



07 Scrapbooking Your Faith

Two-day M-T course

Wouldn't you love to have a written record of your grandmother's spiritual journey? We will use scripture, discussion, and scrapbooking to explore our places and purposes in God's world. At the end of our time together we will have completed four scrapbook pages, to start us on our own written record for our descendants! This course is for women or men, beginning or experienced scrappers. A \$10.00 materials fee is payable to the instructor. Please bring basic scrapping tools (trimmer, scissors, etc.) if you have them. Also please note your level of scrapping experience on your registration.

Faculty: Westi Brazell

08 Effective Children's Ministry — Logos and More

Two-day M-T workshop

How effective is your church's children's ministry? Why is it important for your church to become an "authoritative community" to nurture faith and build young disciples? Day one — "Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model" — answers these questions and will give you ideas on how to build or invigorate your children's ministry. Day two — "Introduction to Logos" — highlight one way some churches have created successful children's ministries. You can find more information at www.thelogosministry.org.

Faculty: Sarah Ose and local congregational LOGOS leaders.

09 Practical Ministry for the Elderly

Two-day M-T class.

Practical Ministry for the Elderly will offer an overview of the special challenges for pastor and parish in establishing programs to meet the needs of older adults. We will discuss those older adults in the congregation who want and are able to be involved in church work, as well as the special needs of those who are facing

physical and mental changes that can come with growing older. The experience will include identifying our own fears and concerns connected with the losses of aging. The focus will be on developing a ministry of memories, acceptance, and hope.

Faculty: Peggy Sterner

10 Bible Study in Black and White: TV Parables

Two-day W-Th class

What can we learn from Jeb or Aunt Bea? You'll be surprised. This class explores some Bible studies that have been written around and from older sitcom shows such as Andy Griffith, The Beverly Hillbillies and The Lucy Show that still have a message for us today. You'll leave with ideas, discussion and resources to take this program back to your church for Sunday School, a special time or an intriguing topic to draw new friends to church.

Faculty: Carla Mavis



11 Experiencing God in Worship and Music

Two-day W-Th class.

From tambourine and lyre to synthesizers and drums, Psalms to David Crowder... music and worship have been paths to God. This class will focus on the worship experience and music's role. We'll be talking about the history of church music and the place of music in modern worship, as well as instruments and songs. Come prepared to learn, sing and play. Previous musical experience and knowledge is very welcome, but not required.

Faculty: Eric Frisch

12 Human Development

A 30-hour certification course for Christian Educators and an approved course for CLP candidates. For more information, contact Donna Gray at 734-844-1279 or dgray270149MI@comcast.net.

Faculty: Mickie O'Donnell, MRE

Creation... Recreation

Covenant Gathering 2008

In the beginning: Creation and Recreation

*In the beginning God created the
Heavens and the Earth.*

—Genesis 1:1

Last year at Michindoh, we stopped in our days to look around at the forest and the lake. We leaned on the wooden walkway railing and listened to the bullfrogs among the cattails. We paused on the trail to catch a bird's song. We looked to the sky and counted the stars. God's glorious creation all around us touched and inspired us to this year's gathering theme.

We invite you to explore God's creation in the beauty of Michindoh and work toward "re-creation" — for your own life, for your families, for your church ... and in the process find rest and recreation to help you return home refreshed and inspired to continue God's work here on earth.

We are recruiting some of the best leadership in our denomination to share their faith and talents on everything from how to develop healthy congregations; rock music and faith, South African mission, finding the spiritual in nature, scrapbooking your faith and a variety of Bible study.

Together we will explore our faith ... worship and play together ... build and renew our commitment to teaching and leading in our churches.



Anyone in Christ is a new Creation.

—Cor. 5:17

June 29 – July 4, 2008

Michindoh Conference Center
4545 E. Bacon Road
Hillsdale, Michigan 49242

A Day at Covenant Gathering

*For behold I create new heavens and a
new earth ... be glad and rejoice forever in
what I create .*

—Isaiah 65:17

Your day at Covenant Gathering will be rich in worship, study, mission and time to enjoy the community of Christians. Covenant Gathering will give you about five to 10 hours of class time per course, depending on what classes you choose. Certification classes will offer extended class time to meet requirements. Most regular classes — with some exceptions — will meet in the morning.



"Afternoon Delights" will offer short classes in a different mode. These one- or two-time "drop in" classes may include short Bible studies, nature study, photography, scrapbooking, Akido, birdwatching. Our youngest family members will have special care and programming to let parents and youth participate.

Other times offer opportunities for mission projects, intergenerational and community activities — or just enjoying the wonderful grounds, waterfront and water slide at Michindoh!

Group worship will crown each evening, affirming and celebrating our praise and love for our Creator and Redeemer and joining us together in our faith community.

Rockin', Rollin' and Scripture — Keynote Address

*Therefore, anyone in Christ is a new
Creation; old things have passed away;
behold all things have become new.*

—II Cor. 5:17

Toby Jones — a Presbyterian pastor by day and a rocker by night — brings his own brand of excitement to Covenant Gathering on Monday, June 30.

Drawing from the lyrics of more than a hundred of rock's greatest hits, Jones illuminates rock's take on themes like compassion, love of neighbor, freedom, identity, Sabbath rest, loneliness, the environment, and others. He then puts rock artists in direct conversation with the Judeo-Christian scriptures.

Find out more about Toby Jones, including excerpts from his book, *The Gospel According to Rock*, at www.booksandbridges.com.

Mission Opportunities

*Behold the days are coming when I will
make a new covenant...*

—Jeremiah 31:31

Afternoons will also bring opportunities for mission activities. We plan to work on a project to enhance the Michindoh experience for others, putting faith to work with our families and friends.

Travel

Please let the directors know if you need a place to stay enroute to the gathering. Some folks have offered to provide overnight housing if needed.

Arrival and Departure

Covenant Gathering will begin Sunday, June 29 with Check-in at 4:00 pm, followed by dinner. It concludes Friday, July 4, after breakfast and a short worship service. Certification class participants will remain through Friday afternoon.

For more information or an electronic version of this brochure visit:
www.covenantgathering.com or email
cg2008@comcast.net

Housing

Michindoh has a variety of housing options. You'll find more pictures and descriptions at www.michindoh.com.

Weatherwood Center: 26 plush, air conditioned hotel rooms with private baths. Linens provided. Two to four guests per room. Singles are available for higher rate.

Pine Ridge Family Units: 16 units each containing a separate bedroom with full-size bed and a dividable living room with queen-size sofa bed, rollaway and bunk bed. Air conditioned, private bath, linen. Ideal for families or two couples.

RV Sites: 30 secluded sites, each with its own BBQ, grill and picnic table, water, power (30 & 50 amp) and septic hookups. Restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, dump site and picnic pavilion nearby.

Accessibility

Meeting facilities are handicapped accessible. A handicap room is available on request. Rooms, dining and classes are all in one accessible building.



Getting to Michindoh

Michindoh Conference Center is approximately four miles east of Hillsdale, Michigan, near the Michigan-Indiana-Ohio border. Hillsdale is five miles south of US 12 on MI highway 99. From Hillsdale, turn east onto East Bacon Road for about four miles.

Courses

*You have put off the old person and deeds
and have put on the new person who is
renewed in knowledge in the knowledge
according to the image of God who
created you.*

—Col. 3:9b-10

Please see enclosed insert for bios and more information about our outstanding faculty.

01 Creation for Kids

Preschoolers and elementary aged children will engage in rotation-based activities as they celebrate creation, the gift of God's creation, and what it means to be a New Creation.

Parents or adult sponsors are responsible for their children and young people at all times other than during supervised, scheduled activity.

02 Community for Youth

Jr. and Sr. High youth will experience Christian community, faith and scripture in their own classes. The Rev. David Fleming and The Rev. A. David Paul will provide the dynamic, enthusiastic leadership.

Faculty: The Rev. Dave Fleming and the Rev. Dave Paul

Adult Courses

03 "... the land is mine." God

Four-day course

The ongoing struggle for land justice in post-apartheid South Africa reflects a critical concern that runs throughout the Bible: "Is land intended as a gift for all or as a commodity for a few?"

We will look at land as Africans do: land is much more than real estate to be bought or sold or held for speculation. Stories, pictures and songs from the South African network of churches and organizations called *Sisonke Masilwe Indlala* (Together We Are Fighting Hunger) offer fun as well as insight. For suggested reading and other information, see www.covenantgathering.com.

Faculty: Suzanne Carter and Ken Jones



04 Healthy Congregations

Four-day course

This Healthy Congregations program — based on Peter L. Steinke's *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach* — comprises four workshops focusing on useful skills for congregational leaders. The study encourages and challenges key leaders in any congregation to become the experts on maintaining and improving congregational health. The series uses vignettes, case studies, workbooks, conversation and current research and experience in congregational life as a basis for interactive, thoughtful learning. There will be a non-refundable \$75+tax fee for proprietary Healthy Congregations materials, payable to the instructor. For more information go to www.covenantgathering.com, www.hcongregations.net or email jebrazell@yahoo.com.

Faculty: The Rev. Jim Brazell

05 Consider the birds...

Four-day course (Two-day option)

Come with eyes of even a little faith (and good binoculars!) open to spying some of God's creative designs among the artful habitats, habits, behaviors, interactions and diversity of birds at Michindoh. Come listen with both your natural and inner spiritual ear to nature's beautiful songsters. Be ready to receive fresh glimpses of God's creative grace and providential care. Check www.covenantgathering.com for suggested reading and other information.

Faculty: Ted Jones

06 Ladies and Gentleman, This is a Bible

Four-day course (Two-day option)

If you desire a deeper relationship with God through Bible Study or would like to start or supplement opportunities for adult study and nurture this course is where to begin. Using a variety of learning styles (lecture, discussion, small groups, individual study, etc.) students will become familiar with the concept of studying the Bible "as a whole." We will also explore resources for individual and group study and have lots of time for questions.

Faculty: The Rev. Mary Jane Bird