



## Central Region Day of Learning Doxology, A Worship Conference Workshop Presenters:

### **Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett**

Rev. Dr. Bennett states, “Inclusivity, relationality, relevancy, community: all are essential to my study of intersections of race, class, gender, generation and religion—particularly, the role of religion in the millennial age—and to my practice of ministry, spiriting to create worship words and rituals that invite, engage, excite and ignite a discovery of God and each other.”

### **Mr. Eric Drew**

As Director of Worship for the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey, Eric partners with local churches to make worship great. As a worship leader, planner and coach he has worked with churches and worship arts teams of all sizes. He is passionate about creating the space for all people to contribute and be empowered to serve within their gifts in preparation for worship.

### **Rev. Blair Goold**

Blair Goold currently serves as associate pastor at Island Heights UMC. His background in acting includes a BA in Theatre Arts and two years of professional acting training in NYC; and he is passionate about bringing the rich story of God’s people to life in ways that engage and inspire the congregation.

### **Mr. Kurtis Parks**

Kurtis Parks is the Worship Director at National Community Church, a multi-site church led by pastor and NY Times best-selling author Mark Batterson in the Washington DC area. He leads NCC Worship, a music team made up of nearly 150 singers and musicians who travel to churches and conferences alike, sharing their vision to see “global revival through personal worship.” Kurtis speaks to worship teams, and at conferences about his desire to see passionate worship emerge in the Church.

Kurtis is soon releasing his first book, *SoundCheck*, a book on authentic worship, and has a passion to charge worship leaders to live a life of authenticity, on and off the stage. He’s had the opportunity to speak and lead recently at National Worship Leader Conference, and travels throughout the year, both with NCC Worship, and on his own.

### **Rev. Jana Purkis-Brash**

Jana Purkis-Brash has served in ministry for over 30 years, most of those years she was a committed lectionary preacher. About 6 years ago there was a shift in her ministry to series preaching. This change has brought new breath to her worship planning and preaching.



**Rev. Catherine Williams**

Rev. Catherine Williams was born on the Caribbean twin island of Trinidad & Tobago, raised in the home of a pastor and received a Bachelor's Degree of Music in Church Music from Westminster Choir College. In addition to serving part-time at Princeton UMC she is a full-time Homiletics student in the Practical Theology PhD program at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her dissertation will engage postcolonial, homiletical and performance theories, making a connection between the indigenous music of Trinidad and effective local preaching there.

**Pastor Landen Wilson**

Lan Wilson has been leading worship since he was ten years old and has been blessed to serve in many different settings with a wide range of worship styles, cultural backgrounds, denominations and congregation sizes which has helped him developed his deep passion for seeing the body of Christ unified through worship. He currently serves at CrossPoint Church in Harrisburg, PA, which is a multi-site, multi-cultural United Methodist community.

**Rev. Gina Yeske**

Gina Yeske serves at Simply Grace in Bloomsbury NJ. She recently completed a thesis on evangelism and small church ministry. Gina believes that people are looking for real relationships and small churches offer those connections. Engaging people in dynamic worship is an important step to building community.

**James Lee**

James is a storyteller, and visual arts is his medium. He is responsible for producing all audio and video elements for GNJ and A Future With Hope. James' favorite thing to do is sit back and watch movies over buttered popcorn with his beloved wife and daughter.