

# reconciliation & justice conference 2018

JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

# welcome!

## steering committee

**Macklann Basse**

Africa Missions with Nations  
Lomé, Togo, West Africa

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New City Fellowship  
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New City Fellowship  
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New City Network  
Chattanooga, TN

**Jonathan Seda**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to our 8th Annual Reconciliation and Justice Conference!

We are so grateful to God for all of you who are taking the time to gather in St. Louis to discuss, share and lean into a deeper understanding of God's commitment to reconcile us to Himself and one another through Christ. We believe the calling of God for the whole church is to live in a reconciled community and family of God's love that expresses a practical, compassionate practice of justice for the oppressed and vulnerable among us and for the broken world around us. We also believe these issues are part of the core expressions of what it means to follow Jesus Christ and live out the good news of the gospel of the kingdom.

Today, there is a great deal of heightened cultural turmoil around issues we in the community of God's people would refer to as justice and mercy concerns. On one level, it is heartening to hear so many people crying out around different areas of injustice and expressing some kind of deep longing and desire to see things set right. There is however, a tremendous amount of turmoil and confusion on how to see things move forward without demonizing and degrading one another. Protests are now a regular part of the cultural unrest, and many Christians are involved in a variety of ways in trying to add their voices to the cry. Politics divide the culture in deep ways, and in some cases, even divide the church. People too easily view one another as the ultimate enemy.

A crucial question confronts us as God's people: is there a God-revealed way of advancing the kingdom and the cause of God's righteousness in this world in the midst of the chaos of evil that marked the life and ministry of our King, and that we are meant to follow? The answer is a simple, profound and resounding yes - it is the way of the Cross of Christ.

Together, let's humble our hearts and be reminded and moved by the Spirit to re-learn and re-commit to a "protest movement" that is marked by the amazing grace and undeserved forgiveness and sacrificial love of Jesus for his enemies - which is exactly what we were.

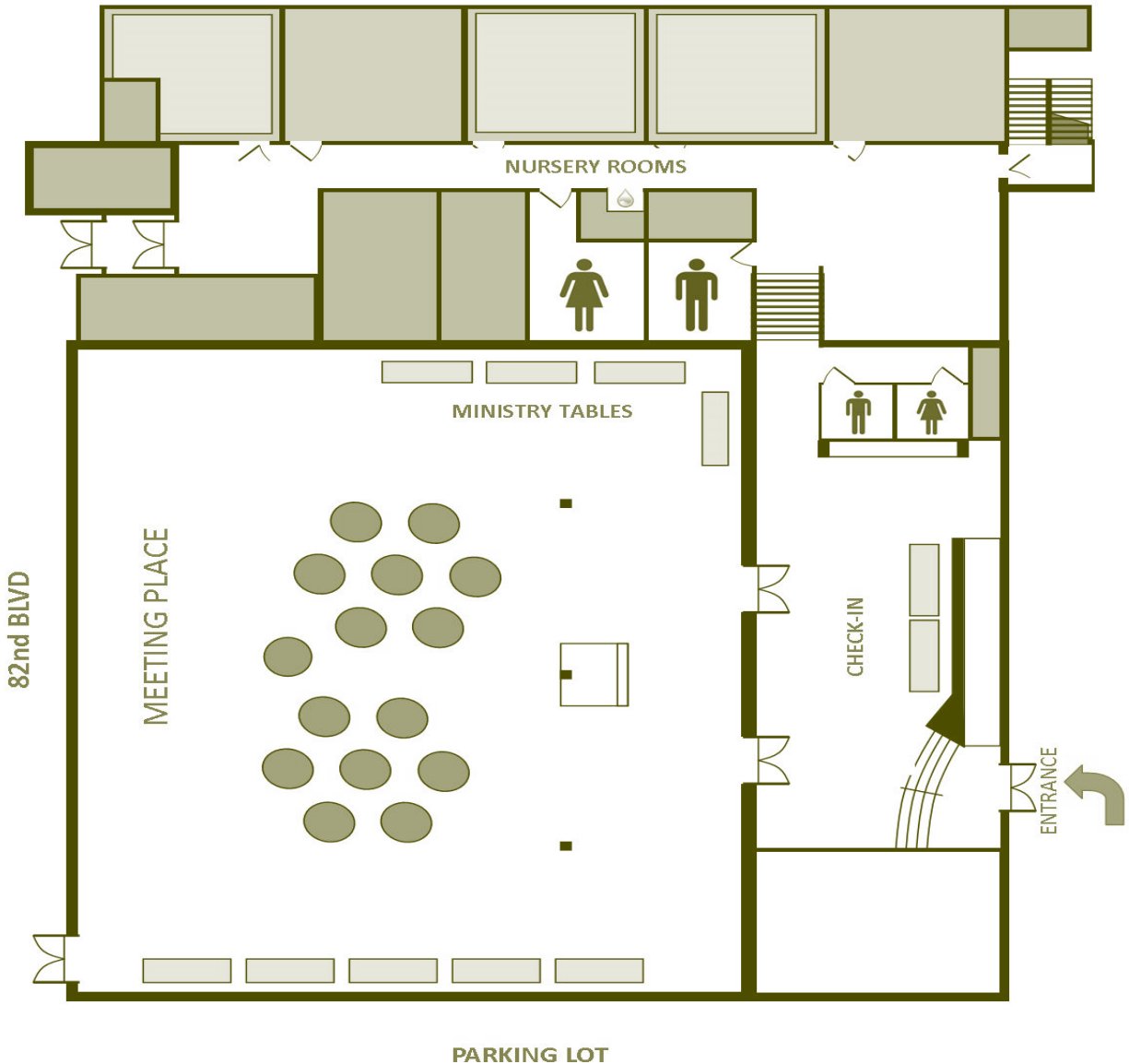
On behalf of the Steering Committee,



Barry Henning

# general information

## map of facilities



## wi-fi connection

- ◆ **Network:** NCF Events
- ◆ **Password:** RJC2018!

## charging stations

Electrical charging stations are available at the sound booth (in the back of the gym) and at the registration table in the foyer

## local eats

Looking for dinner options? Stop by the registration table for some recommendations!

## live streaming

Conference sessions will be live streamed on YouTube channel **RECONCILIATION JUSTICE NETWORK**

## conference audios

Conference audios and speaker materials will be posted online at [reconciliationjusticenetwork.com/conference/2018-conference](http://reconciliationjusticenetwork.com/conference/2018-conference). This link will be emailed to all conference attendees when materials are available

# conference schedule

## tuesday, january 23

8:00 - 9:00 am	<b>Registration in Foyer, Continental Breakfast in Gym</b>
9:00 - 9:30 am	Worship and Prayer
9:30 - 9:55 am	<b>“Taking Up the Cross: The Cost of Reconciliation”</b> - <i>Barry Henning</i>
9:55 - 10:10 am	Table Discussion
10:10 - 10:35 am	<b>“Laying Down Our Lives, Laying Down Our Possessions”</b> - <i>Randy Nabors</i>
10:35 - 10:50 am	Table Discussion
10:50 - 11:05 am	<i>Break</i>
11:05 - 11:30 am	<b>“Father Forgive Them Because They Know Not What They Do: Looking Beyond Oppressive Actions to the Deep Need of the Oppressor”</b> - <i>Josh Charette</i>
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Season of Prayer
12:00 - 12:40 pm	<b>Lunch in Gym</b>
12:40 - 1:00 pm	Worship
1:00 - 1:25 pm	<b>“When Your Enemy is Hungry, Feed Him: Heaping Coals and Fostering Repentance through Physical Acts of Love”</b> - <i>Kenny Foster</i>
1:25 - 1:40 pm	Table Discussion
1:40 - 2:05 pm	<b>“Christ Suffered for You, Leaving You an Example: Speaking the Truth While Enduring Injustice”</b> - <i>Thurman Williams</i>
2:05 - 2:20 pm	Table Discussion
2:20 - 2:35 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:35 - 3:00 pm	<b>“Our Struggle is Not Against Flesh and Blood: Keeping the Ultimate Enemy in View ”</b> - <i>Tony Myles</i>
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Large Group Discussion
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Season of Prayer; Dismissal - dinner out at local restaurants

# conference schedule

## wednesday, january 24

8:00 - 8:30 am	<b>Continental Breakfast in Gym</b>
8:30 - 9:00 am	Worship
9:00 - 9:25 am	<b>“Fear God, Honor the King:</b> Humbly Advancing the Kingdom Under Political Oppression” - <i>Leon Mukendi and Macklann Basse</i>
9:25 - 9:40 am	Table Discussion
9:40 - 10:05 am	<b>“Forgiving Each Other As Christ Forgave You:</b> Defeating Injustice in the Church through Forgiveness” - <i>Suzanne Bates</i>
10:05 - 10:20 am	Table Discussion
10:20 - 10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30 - 10:55 am	<b>“Incarnational Love:</b> The Call for Relocation” - <i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i>
10:55 - 11:25 am	Large Group Discussion
11:25 - 11:50 am	Season of Prayer
11:50 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Lunch in Gym</b>
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Closing Dialogue & Dismissal

### THE COST OF RECONCILIATION

**BARRY HENNING**

- The Advance of the Kingdom by the Way of the Cross

*Matthew 16:21-24* "From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. .... Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"
- The Messiah has come to renew all things - through the cross
  - His promise of blessing over us:
    - I will build my church
    - The gates of hell will not prevail
    - The keys to the kingdom are yours
    - Heaven and earth are bound together in our work
  - His means of accomplishing this renewal
    - 3 "musts"
- Our participation in the kingdom agenda requires us to take up the cross for the world as well
  - The source of the cross:
    - 3 no's
    - 1 focus
    - 1 joy-filled promise

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#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What kind of people do you think are the greatest obstacles to the advance of the kingdom?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think it will cost to pick up the cross of Christ in seeking to love them?

### THE SELF SACRIFICING CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY TO THE POOR

*RANDY NABORS*

#### The Risk Factors...

- Far away, or up close; relocation and redistribution and the question of cost to pursue ministry
  - Will you do ministry by “sending” it, or by living it? Presbyterian history.
  - What resources will you share with the community you live in, as an individual or as a church?
  - Will you recognize the cultural shift you represent by your arrival, the beginning of gentrification, a form of colonialism?
  - Is your spouse and family willing to share your calling and commitment, what are you willing to put her through and see her go without?
  - What stress do you see relocation bringing to your marriage or child raising?
- Living by faith, living by raising support, and the missionary call
  - Are you willing to live on less to accomplish the mission?
  - Are you willing to work more than one job to supply your financial need?
  - Are you willing to do the work of fund raising to either survive, or live at the level you think healthy for your family?
  - Do you think the Christian or church community is willing to sacrifice to help you to be there?
- How much do you need to support your family and what is your call, supporting your family or going where God sends you?
  - What is an appropriate life-style to maintain while you work among the poor? How much will that cost? Do you expect your spouse to work outside the home?
  - Here are some things people around you may not have...health insurance, car insurance, life insurance, retirement, legal residence, heat, ac, a car, full physical capability and health, healthy nutrition, a computer and internet service. They might never think about such things as school tuition, vacation, books, or study time. They might have better cable than you do.
- Living in contrast or comparison with the community you are called to reach
  - Will you feel comfortable having neighborhood folks in your home, will they feel comfortable being there?
  - Will you be thinking about security for your spouse, kids, house, and car a good deal of the time?

Issues of living in challenged communities: Poor schools, crime and violence, being a racial target, limited recreation and cultural opportunity, limited influence and access to power, limited or even hostile services from government, food desert, beggars. Temptations, lack of friendships, power differential in friendships, and becoming a target of misunderstanding can be involved in this kind of move.

Action steps and things to pray on ...

# session 3 FATHER FORGIVE THEM BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO

## LOOKING BEYOND OPPRESSIVE ACTIONS TO THE DEEP NEED OF THE OPPRESSOR *JOSH CHARETTE*

NOTES

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### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What response patterns do you recognize about yourself when you are faced with the actions of an oppressor?
2. What actions can we take to enable us to look beyond the oppressive actions to the deep need of the oppressor?
3. What do you think might happen if our first impulse to oppressive people and action was to pray for them and the situation?
4. What role does patience play in our life as the church in regard to oppression and enemies of reconciliation?



# session 4

## WHEN YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM

### HEAPING COALS AND FOSTERING REPENTANCE THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTS OF LOVE *KENNY FOSTER*

- A Posture of Peace
- Purpose to Win
- Predicated on the Principle of the Good

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#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How does the view through the lens of God's mercy change your value system, the view of yourself and your view of others?
2. What power do you possess for heaping coals on the head of your enemies?
3. What is the import of a Christ-centered eschatology in shaping your response to your enemies?
4. How do you work the goodness and beauty of God's mercy in Christ into your heart?
5. Identifying evil and addressing it is tricky. What evil do you see in your sphere and how can it be addressed by the goodness of God in Christ?

### SPEAKING THE TRUTH WHILE ENDURING INJUSTICE *THURMAN WILLIAMS*

- The Context of 1 Peter
  - Peter's Audience
  - Within the Letter
    - Living for Jesus in a Hostile World – 1 Peter 2:11-4:11
    - Testifying to the Gospel in the Context of the Societal Social Order – 1 Peter 2:18-3:12
    - Slavery in Peter's Context – 1 Peter 2:18-20
  - A Lesson in "Woke-ness" – Matthew 16:21-23 (13-28)
  
- Our Contexts
  - Dealing with the "S" Word
  - Injustices/Tensions Among Us
  - Possible Responses:
    - Silence – Proverbs 31:8-9
    - Vengeance – Romans 12:19-21
    - Prophetic Witness – Jeremiah 20:7-9; Isaiah 6
  
- The Context of Jesus
  - Jesus' Example – what He did that we can do – 1 Peter 2:21-23
  - Jesus' Empowering – what He did that we can't do – 1 Peter 2:24-25

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Where do you see the need for growth in "woke-ness" in the Church, in your church, and in you?
  
2. What are some of the injustices/tensions you see in your ministry context? How is the church responding to them? What might a response of prophetic witness look like there?
  
3. What opportunities are you seeing to follow Jesus' example of enduring unjust suffering?
  
4. Submit to Jesus' empowering. Have one person at your table read Isaiah 53 aloud. Respond with prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession/repentance, and commitment.

### TAKING YOUR STAND: FORGIVENESS AS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**TONY MYLES**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:10-13*

- The Arena for the Battle
  - Our Relationships
    - Example: Peter and Jesus - Matthew 16:21-23
  
- The Place and Power of Forgiveness in the Battle
  - Forgiveness creates a context for repentance to flourish
  - Forgiveness creates the context for restoration
    - Example: Peter and Jesus - Luke 22:31-32, John 21:15-17

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#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How can this perspective of forgiveness as warfare help us in pursuing peace across the many divisions in our world?
  
2. How can the church better equip believers to recognize Satan's schemes in creating division and fight against those schemes in the church and community around us?
  
3. Are there ways you can participate more faithfully in encouraging forgiveness in the church and community around you?

# session 7

FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING

HUMBLY ADVANCING THE KINGDOM UNDER POLITICAL OPPRESSION  
*LEON MUKENDI AND MACKLANN BASSE*

NOTES

# session 8

## FORGIVING EACH OTHER AS CHRIST FORGAVE US

### DEFEATING INJUSTICE IN THE CHURCH THROUGH FORGIVENESS SUZANNE BATES

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” - Romans 3:23*

- The Face of Injustice
  - In the World
  - In the Church
  
- The Face of Forgiveness
  - Definition and Origin
  - Choosing to Forgive
  - The Fruit of Forgiveness
  
- Defeating Injustice: Looking and Living Like Christ
  - Entering the Battle: Warfare?
  - Setting Captives Free
  - Emulating Christ

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#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the face of injustice within your church. How is it manifested? What are some of the contributing factors?
  
2. *Christians in community are to never give up on one another, never give up on a relationship, and never write off another believer. - Timothy Keller, “Serving Each Other Through Forgiveness and Reconciliation”*

Which point, on Keller’s list of what it looks like to forgive, might present as one of your greatest personal struggles in offering forgiveness?

3. *Allender (1992), states, “To forgive another is always an ongoing, deepening, quickening process, rather than a once and for all event.”*

How might your church and congregation cultivate this attitude toward forgiveness?

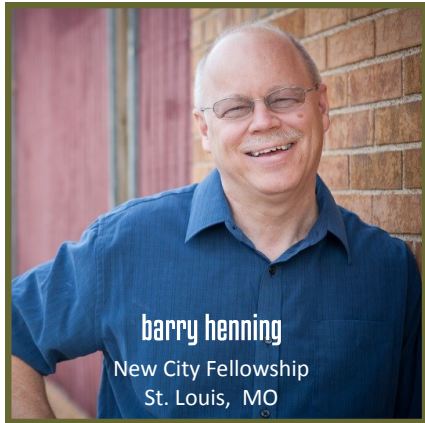
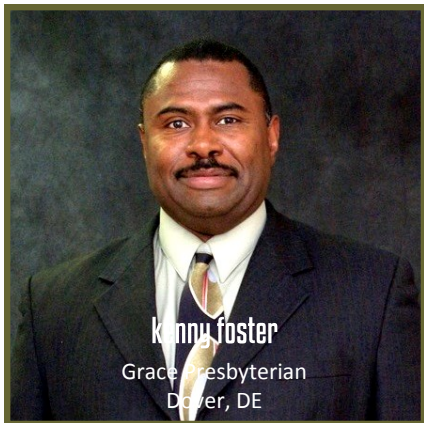
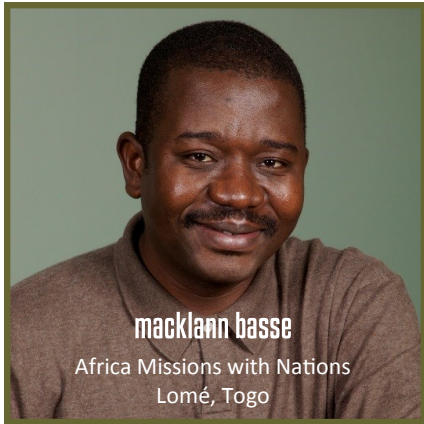
# session 9

## INCARNATIONAL LOVE

### THE CALL FOR RELOCATION *PANEL DISCUSSION*

# notes

# conference speakers



# rjc2018