

**"Habits of the Heart" for Healthy Congregations  
With Parker Palmer & Online Circles  
to Engage Faith**

We live in a time of deep divisions and polarization, both within the church and in the wider culture. Now more than ever, church leaders are called to embrace the healing and reconciling work of Christ as we seek to build healthy congregations that can engage their differences in more faithful, life-giving ways. What most of us lack are the tools to actually do it.

Pastors and lay leaders throughout Wisconsin are invited to join together this fall to explore Parker Palmer's "Habits of the Heart"-tools and methods for building bridges across our differences and building up the body of Christ:

- An understanding that we are all in this together;
- An appreciation for the value of "otherness;"
- An ability to hold tension in life-giving ways;
- A sense of personal voice and agency; and
- A capacity to create community.

Through a blended format of face-to-face interaction and virtual small group conversation, workshop participants can expect to gain:

- A conceptual and experiential understanding of Parker Palmer's 5 Habits of the Heart;
- New connections with clergy and lay leaders who share an interest in public life and the constructive role churches can play; and
- New skills to apply the Habits of the Heart to the current challenges and opportunities facing congregations today.

**The 'Habits of the Heart' workshop will unfold in three segments:**

- **Face to Face Kick Off: Wednesday, September 24:** 10:00 am-2:30 pm for all participants at the UCC Conference Offices in DeForest, WI; focusing on building community, reviewing course content and receiving training to participate in the second segment of the workshop. Attendance is mandatory.
- **Facilitated Small Group Conversations:** five weeks beginning the week of September 29th. Participants will receive via email print and video content weekly to review at their convenience, covering one "Habit of the Heart" each week. Facilitated small groups will then meet virtually (online) each week to discuss each Habit and its application to their congregation's life and ministry. A variety of days and times will be offered for virtual small groups. Weekly time commitment: approximately 3 hours.
- **Closing Retreat with Parker Palmer:** Saturday, November 8: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm, Edgewood College in Madison: A closing conversation featuring Parker Palmer for all workshop participants to reflect on the workshop experience and to consider next steps.

Pastors and lay leaders are welcome to participate, and congregations are encouraged to send teams of 2 or more people. Cost: \$100 per person; \$150 for two persons from the same congregation and \$75 for each additional person.

*Habits of the Heart  
are a roadmap for  
dealing with  
today's conflicts--  
they articulate the  
essence of what it  
means to be a  
Christian in the  
21st century. --  
Parker Palmer*