

Save the dates—Rethink Church event, March 19 and 20, at Springfield UMC

Rethink Church, a conference on welcoming and evangelism, will be held on March 19 and 20, at the Springfield United Methodist Church in Springfield, Neb. Workshop leaders Kathryn Witte and Lisa Maupin will bring fresh material they acquired from recent trainings with United Methodist Communications in Nashville.

Friday, March 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., will be a training day for individuals who plan to commit to presenting the Rethink Church program to congregations in their district. Each participant will be asked to sign a covenant agreeing to teach Rethink Church at least twice in 2010.

On Friday evening, at 5 p.m., registration will begin for Rethink Church for congregations. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a panel discussion and entertainment.

Saturday will begin with worship at 9 a.m., and include a full day of topics, such as Welcoming as a Lifestyle; Identity; Unique Characteristics of Seekers Ages 18-34; Discover/Design/Do; Children and Young People's Ministry, and more. The afternoon will include breakout sessions.

Registration is \$40 for an individual, \$125 for groups of four to seven attending from the same congregation and \$200 for eight or more attending from the same congregation (there is no maximum number of people that can attend from one congregation, however if you plan to bring 20 or more, please contact Kathryn Witte at [kwitte@umcneb.org](mailto:kwitte@umcneb.org)).

"I have found that the best way to create energy around new ideas taken home from workshops is to make sure that a group of people representing a congregation takes part in the new learning," said Kathryn Witte, marketing and communications director for the Nebraska Conference.

"When one or two people from a congregation attend a workshop on their own, it is difficult to enlist the congregation in the new learning once the workshop attendees are back in their local church surroundings," she continued. "Churchwide adoption of new ideas is made much easier when a group or team of people come to a workshop on behalf of a congregation."

Rethink Church is an extension of the Igniting Ministry campaign begun several years ago by United Methodist Communications (UMCOM). UMCOM offers a combination of training, resources, promotion and advertising, all grounded in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. UMCOM seeks to empower local churches by working collaboratively with conference communicators and staff to reach each congregation.

Registration materials, a schedule, an online registration link and more will be available in the next UMconnect.