
 - Despite our reduced membership, Christ's church is alive and well!
 - How to engage more and reflect on my service.
 - Picked up several good pointers.
 - There is a need and desire to worship and interact with others in our Presbytery. It's a time of change, and we are watching and listening for how to work together to "be" the church.
 - There is real hope, and we are to share it! The future may look different, and that's okay as God is still at work in the world, and we are called to share in it.

John Calvin Presbytery
May 16th, 2024

Two Hundred and Fourteenth Stated Meeting
Ozark Prairie Presbyterian Church
Mount Vernon, Missouri

- We are blessed with wonderful, talented, creative and supportive clergy and lay leaders in John Calvin Presbytery!
- We have great people in the Presbytery. Everyone has each other's best interests at heart. When we create opportunities to be connected we are better for the experience.
- We really are the Body of Christ, members of one body, different yet united...connected.

We thank our many volunteers, the Woodland Heights church for hosting the pastors evening gathering, Trinity-Springfield for hosting the daytime event; our four fabulous presenters from Dubuque seminary and the Board of Pensions; musicians Carla Wooten and Janice Everett; and our fabulous planning team! We thank ALL who came, and our prayer is that the learning will be useful in your church.