



CHICK PLANTERS LIVE

Meet: REV. RACHEL GILMORE, Planting Pastor, The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC, Virginia Beach, VA



Rev. Rachel Gilmore graduated magna cum laude from Duke Divinity School in 2009 and her first appointment was to plant a church in Virginia Beach. The Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC began with 10 young adults and has over 400 people regularly involved in the life of the church. She has also planted two missional preschools which have provided over \$200,000 in scholarships to families in need in the community. Rachel is married to another United Methodist pastor and they have two young children who love spending time at the beach. A former volunteer with the Peace Corp, she continues in mission in Eastern Europe with Syrian refugee camps. She has co-lead

a seminar on women in Church Planting with Candace Lewis at the School of Congregational Development in Colorado, led a seminar for young clergy in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and assisted in a Launchpad Planter training in Pennsylvania with Paul Nixon before being a minor contributor to Christian Coon's recent book, *Failing Boldly: How Falling Down in Ministry Can be the Start of Rising Up*. She recently began coaching in addition to her planting duties.

SESSIONS: **Handling Failure in Ministry**, Thurs @2:30pm
 Planter Mommy, Friday @2:30pm

Meet: REV. DR. ANDREA FARE-SMITH, Pastor, West UMC, NC



Rev. Dr. Andrea Smith has traveled an unconventional path to ordained ministry. With a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology, Andrea served in the public school sector for four years before answering her call to ordained ministry. She was ordained a permanent deacon in 2005, but later recognized her calling was ultimately to preach the gospel and use her crazy ideas to help new people fall in love with Christ. Because of her unconventional path, there is no "MDiv" after her name, but she received the bulk of her seminary training from Methesco and Asbury. As she transitioned from deacon to elder, she earned a doctorate from Wesley in Church Leadership Excellence and was ordained an elder in 2014. Andrea

was asked to launch a west campus of a large UMC in Mooresville, NC in 2010. Eighteen months after the launch, the campus chartered as a church and has over 400 people actively involved in missions and ministries. Andrea has founded two non-profits -- "Inspire Our Children" which spearheads Back to School Bashes around the metro area of Charlotte, and "Common Ground" a non-profit of two African American churches and West who work together to operate the Pig Out Food Truck that feeds 230-plus people in downtown Mooresville every week. She also was a pioneer in the creation of Acres of Hope (a non-profit that supports over 200 orphans) in Nebbi, Uganda. She is married with two children, all whom have become passionate about offering God's love in radically different ways.

Session: **Ways to Win and Lose When Doing A New Thing**, Friday @10:30am

BREAK OUT LEADERS

Meet: REV. KIM GRIFFITH, New Church Strategist, Path1



Kim serves as the Path 1 New Church Strategist for the Southeastern Jurisdiction with UMC Discipleship Ministries and as the Executive Director for Griffith Coaching. She was a church planter for over 10 years, starting a new service at First UMC in Ft. Myers, and starting River of Life UMC in Jacksonville. She enjoys working with pastors and laity who are beginning new faith communities, and with pastors and churches that are seeking to revitalize and reach new people. Kim holds a B.A. from the University of Florida, a M.Div. from Emory University, and a D.Min from Wesley Theological Seminary; and is an ordained Elder in the Florida Conference of the UMC.

Sessions: **Boundaries and Self Care**, Thursday @2:30pm and Thursday @4:00pm

Meet: REV. WENDY HUDSON-JACOBY, Pastor, Two Rivers Church, Charleston, SC



Wendy Hudson-Jacoby is the pastor of Two Rivers Church - A United Methodist Community, a new church start in the Charleston District. An ordained United Methodist elder for 14 years, she has served congregations in both the Eastern Pennsylvania and South Carolina Annual Conferences, focusing on turnaround and revitalizing church communities. She is the wife to Michael, an IT professional who works for the City of North Charleston, and the mother to Jackson, a 10th grader, Wesley, a 7th grader, and Anya, a 5th grader. She grew up in Lancaster, SC, where her parents still live. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in journalism and Wesley Theological Seminary, with a master's degree in divinity. Her passion is connecting congregations to their community and inviting those disillusioned with, unfamiliar with or estranged from church into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Session: **Connecting with Your Community**, Thursday @4pm

Meet: REV. MICHELLE MATTHEWS



Bio: Michelle Matthews is an inner-city high school English teacher turned pastorpreneur. Having helped plant four other United Methodist new faith communities in Virginia Beach, VA and Durham, NC, Michelle is now the pastor of the Kingstowne Communion, a church plant that closed and relaunched in 2016 after a community trauma, and which exists now in its community – integrated and vibrant – to gather people into communion with Jesus Christ through courageous conversation, creative community, and collaborating for the common good. Michelle lives a simple urban-lite life in downtown Alexandria, VA with her husband of 11 years Chris, cat Chandler Bing, and schnauzer-mix Tootie.

Session: **Worship in the Public Square**, Friday @1:30pm

Meet: REV. LYNDSEY MEDFORD, Director of Discipleship, Two Rivers Church, Charleston, SC



Lyndsey Medford is the Director of Discipleship at Two Rivers Church in Charleston, SC. On her days off, she's usually in her garden or at the beach with her husband and rescue pup. Her weaknesses are French fries, Instagram, and Lyndsey writes regularly for various publications, on Instagram, and at lyndseymedford.com.

Session: **Showing up Brave: Creativity and Community Building**, Thursday @4pm

Meet: NICOLE THOMPSON, JD Founder, Empowered Readers Literary Project



Nicole E. Thompson is a woman who has spent her life in pursuit of excellence for the Cause of Christ and in search of God's Greater Plan for herself and everyone she encounters. A graduate of Duke University and Duke University School of Law, Nicole has lived her life committed to advocacy and civil justice through representation, education, and empowerment. She has built a successful career as a civil rights and media transactional attorney, a professor and a community organizer. After 20 years of dedicated legal practice, Nicole has answered the next iteration of her "Call to Advocacy". Earlier this year, she and her family launched a non-profit organization called *Empowered Readers Literacy Project* with a vision to turn the tide of the illiteracy epidemic in the City of Atlanta and, eventually, nationwide, through their mission to help families build strong reading rituals and to get kids excited about books. Though an accomplished professional, Nicole believes her greatest accomplishments in life have been answering God's call to salvation as a child, being a wife to her soulmate and life partner (Khalil), and giving birth to and nurturing 2 amazing daughters (Selah and Syrai). She is a founding member of Impact Church in Atlanta, GA.

Sessions: **Christian Entrepreneurship**, Friday @ 10:30am and 1:30pm

Meet: REV. ANJIE PEEK WOODWORTH, Co-Pastor of Neighborhood Church



Rev. Anjie Woodworth is a pastor, planter, partner, and parent. As an Atlanta native, she was thrilled to get to plant a church, formed from a vital merger of two declining congregations, in the Candler Park neighborhood! Anjie is mom to three awesome kids who are 7, 8, and 9 years old. It's a good thing she adores her husband, Andy, because they not only parent and partner together, they are also the co-pastors and planters of Neighborhood Church. She is a contributing author to the recently released, *We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*. Anjie enjoys art prayer, making crafty projects, and seeing \$5 movies on her Sabbath day. She loves Jesus and is passionate about growing things and helping other people grow things: relationships with new people and relationships with God. She loves meeting new people and can't wait to meet you!

Sessions: **Finding Your Way As A Leader**, Thursday @2:30pm
Vital Mergers, Friday @10:30am

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L7Y85RK>



Handling Failure in Ministry, Thurs @2:30pm, Rachel Gilmore

100% of us fail and failure can help us and our ministries to grow if used through the right lens. Join us as we explore best practices when things don't go according to plan.

Boundaries and Self Care, Thursday @2:30pm, Kim Griffith

Starting a new church is hard work, and it is tempting to lose sight of healthy boundaries and self-care. We will talk about the traps we fall into, the boundaries we cross, the unique challenges we face as women, and strategies that make it possible to both work hard and take care of yourself and the people you love.

Finding Your Way As A Leader, Thursday @2:30pm, Anjie Peek Woodworth

Many people believe that becoming a leader means becoming like someone else. What if developing as a leader is about discovering who you are and growing with God to become more fully who God created you to be already? We will explore gifts you already have that are strengths for planting and new ways of leading congregations as well as tools that may help with continued discernment and growth as a leader.



Ways to Win and Lose When Doing A New Thing, Thursday @4pm, Andrea Fare Smith

Planting new places for new people brings huge joys and some epic fails! In this session we will discuss some of the ways we can win big and fail fast and forward as we try to offer Christ in new, relevant ways!

Boundaries and Self Care, Thursday @4pm, Kim Griffith

Starting a new church is hard work, and it is tempting to lose sight of healthy boundaries and self-care. We will talk about the traps we fall into, the boundaries we cross, the unique challenges we face as women, and strategies that make it possible to both work hard and take care of yourself and the people you love.

Connecting with Your Community, Thursday @4pm, Wendy Hudson-Jacoby

The first role of a church planter is to understand, listen to and exegete her community. Knowing the people God has sent us to is the first step in dreaming up a church that meets the desires and needs of our community. In this experiential and collaborative workshop, we will share best practices, unique strategies, and our most unusual techniques for connecting with our neighbors!



Showing up Brave: Creativity and Community Building, Friday @10:30am, Lyndsey Medford

Get out of your chair and play a little! We'll play some movement and theater games to spark imagination and conversation about how bravery, creativity, and community intertwine. We'll also talk about how we can cultivate these values in our own church plants; and what that has looked like for Two Rivers UMC.

Christian Entrepreneurship, Friday @ 10:30am, Nicole Thompson

There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your Calling, the Purpose for which you were born; and that is how you become truly alive. The real work of our lives is not simply to focus on day-to-day tasks, but rather to figure out our calling as soon as possible and then get about the *business* of fulfilling it as only we can. Let's discuss the practical – and legal – steps you need to follow to create something new that meets the need around you.

Vital Mergers, Friday @10:30am, Anjie Peek Woodworth

Come learn about the basics of the vital merger process and what we learned from the vital merger of two churches that came together to form Neighborhood Church.



Worship in the Public Square, Friday @1:30pm, Michelle Matthews

The Church's willingness to carefully adapt and translate our private, sacred liturgies for the public square, our ability to communicate who we are and why it matters to our communities, Michelle believes, is the hinge pin on which the Church currently spins. Learn how a church plant on the verge of dying and closing completely relaunched in their community through profound community partnerships, pop-up public worship events, and the art of taking what the church does well into spaces that people love and places where people are.

Christian Entrepreneurship, Friday @1:30pm, Nicole Thompson

There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your Calling, the Purpose for which you were born; and that is how you become truly alive. The real work of our lives is not simply to focus on day-to-day tasks, but rather to figure out our calling as soon as possible and then get about the *business* of fulfilling it as only we can. Let's discuss the practical – and legal – steps you need to follow to create something new that meets the need around you.

Planter Mommy, Friday @1:30am, Rachel Gilmore

Have you ever felt like no matter how hard you try, you aren't measuring up as a mom, a wife, or a planter/pastor? We are expected to do it all but how? Dr. Sheryl Ziegler uses the term "Mommy Burnout" to describe the exhaustion, lack of meaningful friendships, and marital stress so many of us face. Join us as we share practical strategies and guiding principles to help us battle mommy burnout.