ESR Leadership Conference

Playing with Fire: The Experience of Ministry as an Entrepreneur

August 17-19, 2018
Richmond, Indiana
Playing with Fire: The Experience of Ministry as an Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurial success looks easy. An innovative idea addresses an obvious need or injustice, and positive results spill out like rain from the heavens. Great plans come together with minimal effort and mistakes. Charisma and ingenuity create a winning combination. But in most cases success does not occur instantly, and in fact, usually results after a series of trials by fire.

Entrepreneurs and innovators dream of new solutions to generational problems and current conundrums. An increasing number of individuals find themselves called to minister and serve in contexts without ready-made organizational support. Often their dreams languish simply because there is no clear path forward.

As ministry, entrepreneurial efforts are never merely about bringing innovative ideas to life. They arise from a sense that the Divine is nudging us to offer our gifts and service via new forms and avenues. They seek to serve God and humankind in ways that transform and improve our lives together.

With each innovative idea energy surges eager for action, yet testing the idea before moving too quickly is wise. What is my motivation? What value would this ministry serve? What issue do I hope to address and have I correctly perceived it? Like many business ventures, we seldom get it completely right the first time! Good ideas benefit from further research. Even Divine leadings benefit from testing!

How does one move from leading toward action? How does the Divine participate in the process? Can entrepreneurship and ministry be yoked without losing the integrity of either? This year’s leadership conference features eight entrepreneurial ministers who have lived with these questions and more as they completed ESR’s Entrepreneurial Ministry Certificate Program. They are eager to share their experiences as a resource to others who are interested in acting on their leadings to ministry.
This conference is designed especially for...

- Entrepreneurs
- Intrapreneurs
- Ministers, especially non-traditional ones
- Business Professionals
- Students
- Life-long learners and kindred spirits

Benefits...

- Find affirmation for your calling
- Build supportive relationships
- Experience fresh energy and new resolve
- Learn practical ideas to benefit your work
- Contribute to a body of shared knowledge

Experience...

- Hear teaching that stirs the mind and resonates with the soul
- Participate in rich workshops led by skilled presenters
- Engage in small group conversations with interested peers
Who are you and what is your work in the world? Whether you’re trying to create and launch something new or working on an already established project you must be clear about these questions.

We live in a noisy world. Clarity is the vehicle that allows us to cut through the noise. With clarity we know when to say yes and when to say no. We can see the direction we need to go.

Clarity allows us to be true to that of God within. In this workshop we’ll explore how to find it, feel it, claim it, enact it.

Summer is a Quaker minister, visual artist, viniyoga teacher, and yoga therapist. She teaches meditative yoga classes, works with people one-on-one, and teaches a yearlong immersion course based in the ancient texts of yoga both online and in-person. She publishes the Yoga Church Sunday Sermons — a free weekly sermon delivered to your inbox and will begin offering an annual Yoga Church retreat in 2019. In all her work, Summer is teaching the science of transformation with the ultimate goal of helping people identify the habits that lead to their suffering and — through the mechanism of awareness — learn to transform them.
You well know the sense of coming to the very edge of new forms of ministry and innovation within your work or ministry. Sometimes we sense the fire within our leading but choosing to step into this leading seems too strange and challenging. Sometimes our communities call to us, fired up with a sense of urgency, but we do not embrace the opportunity of that call. This workshop prepares you for these moments and will equip you to embrace these threshold moments and the process of refinement that occurs when you are walking in faith through the fire.

Come prepared to share the fire in your leadership, bring a current fiery issue or leadership opportunity that you would like work with during the workshop. We will use poetry, storytelling, journaling and expressive arts during this workshop. (This workshop is in two parts; participants should register for both.)

Jeanne-Marie owns Watershed Ways providing spiritual nurture, life and business coaching. She also offers services for organization design, community development, coalition building and strategic planning in the nonprofit and public sector. Over these past ten years she has led Circle of Trust, Friends Couple Enrichment and other retreats for faith communities. She has been leading workshops on Communal Discernment with Friends Meetings. Now in her 27th year as a Convinced Friend, and a member of Pima Friends Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, she brings a disciplined Christian practice to 21st century faith communities and has a deep wellspring of faith, tradition and creativity that informs her life and work.

Adriana Cabrera-Velásquez
Praying Attention to the Signs of Providence

This experiential workshop will take participants through a bicycle ride around the EC campus, where they will have the opportunity to get attuned to the signs of Providence, listen to their message, get clear on the task they have for us, and act. This workshop will be limited to 10 people due to bicycle availability and will require participants’ ability and willingness to ride a bike.

*Adriana Cabrera-Velásquez is a Colombian Quaker, Earlham School of Religion M.Div., Literary Studies BA, translator, interpreter, and peace & justice worker. Her experience includes work in Quaker education and international accompaniment organizations such as Olney Friends School, Beacon Hill Friends House, and Christian Peacemaker Teams. After many years of work abroad, Adriana settled at home in Paipa, Colombia, to focus her efforts locally. Currently she participates in ESR’s Entrepreneurial Ministry Certificate Program; her project, El Costurero Ciclo Café, is a bicycle coffee shop where women-farmed coffee and cycling become avenues for women’s empowerment, health, and a wholesome community life.*
Being a leader requires that we navigate the anxiety, drama, and distraction of our age. It’s easy to lose sight of our vocation, identity, and core relationships, as well as the natural world around us. How do we stay grounded in such a time? This workshop will explore principles and practices that help us stay grounded in who, whose, and where we are.

Andy Henry
You’re Grounded: Grounding Your Leadership in God, Place, and Your Truest Self

Andy lives in a small town called Mt. Gilead, Ohio and works at a local public library. He is a member of the Friends of Jesus Fellowship and a recent graduate of Earlham School of Religion. In his free time, Andy enjoys reading, writing, coffee shops, backyard gardening, and tending to his dancing chickens. His ministry interests are focused on the renewal of rural churches and communities. Learn more about his work, thought, and ministry resources at www.recoveringabundance.com.
Where do you find the courage to step into your ministry? If you are trying to run away, you are not alone. But, as with Jonah, God will ultimately catch up with you.

In this interactive and experiential workshop we will explore courage from all sides. What does it look like? The traditional view of courage has a warrior facing battle. But we are listening for “the still small voice.” I keep a framed quote on my desk that says: “The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The real opportunity is where you are.”

So where and what is courage? We will review courage stories from public life, the Bible and your life. As you formulate your own courage statement we will discuss the Source of courage.

In her workshops, presentations and writing, Julia shares her own story of overcoming grief and blinding uncertainty when she had to stop working full-time due to a serious medical condition. Her story includes starting a small business selling cookie dough, going to ESR for her third master’s degree and earning the Mullen Ministry of Writing Fellowship while there. Her company, Sharp Turn Institute, gives others a course for creating a strategy to address their own unique trials. While devoted to creating tools to flourish, the ultimate goal is to help people find paths to active, meaningful lives.
You well know the sense of coming to the very edge of new forms of ministry and innovation within your work or ministry. Sometimes we sense the fire within our leading but choosing to step into this leading seems too strange and challenging. Sometimes our communities call to us, fired up with a sense of urgency, but we do not embrace the opportunity of that call. This workshop prepares you for these moments and will equip you to embrace these threshold moments and the process of refinement that occurs when you are walking in faith through the fire.

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Oscar and Theoneste will individually address the theme of building community in this workshop.

For Oscar, wholesomely participating in building a community while simultaneously living in it can be difficult! Inviting community members to live with an awareness of the Divine Presence while working to improve the community can be challenging work. Such ministry can take various forms, even that of an entrepreneur. In this workshop, we will explore what it takes to succeed in community building in using agriculture as an entrepreneurial model.

Theoneste reflects on the vital role of fire in our daily lives, whether from firewood, gas cookers, candles, etc. Fire brings change, especially when it is a manifestation of the Divine presence in our lives. It resists injustice within us and around us, and heightens our awareness of a better way. Are we willing to be immersed in this Divine fire that makes us members of the global village of candles?

Oscar Lugusa Malande has served among Friends in Vihiga Yearly Meeting in Kenya both as a pastor and chaplain for twelve years. He taught and served as registrar and assistant academic dean at Friends Theological College, Kaimosi for three years. He is a recent graduate in Master of Arts from Earlham School of Religion and currently teaches at Friends Theological College Kaimosi. He is married to Zipporah Adema Mileha and they are blessed with four children.

Theoneste Sentabire is from Rwanda, Africa. Currently, he is completing his Masters of Divinity in Leadership at Earlham School of Religion where he graduated with an MA in Peace Studies two years ago. He also holds a Bachelor of Theology from Friends Theological College, Kenya. Peacemaking is his primary concern. Thus, he has been privileged to be part of the Entrepreneurial Certificate pilot program at ESR this year and got the support to start his own ministry called Blessed Family Ministry (BFM) which cherishes the culture of peace in his village back home.

All entrepreneurial ventures, and even life, go through challenges and setbacks. In moments like those it can be difficult to maintain our motivation. This workshop explores how to walk through these low points without giving up. Participants will leave the workshop with tools to meet this challenge, and have space for fun while doing it.

Since graduating from two Quaker Colleges, Wilmington for her bachelor’s and ESR for her Master of Divinity, Abbey has kept active in the Quaker world. She’s recently finished a four-year stint at Earlham College working with both the Quaker Fellows and Bonner programs. She has now moved into the creation of her ministry Divine Journey, a spiritual direction and tarot practice. When not working, she volunteers with various organizations, reads, and bakes.
Sparks from the Fire: Seven Stories of Testing New Ideas

Windy Cooler
Windy is a Friend from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. As a mother to two children, her entire adult life has been spent preoccupied with what it means to be in a family. As a former community and union organizer, and currently a homemaker and student in the MDiv program at ESR, her ministry of Quaker Family Life is embraced by her yearly meeting. The ministry is grounded in the belief that the home and the community are in partnership in a healthy religious community. Her course work at ESR is intentioned to support this ministry.

Tom Decker
Tom Decker is a recent graduate of the Master of Divinity Program at the Earlham School of Religion. Prior to his seminary studies Tom served as the Director of Domestic Cooperative Development at the National Cooperative Business Association and as the National Program Director for Social Impact Management at the National Credit Union Foundation. In addition to his work with cooperatives, Tom spent over twenty years working in higher education. He holds a bachelor’s degree in religious studies and sociology from Ball State University and a master’s degree in college student development from Indiana University.

Nikki Holland
Nikki Holland lives in Mexico with her husband and three little sons. She studies for an M.Div at Earlham School of Religion and works as a technical writer. She is a founding member of a “Quaker house church” in Merida, Yucatan, and she blogs about Christian egalitarianism and feminism at thebrokencurse.com. She is also working to develop a program to give families practical tools they can use to live in equality in their homes. In her free time, she likes to play games, go to the beach, read fiction, sing, and nap.

Kaia Jackson
Kaia Jackson is in their first year of study in the MDiv program at ESR. They are also enrolled in the 200-hr Teacher Training Program at Santosha Yoga School in Indianapolis. Kaia is passionate about exploring spirituality and community-building through embodied practices and expressive arts. They are guided by a commitment to creating accessible, inclusive, and trauma-informed opportunities for personal and community healing. You can contact Kaia with questions or thoughts at jackska@earlham.edu.
Panel

Sparks from the Fire:
Seven Stories of Testing New Ideas

Dan Mudd
Dan is a Master of Divinity candidate at ESR and is a member of Pima Monthly Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Prior to coming to ESR he completed a certificate program in spiritual direction at Tarcheria. His ministerial interest is in nurturing spiritual growth, especially in relation to listening for the Divine in our lives. His ministerial innovation is bringing lay dream work and the Experiment with Light meditation into the retreat setting with prayer and spiritual friendship. He leads retreats and spiritual direction focusing on ways to listen to the “still small voice.”

Chet Roberts
Chester “Chet” Roberts Jr. was born in Dayton, Ohio. After graduating from Trotwood-Madison High School, Chet joined the Navy. He traveled coastal eastern United States, the Caribbean, South America, and the west coast of Africa. Several years later, Chet was called to Chaplaincy. He earned his B.A. in Christian Studies from Grand Canyon University. Chet is earning an M.Div. at ESR. He recently applied for membership to Dayton Friends Meeting. Chet feels led to participate in harmony between faiths traditionally antagonistic. He hopes a public silent prayer attended by members representing all faiths may provide a stepping stone to this harmony.

Joel Tishken
Joel Tishken has been a student at ESR since Aug. 2015, and graduated with a M.Div. in May 2018. Joel continues to work toward ordination with the Unitarian Universalist Association, which has been his religious home since the mid-1990s. Prior to his arrival in Richmond, Tishken was a professor of African history and religions in Georgia and Wisconsin. He and his wife Lee Ann reside in Richmond.
Schedule of Events

Friday, August 17
5:00 pm  Registration
5:15 pm  Dinner
6:30 pm  Fireside Chats: Gathering Kindling
         Summer Cushman, Andy Henry
7:30 pm  Anchor Groups*

Saturday, August 18
8:00 am  Open Worship
8:30 am  Breakfast
9:15 am  Fireside Chats: Fanning the Flame
         Abbey Pratt-Harrington,
         Adriana Cabrera-Velásquez,
         Theoneste Sentabire
11:00 am Anchor Groups
12:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm  Workshop 1:
         Finding Clarity – Summer Cushman
         Divine Thresholds: Fired up with Faith in our
         Leadership and Ministry (Part 1) – Jaimie Mudd
         Praying Attention to the Signs of Providence –
         Adriana Cabrera-Velásquez
         You’re Grounded:
         Grounding Your Leadership in God, Place,
         and Your Truest Self – Andy Henry
2:45 pm  Break
3:15 pm  Workshop 2
         Courage – Julie Pantoga Soriano
         Divine Thresholds: Fired up with Faith in our
         Leadership and Ministry (Part 2) – Jaimie Mudd

*ANCHOR GROUPS are an important part of this conference, providing a community for reflection on conference session ideas and insights.

Groups will be assigned to provide opportunities to make new friends and connect with others who may have similar interests and concerns.

Facilitators will be identified for each group, and queries provided for each meeting time.
### Saturday, August 18

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<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td>Workshop 2 (continued)</td>
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<td>Inviting Others To Build Community –</td>
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<td>Oscar Malande &amp; Theoneste Sentabire</td>
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<td>Walking through the Low Points –</td>
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<td>Abbey Pratt-Harrington</td>
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<td>4:45 pm</td>
<td>Interpersonal Exercise</td>
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<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Panel Presentation: Sparks from the Fire</td>
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<td>Seven Stories from Testing New Ideas</td>
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<td>Wendy Cooler, Tom Decker, Nikki Holland,</td>
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<td>Kaia Jackson, Dan Mudd, Chet Roberts,</td>
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<td>Joel Tishkin</td>
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### Sunday, August 19

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<td>8:00 am</td>
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<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Fireside Chats: Walking on Coals</td>
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<td>Julie Pantoga Soriano, Oscar Malande,</td>
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<td>Jaimie Mudd</td>
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<td>10:45 am</td>
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<td>Passion, Hesitation, Movement</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Closing Exercise</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** esr.earlham.edu/LC2018
Registration

Send to: ESR Leadership Conference 2018,
Mandy Ford, Earlham School of Religion,
228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374.
1.800.432.1377, Email: leadership@esr.earlham.edu
Online registration: esr.earlham.edu/LC2018

Name ________________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City _________________________________________
State/Zip ______________________________________
Phone (______) ________________________________
E-mail  _______________________________________

Full conference fee and all meals:

☐ Conference Fee & all meals before July 13, 2018: $180
☐ Conference Fee & all meals after July 13, 2018: $200

Saturday only conference fee and three meals:

☐ Saturday only fee & 3 meals before July 13, 2018: $135
☐ Saturday only fee & 3 meals after July 13, 2018: $150

Friday or Sunday only conference fee and meals:

☐ Friday only conference fee & meal: $75
☐ Sunday only conference fee & meals: $75

Students (with valid student ID):

☐ Student fee & all meals: $100
☐ I am a Leadership and Service Scholarship guest: (no cost)

Workshop choices and registration continued on reverse side

Directions to ESR

Approach Richmond via I-70; exit at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after a mile into Northwest 5th Street. Follow Northwest 5th Street to U.S. 40 (National Road West). Turn right and then turn left one block later, at College Avenue. The ESR Center is on the southwest corner. For parking, continue south on College Avenue to the first stop sign, turn right. Take another right at the next stop sign and a third right into the parking lot.
Meals (Please check all meals you will attend):

Friday:  ❑ Dinner
Saturday:  ❑ Breakfast  ❑ Lunch  ❑ Dinner
Sunday:  ❑ Breakfast  ❑ Lunch

Workshop 1 (Please check your first and second choice):

_____ Summer Cushman:  Finding Clarity
_____ Jaimie Mudd:  Divine Thresholds:
  Fired up with Faith in our Leadership and Ministry (Part 1)

_____ Adriana Cabrera-Velásquez:  Praying Attention to the Signs of Providence

_____ Andy Henry:  You’re Grounded:
  Grounding Your Leadership in God, Place, and Your Truest Self

Workshop 2 (Please check your first and second choice):

_____ Julia Pantoga Soriano:  Courage

_____ Jaimie Mudd:  Divine Thresholds:
  Fired up with Faith in our Leadership and Ministry (Part 2)

_____ Oscar Malande & Theoneste Sentabire:  Inviting Others To Build Community

_____ Abbey Pratt-Harrington:  Walking through the Low Points

Anchor Groups:
Help us group you with persons with similar interests by indicating your hope to gain from the conference.

________________________________________  ______________________________________

Transportation/Lodging:
Transportation and lodging costs not included. Contact ESR if you need lodging recommendations.