



# 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

## LEARNING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### JAN - FEB TRAININGS

**Supporting Individuals Through Medical Challenges:** Thursday, January 22 • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Dr. Jess Sanderson

*This training will equip leaders with practical tools to offer support to individuals facing physical health challenges or new medical diagnoses. Leaders will learn how to listen well, respond appropriately and connect people to helpful resources.*

**Using a Trauma-Informed Lens to Cultivate Choice in Your Program** Thursday, January 29 • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Dr. Jess Sanderson

*Learn how trauma-informed practices can help ministry programs foster safety, empowerment, and meaningful choice for participants.*

**Using Ice Breakers to Promote Interaction :** Thursday, February 19 • 5:30 - 7:00pm

Facilitator: Chela Rodriguez & Dr. Jess Sanderson

*Discover creative tools and icebreakers to build authentic relationships and community engagement in today's digital landscape.*

**Senior Savvy: Outsmarting Criminals in the Real & Digital World:** Wednesday, February 25th • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Alison Sullivan

*Equip your senior ministry with practical knowledge to prevent scams and ensure safety both online and in daily life.*

### MAR - JUN 5-C TRAININGS

**Suicide Prevention in Churches: Question, Persuade, Refer:** Thursday, April 16 • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Rosa McGuire

*This training will help participants recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide to help.*

**The Power of Leadership Attitude :** Wednesday, May 6 • 9:30 - 11:30am

Facilitator: Dr. Pablo Díaz

*Examine how a leader's mindset shapes ministry effectiveness, team morale, and congregational growth.*

**Sacred Rest: Soul Care Retreat** Thursday, May 28 • 5:30 - 8:00pm

Facilitator: Joel Cruz and Dr. Jess Sanderson

*Engage in a guided retreat that nurtures spiritual renewal, rest, and emotional restoration for ministry leaders*

**Christian Community Development: A Holistic Approach to Outreach** Thursday, June 25 • 5:30 - 8:00pm

Facilitator: Dr. Jess Sanderson

*This training explores practical strategies for fostering sustainable community transformation by integrating faith, empowerment, and relational engagement.*

### SEP - DEC TRAININGS

**How Early Relationships Impact How We Relate to God and Others :** Thursday, September 17 • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Dr. Jess Sanderson

*Reflect on how our early relational patterns and how they influence our ability to connect with God and others.*

**GenNow! Youth Summit:** (Date TBD) Saturday • 10:00 - 1:00pm

*Youth and adult leaders are invited to come together to worship, learn, and build relationship. We will explore ways adults and youth can partner to promote healthy relationships in children and youth programs.*

**Food as Medicine—Supporting Health through Nutrition:** Thursday, December 3 • 9:30 - 11:00am

Facilitator: Dr. Katie Martin and Dr. Jess Sanderson

*Understand how faith communities can promote health and healing by integrating nutrition and compassion into outreach.*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Leadership Training:

#### DISC for Pastors and Executive Directors

Friday, May 22 • 9:30am - 12:30pm (pastors & EDs only)

Based on a proven model of leadership - Vision, Alignment, and Execution - Everything DiSC Work of Leaders uncovers your unique leadership style and adapts it to provide a clear, actionable path to more effective leadership. (limited capacity)

### Freedom Prayer

Freedom Prayer is a guided prayer process that helps individuals connect with God to find healing.

### Basics Training (get equipped to launch a team)

Friday, evening, March 27th- Saturday, March 28th

### Regional Team Gathering (worship & encourage)

Saturday October 3rd • 9:30am - 12:30pm

### Second Chance Regional Gatherings

Join us as we explore ways to support individuals returning from incarceration.

Saturday, April 25th • 9:00am - 11:00pm

Thursday, September 17th • 5:30 - 7:30pm

## OUTREACH DAY

### What is the Outreach Day?

Outreach Day is an Annual city-wide outreach in the Hartford community where UA and our partners share information about community and ministry programs that serve residents. This is an opportunity to meet practical, emotional and spiritual needs!

### Community Outreach Day Orientation

Thursday, March 12 • 5:30 - 7:00pm

This orientation will provide everything your church needs to participate in the Outreach Day.

### Community Outreach Day Packing Party

Friday, May 15 • 5:30 - 7:30pm

Help us prepare resource bags for Hartford residents. Each bag contains information about community resources, local churches and tracts.

### Community Outreach Day

Saturday, June 6 • 9:30am - 2:00pm

Share resource guides, farmers market coupons, prayer and the love of Christ with Hartford residents.

## RECURRING GATHERINGS: SPECIALIZED COHORTS & TRAINING

### COHORTS

#### Monthly Professional Counselor Peer Consultation

First Friday of the month | 11:45am - 1:15pm  
(no meetings July or August)

#### Micah Group

Second Thursday of the month | 11:45pm - 2:00pm  
(no meetings July or August)

### SPECIALIZED TRAINING

#### Motivational Interviewing for Mental Health Professionals

(Approved for 2CE by the NBCC - SP SP-5047)  
Friday, May 1 • 11:30pm - 1:30pm

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION & LINKS

### UA Network Resources:

[www.urbanalliance.com/ua-network-resources/](http://www.urbanalliance.com/ua-network-resources/)

### UA Resource Libraries:

Printed: [www.urbanalliance.com/resource-library](http://www.urbanalliance.com/resource-library)

Video: [www.urbanalliance.thinkific.com](http://www.urbanalliance.thinkific.com)

### Program Development Opportunities (PDO) Catalog:

[www.urbanalliance.com/program-development-opportunities](http://www.urbanalliance.com/program-development-opportunities)

### UA Grant Applications:

[www.urbanalliance.com/grants](http://www.urbanalliance.com/grants)

### Toolkit and Printed Materials Request:

[www.urbanalliance.com/toolkits](http://www.urbanalliance.com/toolkits)

QUESTIONS? EMAIL [INITIATIVES@URBANALLIANCE.COM](mailto:INITIATIVES@URBANALLIANCE.COM)