Penn Northeast Conference  
Spring 2021 Conference Meeting

About Our Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leaders...

Robert P. Jones, Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader:
Robert Jones is the CEO and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and the author of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*. Jones writes regularly on politics, culture, and religion for The Atlantic online, NBC Think, and other outlets. He is frequently featured in major national media, such as CNN, MSNBC, NPR, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and others. He holds a Ph.D. in religion from Emory University and a M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of *The End of White Christian America*, which won the 2019 Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

Michelle Santiago: *Racism & Micro Aggressions*
Dr. Michelle Santiago is Assistant Professor of the Clinical Practice of Counseling and Clinical Training Director at Moravian College and is a Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor, and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional. Dr. Santiago has 24 years of clinical counseling experience and has been a full-time faculty member since 2015. She has worked in a wide variety of areas and has provided community agencies, colleges, and church organizations with training on cultural competency. She is Vice Chair, PA State Board of SW, MFT and Professional Counselors, where she also serves on the probable cause hearing committee and as CE Reviewer. She is the PA Delegate for the American Association of State Counseling Boards. Most recently, she has been invited as a subject matter expert for the National Board of Certified Counselors.

Her workshop on racism and micro aggressions will focus on learning what microaggressions are and how subtle microaggressions can be especially toxic to underserved and underrepresented minoritized populations.

Emily Hall: *Mental Health and Spirituality within the Church*
Rev. Dr. Emily B. Hall is the pastor of Hope UCC and the Director of Chaplaincy at a state psychiatric hospital in NJ. Dr. Hall has been facilitating spirituality programs with residence in the hospital for more than 10 years. She enjoys finding new ways to open God’s word to all people regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, gender, orientation. Rev. Hall enjoys hanging out with her wife and daughter, their two dogs Davey and Goliath, riding bikes, enjoying nature, and playing video games.

About her workshop:
Pastors and lay people alike struggle with mental health on a continuum of need and severity. But where do church people and pastors turn when they are having a struggling emotionally and spirituality. How do we make our churches more accepting and welcoming and how do we as clergy find the support needs that are necessary and for ourselves? This Workshop will discuss these concerns and offer conversations and direction on how to find solutions!
Tracy and Ned Whitehead: Serving People with Disabilities
Tracy and Ned are members of the Dille Parish UCC, LeRaysville. They are the youth group leaders of the Dille Parish for over 20 years.

For the past 35 years, Tracy has been a full-time Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired for the BLaST Intermediate Unit #17, teaching in all of the school districts in Bradford and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania. Her passion is keeping up with the newest technology for students with visual impairments. She serves on the Pennsylvania Delaware AER Board. In 2013, Tracy received the Elinor H. Long Educator of the Year Award.

Ned is a Disability Rights Advocate for over 30 years. He advocates for children receiving special education services and adults with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities throughout of State of Pennsylvania. He lobbies for funding in Harrisburg with PA Waiting List Campaign and is their assistance project manager. Ned served on the Gaskin Panel for Least Restrictive Environment. Presently he serves on and is the past chairperson of the PA State Governor’s Advisory Panel on Special Education.

Andy Lang: How churches Can Welcome LGBTQ Seekers
Andy Lang is executive director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. He was a daily newspaper reporter and Congressional press officer in Washington, DC, before moving to Cleveland to join the UCC’s national communications staff in 1993. Andy built the UCC’s first churchwide website at ucc.org in 1994 and led the church’s national web ministry until 2004. Andy has been the Coalition’s executive director since 2010: in that capacity, he leads the UCC’s Open and Affirming Program, the largest LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world. He is a member of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights, OH.

For congregations that are not yet Open and Affirming, this webinar will help you design an ONA process that builds consensus and reduces the risk of conflict. Based on the principles of “graceful engagement” and the Reformed tradition of covenant, a well-planned ONA process can help a congregation deepen relationships and discover new passion for the Gospel. Our goal: churches that are not divided but revived. Led by ONA Coalition Executive Director Andy Lang.