

General Assembly 2018

Workshops

Saturday, July 14, 2018 – 11 a.m.

- **The Blessed Community** – *Woody Dalton, senior pastor, Hank Johnson, discipleship and youth pastor, Harrisburg BIC Church, Harrisburg, Pa.*

The standard New Testament worship experience was multicultural. Much of the New Testament writings were addressing issues and conflicts evoked by different cultures coming together, yet Sunday mornings still remain the most segregated hour in North America. Many congregations assume ethnic and cultural diversity is possible only in urban centers; this workshop will challenge those assumptions by drawing on Anabaptist perspectives and practices and focusing on why diversity enhances our witness for Christ and the practical steps local churches can use to bring about cultural and ethnic diversity.

- **Caring for One's Soul** – *Joshua Nolt, senior pastor, Lancaster BIC Church, Lancaster, Pa.*

This workshop focuses on a central practice that provides care for our souls: sabbath. Our time together will begin by exploring the biblical framework for sabbath. We will then look to Jesus to understand what we may receive from the Lord in sabbath time. Lastly, we will get practical and ask some guiding questions that will allow participants to begin thinking about their own practice of sabbath. The end goal of sabbath is not the practice itself but finding rest for our weary bodies, souls, hearts, and minds in the presence of our loving God.

- **The Early Church on Mission: Patience, Faithfulness, and Formation** – *Zach Spidel, site pastor, The Shepherd's Table, Englewood, Ohio*

The early Church was a socially marginal minority in a pluralistic society. She was poor and persecuted; she had no earthly power and was looked down upon by those who did. Moreover, joining Jesus' Kingdom-movement was personally costly for those who dared to do so. Yet over the first 300 years of her existence, the Church largely succeeded in forming a growing community of Jesus-followers. In this session we'll take a brief look at how the early Church understood and faithfully fulfilled her God-given mission of making disciples.

- **Empowering Women in Ministry Leadership** – *Pauline Peifer, director, Awaken: BIC Network for Women in Ministry*

Do you sense that God may be calling you into a specific ministry in your local congregation and wonder how to begin? Would you like to explore ways you can encourage and empower more women to enter ministry? This workshop highlights the importance of providing opportunities for women to use their gifts to serve the body of Christ, discusses the value of mentorships, and includes testimonies and practical suggestions from both women and men who serve effectively together.

- **Galatians and My Conversion to the Gospel of Grace** – *James Rainwater, senior pastor, Bethany BIC Church, Thomas, Okla.*

A former Seventh-day Adventist pastor of 16 years shares details of his journey into the new covenant, and, in turn, the Brethren in Christ Church, where he has served as a pastor for nine years. In this session, Pastor Rainwater will specifically handle the letter to the Galatians and its application for Christians today.

- **Governing of God (SPANISH)** – *Rene Perez, senior pastor, Cristo Vive BIC, Hialeah, Fla.*
This workshop deals with how the Church should be governed from the biblical basis of the Scriptures and how today many try to govern it far from the biblical model. Are we to reaffirm biblical foundations and to keep ministers away from a secular background when it comes to exercising authority over the Lord's Church? Secular governments govern by the pyramid system and those under the biblical model carry out ministry as a servant at the disposal of the redeemed.
- **Healthy Personal Finances** – *John Burns, director of advancement, BIC Foundation, Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
This seminar covers several aspects of personal financial practices, with the goal of good stewardship in mind. Topics include budgeting, giving, saving, emergency funds, debt management, credit card use, insurance, college expenses, and retirement planning, among others.
- **Healthy Succession (SPANISH)** – *Jeanette Alvarado, leadership development, Ciudad de Dios, Costa Rica; Johan Murillo, founder and consultant, LEAD&PLAY, Costa Rica*
This workshop focuses on the principles to generate an effective succession in ministry. In this workshop you will be able to:
 1. Determine the main challenges of leadership succession today.
 2. Identify the immediate actions to develop a healthy succession.
 3. Biblical principles for cultivating a healthy succession.
- **Know, Love, and Follow Jesus (and Complete a Background Check)** – *Peter Guinther, human resources administrator, BIC U.S., Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
What has Athens to do with Jerusalem? And what has Washington, D.C., to do with Chino, Salina, Hialeah, or Mechanicsburg? During this breakout session, human-resources issues particular to local congregations will be discussed in light of Brethren in Christ values reflected in the *Manual of Doctrine and Government*. Procedures and issues of compliance, harassment, health care, and record keeping will be briefly addressed. Human resources services offered by the BIC U.S. offices in Mechanicsburg to local congregations will be highlighted, and questions from the audience will be fielded.
- **2018 Manual of Doctrine and Government (MDG) (includes Spanish translation)** – *Adam Forry, chair of the General Conference Board governance committee, senior pastor, Speedwell Heights BIC, Lititz, Pa.*
This workshop helps delegates understand the rationale behind changes recommended to the 2018 MDG. It will include an opportunity for Q&A.
- **Reaching Out without Burning Out: The Power of Small to Reach More** – *Luke Embree, senior pastor, Plowshares BIC, Wilmore, Ky.*
Bigger isn't always better, especially when it comes to church. This session explores creative ways to form and utilize small teams and communities to reach more people, build better relationships, and cultivate more involved disciples while avoiding burnout.

- **Top 10 Things Pastors and Church Boards Should Know** – *Mitch Martin, director of finance and shared services, BIC U.S., Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
We will answer questions like “what documents should we keep permanently?” or “what amount we should keep in cash reserves?” or even “should we have a gift acceptance policy?”
- **Missions: Ways to Engage the Next Generation** – *Vicky Landis, mobilization administrator, BIC U.S. World Missions, Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
If you are a leader working with the next generation, we would love to partner with you in raising up leaders for the future of our Church. We will share recent research about Generation Z and ways in which they prefer to be engaged. We will share service opportunities with you and have time for Q&A. We want to partner together in raising up workers for the harvest!

Saturday, July 14, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.

- **The Blessed Community** – *Woody Dalton, senior pastor, Hank Johnson, discipleship and youth pastor, Harrisburg BIC Church, Harrisburg, Pa.*
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- **Empowering Women in Ministry Leadership** – *Pauline Peifer, director, Awaken: BIC Network for Women in Ministry*
Do you sense that God may be calling you into a specific ministry in your local congregation and wonder how to begin? Would you like to explore ways you can encourage and empower more women to enter ministry? This workshop highlights the importance of providing opportunities for women to use their gifts to serve the body of Christ, discusses the value of mentorships, and includes testimonies and practical suggestions from both women and men who serve effectively together.
- **God’s Sovereignty, Knowledge and Human Free Will (Part 1)** – *Zach Spidel, site pastor, The Shepherd’s Table, Englewood, Oh.*
This is a two-part workshop. Part (1) will provide an opportunity for reflection and dialogue on how the Brethren in Christ “do” theology and community. Part (2) will consider the BIC U.S. Articles of Faith and Doctrine that say God is sovereign and knows all things and yet also say that humans have the freedom to choose good or evil and are responsible for their decisions and the consequences of those decisions.

- **Governing of God (SPANISH)** – *Rene Perez, senior pastor, Cristo Vive BIC, Hialeah, Fla.*
 This workshop deals with how the Church should be governed from the biblical basis of the Scriptures and how today many try to govern it far from the biblical model. Are we to reaffirm biblical foundations and to keep ministers away from a secular background when it comes to exercising authority over the Lord's Church? Secular governments govern by the pyramid system and those under the biblical model carry out ministry as a servant at the disposal of the redeemed.
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- **Where There's a Will, There's a Way** – *John Burns, director of advancement, BIC Foundation, Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
 In this seminar you learn why one important aspect of good stewardship is having the necessary estate planning documents, including a will and powers of attorney. Topics include why these documents are necessary, what should be included, what they can and cannot do, and what happens to your estate without them.

Monday, July 16, 2018 – 11 a.m.

- **Empowering Women in Ministry Leadership** – *Pauline Peifer, director, Awaken: BIC Network for Women in Ministry*
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body of Christ, discusses the value of mentorships, and includes testimonies and practical suggestions from both women and men who serve effectively together.

- **God's Sovereignty, Knowledge and Human Free Will (Part 2)** – *Rob Douglass, senior pastor, Dillsburg BIC Church, Dillsburg, Pa.*
This is a two-part workshop. Part (1) will provide an opportunity for reflection and dialogue on how the Brethren in Christ “do” theology and community. Part (2) will consider the BIC U.S. Articles of Faith and Doctrine that say God is sovereign and knows all things and yet also say that humans have the freedom to choose good or evil and are responsible for their decisions and the consequences of those decisions.
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- **Oil and Water or PB&J** – *Jay Smith and T.M., global workers, BIC U.S. World Missions*
Does polemical/apologetic evangelism help or conflict with friendship evangelism to Muslims?
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