

Preconvention Institute
Thursday, November 6, 2014 3.0 CEUs)
Full-day Session 1:00pm-4:00pm

Dr. Diana Garland and Dr. Gaynor Yancey *"Congregational Social Work"*

Abstract: The presenters will describe congregational social work as a specialized field of professional practice based on their own work over the past 40 years with congregations, their research with congregations and congregational social workers, and a live panel of social workers currently serving professionally as congregational social workers. The institute will address the diversity of roles and identities of congregational social workers and give examples of job descriptions and the path into congregational social work.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:

1. Describe the diverse roles of social workers in leading congregations and the preparation needed for this field of practice.
2. Assess the opportunities social workers have to influence the health of congregations and their impact on the spiritual, social, and economic wellbeing of their neighborhoods.
3. Recognize the opportunities for field education and shaping professional employment in congregational settings.

Outline: Topics to be addressed and approximate timeframe

1. Describing the context (Garland) (75 minutes)
 - a) Describing our sample and other foundations of our work (10 min.)
 - b) Situating congregational social work in practice in religious settings – Definitions (20 min.)
 - c) The functions of congregations and how social workers lead in those functions (35 min.)
 - d) Q & A (10 min.)
2. Break (15 minutes)
3. Developing this field of practice through field (Yancey) (75 minutes)
 - a) Examples from the field (Yancey) (35 min.)
 - i. Panel of social workers currently in congregational practice
 - ii. Examples of job descriptions
 - b) Developing this field of practice – personally and as a profession (Yancey) (30 min.)
 - i. The path into congregational social work
 - ii. Field internships and developing employment opportunities
 - iii. Education and continuing development.
 - c) Q & A (10 min.)

Primary Audience: Social workers, social work students, congregational leaders

Content Level: Basic/Intermediate

Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 3.0

Bio Information:

Dr. Diana Garland is Dean of the School of Social Work, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, where she has served as Professor of Social Work since 1997. She co-authored with Dr. Gaynor Yancey the recently released *Congregational Social Work* (NACSW). Her book *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*, published in 2012, is a revised edition of her 1999 book that received the Book of the Year Award of the Academy of Parish Clergy. She is author, co-author, or editor of 18 other books and more than 150 professional articles and book chapters. She is a past board member and president of NACSW.

Dr. Gaynor Yancey is Professor of Social Work at Baylor University's School of Social Work. Her focus is on congregational social work--creating curriculum resources, consulting with and equipping congregational leadership, and developing students and congregations as collaborators in addressing human need. With numerous professional articles and book chapters on congregational community ministries, she serves as a consultant to congregations, the Community Ministries section editor for the *Journal of Family and Community Ministries*, and has co-authored a book, *Congregational Social Work*, with Diana Garland.