



CHANGE
THE WORLD
2019 FAITH & POLITICS CONFERENCE

May 18-20
Harrisburg, PA

Register at susumc.org/change

Overview

This three-day event is being sponsored by United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania and is intended to provide information and inspiration for Christians who believe that the Church has a role in society, including influence on public policy.

This event coincides with our denominational initiative, Change the World Weekend.

Saturday, May 18 will consist of a conference on subjects relating to faith and politics. All three Pennsylvania United Methodist bishops will be speaking. Dr. Jon Brockopp of Penn State University will act as the featured speaker. His topic will be Ethics and Climate Change. In addition to plenary gatherings, participants will be able to attend two workshops. Attendance of the Saturday conference requires registration, with a \$30 fee—including lunch. Student registration fee is \$10. Conference registration is open to all. Clergy receive .4 CEUs.

Saturday, May 18 conference location is Paxton United Methodist Church, 3550 N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Sunday, May 19 and Monday, May 20 scheduled activities are free and require no registration—with two exceptions on Sunday as noted in the day's description, below.

Registration for the Saturday, May 18 conference does not infer participation on the other days nor does participation on either of the other days require registration for the Saturday conference.

Day 1: Schedule

10:00-10:30	Registration
10:30-10:45	Welcome
10:45-11:15	Opening with Bishop Jeremiah Park
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:10	Featured Speaker Dr. Jon Brockopp, Ethics and Climate Change
12:10-1:15	Lunch with Program
1:15-1:50	Plenary Session with Bishops Johnson and Moore-Koikoi
2:00-3:20	First Workshop
3:20-3:35	Break
3:35-4:55	Second Workshop
5:00- 5:30	Closing

**Saturday, May 18:
“Change the World
through Knowledge”
Paxton United Methodist Church**

Workshops

Four Quadrants of Caring: Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers

This workshop will consider how we as a church can respond to persons in need in ways that preserve dignity, build mutuality, and support just, long-term solutions. It introduces the concept of identifying four categories of responses in caring for those in need: Charity, Mutuality, Advocacy or Solidarity—all appropriate and needed in particular circumstances. This workshop will affirm political involvement as a way to achieve justice and that working on policy issues and grassroots organizing are ways the church can make a positive witness and contribution.



Clayton Childers, an elder in the South Carolina Conference, serves as Director of Conference Relations at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, Washington DC. He and his wife, Denise, live in Manassas, Virginia.

The Pennsylvania State Prison System: Rev. Ulli Klemm

This workshop will cover current developments in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. The state's prison system has undergone significant changes over the last six years. Learn about the new initiatives, accomplishments and challenges as Pennsylvania seeks to be a leader in corrections reform. There will be opportunity to ask questions regarding conditions, protocols, and policies.



Rev. Ulli Klemm serves as the Religious Services Administrator for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. In this capacity, he monitors, resources and supports the chaplaincy programs in each of the 25 state prisons in Pennsylvania. He visits each of the prisons regularly to ensure they meet Department standards. Recently, he was also given the responsibilities to oversee the Department's Inmate Employment program, Recreational Activities and Volunteer Services. An ordained Mennonite pastor, with credentials through the Mennonite Church USA, Ulli resides in Mechanicsburg, PA with his wife, where they are active members of a Mennonite Church. Together they are the parents of two young adults.

Workshops

Justice and Gerrymandering: Dr. Carol Kuniholm

This workshop will explore the questions of what is gerrymandering and why does it matter for faith communities. Learn about the grassroots growth of the legislative redistricting reform movement during the last few years. Carol will provide information about where the movement stands now and what are its immediate goals. Also find out about the inner workings of Harrisburg and how the procedural rules can impede good policy.



Carol Kuniholm is co-founder and chair of Fair Districts PA, a non-partisan, all-volunteer coalition working on redistricting reform in Pennsylvania. She is also Vice President of Government and Social Policy on the state board of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. She received a PhD in American literature from the University of Pennsylvania, taught literature and writing at the college level and served for over a decade as Director of Ministry to Youth and their Families at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli. She and her husband Whitney live in Exton, PA.

Human Trafficking: Sarah Robinson, Esq.

This workshop will provide an overview of sexual exploitation in human trafficking from a legal perspective. Learn what sex trafficking is, who is involved, and how victims are affected. Sarah Robinson will explain the Pennsylvania state and federal laws related to sex trafficking. She will discuss legislation that is currently pending in the General Assembly that would enhance penalties to hold perpetrators accountable and further provide for protection of women, children, and other potential victims. Ms. Robinson will present data on the status of statewide prosecutions. Participants will learn about the signs and indicators of sex trafficking victims and suggest ways community members can get involved to combat this insidious crime.



Sarah Robinson is the Justice for Victims Fellow for the Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation. In this position, Ms. Robinson provides trauma-informed legal advocacy to victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. She focuses her practice on post-conviction remedies for sexually exploited people. Ms. Robinson hosts legal intake hours at the Salvation Army's New Day Drop-In Center in Kensington—where she continues to learn about the legal needs and challenges sexually exploited people face in Philadelphia. Outside of direct representation, Ms. Robinson regularly trains attorneys, law enforcement, and other stakeholders on human trafficking laws, contributes to local policy development, and engages in legislative reform advocacy. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

How a Bill Becomes Law: Rev. Sandy Strauss

Have you ever wondered about the legislative process in Pennsylvania and how laws are created? This workshop will describe the legislative process from conceptualization to final enactment. It is rarely simple, there are many detours and most bills never make it to completion. Additionally, learn how to find information on the legislature and current legislation. Rev. Strauss will also talk about her role and experience as a faith-based advocate in Harrisburg.



Sandra L. Strauss (Sandy) joined the staff of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches in 2004. As Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach, her responsibilities are to inform, educate and empower people of faith on significant public issues, manage communications, and organize Council events. Sandy is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). In addition to her Divinity degree, she holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy Studies. Rev. Strauss lives in Harrisburg with her husband, David Arnold, a handyman, clockmaker and jack-of-all-trades.

Workshops

Politics and Religion Curriculum: Rev. Sandy Strauss

This workshop will introduce a new adult Christian Education curriculum entitled The Role of Religion in Public Life. Receive an overview and participate in a sample lesson. The curriculum was authored by Rev. Strauss, with the input of the Public Witness Commission of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. This material is a flexible exploration of how Christians can engage as citizens in secular American government. It pulls together the disciplines of theology, Bible, Church history and Civics. This curriculum is suitable for use in Sunday School, Bible study, men's and women's societies, older youth groups, personal study, etc. Participants will receive a hard copy at no cost.



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Love Your Neighbor Coalition: LYNC staff member



The Love Your Neighbor Coalition is a United Methodist group of thirteen partner organizations that have agreed to work together on common justice issues and values. It works to be faithful to the Wesleyan heritage of embracing both personal and social holiness in mission and ministry. They emphasize the practice of inclusiveness, peacemaking, ecological stewardship and economic justice, among other values. This workshop will examine the mission, makeup and work of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition. Online: www.lynccoalition.org

Climate Change : Dr. Jon Brockopp

Climate change is real, measurable and consistent. However, one might attempt to explain its causes, climate change is affecting life on planet earth. We can attempt to understand the ramifications of climate change from a host of perspectives—economic, medical, infrastructural, etc.—but at the heart of all discussion on this issue is the fact that climate change brings ethical challenges. Dr. Jonathan Brockopp will explore these challenges as our featured speaker and a workshop leader.



Jonathan Brockopp is an Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies at Penn State University. His primary research area is the literary remains of early Islamic cultures. Recently, he has focused on the question of how early Islamic scholars constructed a notion of religious authority. Dr. Brockopp sees in Islamic law a set of ethical guidelines. Indeed, his interest in ethics goes beyond his primary field of scholarship. He is also interested in contemporary issues in ethics, especially as it applies to climate change. Consequently, Dr. Brockopp has become a sought-after commentator on the subject of climate change as an ethical issue.

Day 2: Schedule

1:00 to 4:00 pm: Civil Conversations Training Workshop - St. Stephen's Episcopal School

Staff from Interfaith Philadelphia will offer training to equip workshop participants with the skills to organize Civil Conversations in their congregations, workplaces, and communities. This training will provide community leaders and "bridge people" techniques for grassroots civil conversations that support a thriving religiously diverse democracy.

This workshop typically requires a fee, but is being offered at no cost. However, registration is required. This is a separate registration:

<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/624390>

Learn more about Civil Conversations at the Interfaith Philadelphia website: **www.daretounderstand.org**

This workshop is offered at no cost.

Contact Rev. Dai Morgan for further information.

4:30 pm: Blessing of the Waters Ceremony

Kunkle Plaza (at the intersection of State and Front Streets). This will be an interfaith ceremony acknowledging God's power of creation and recognizing the ecological importance of water.

5:30 pm: A common meal

Pine Street Presbyterian Church.

Please register separately, includes \$20 cost: **<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/612936>**

6:30 pm: Workshops

The "100 by 50" initiative and training for legislative visits. Special guest will be state Representative Chris Rabb, who will talk about ecological legislation and lead the training. ("100 by 50" refers to the effort to achieve 100 percent renewable energy sources in Pennsylvania by the year 2050.)

**Sunday, May 19:
"Change the World
through Action"
Downtown Harrisburg**

Day 2: Overview

All Sunday activities are ecumenical and being shared with other faith traditions. Pre-scheduled activities center around State Street in downtown Harrisburg, with abundant free street parking. Sunday morning worship is on one's own. Afternoon activities include an art project, musical performances, environmental tours and service opportunities. For further information or to make arrangements for structured activities, please contact Rev. Dai Morgan: **daimorgan@comcast.net** or 412-580-9016.

A tour of the state Capitol building will be offered. The Pennsylvania Capitol building is one of the most beautiful and impressive capitols in the United States. Indeed, its structure contains abundant artwork and iconography. Because of the Commonwealth's Quaker roots, the imagery often has religious overtones. The Capitol contains the legislative member offices, the meeting chambers of the General Assembly, the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and a Supreme Court courtroom. Every resident of Pennsylvania should see the Capitol building. Contact Rev. Morgan for arrangements.

The Pennsylvania State Museum is one block away from State Street and the state Capitol. A visit to the State Museum would be a worthwhile activity. However, this option would be on one's own. Admission to the State Museum is \$7, with discounts for seniors, children and veterans.

Opportunities and accommodations for youth groups can be arranged.

Day 3: Overview

Morning legislative visits and participation in a news conference. Those who want to experience a legislative visit should directly contact Dai Morgan (daimorgan@comcast.net or 412-580-9016) by May 8.

Participants in visits to legislators may choose their own issue or join a group supporting an ecological justice issue.

Lunch, on one's own, can be purchased at the Capitol food court.

Those who would like to participate in the news conference in the Capitol Rotunda are invited to gather at 1:30. The topic of the news conference will be "Caring for our common home: a faithful response to climate change."

The news conference will formally conclude our faith and politics weekend.

**Monday, May 20:
"Change the World
through Your Voice"
Legislative Visits**