

OUR DEFINING

unity

IN CHRIST

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.

John 17:22

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

reconciliation & justice
conference **2020**

JANUARY 28th & 29th SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

GENERAL INFO

Welcome to the annual Reconciliation and Justice Conference!

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:27-28

How can we build genuine unity and reconciliation in the church in America? Or for that matter, the church in Rwanda, Congo, Togo, Kenya, India, Burma...? Using cultural or ethnic or gender identity markers to define ourselves off against each other will not promote deep reconciliation. Quite radically, and quite stunningly to our flesh, God reminds us that rich oppressor and poor oppressed, those with cultural power and those without, have now become the one people of God - now, all of us, are equally identified as "one in Christ" through our faith in Him, and through the unity achieved and purchased by the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.

We are praying the 2020 Reconciliation and Justice Conference will fan the flames of our unity and heighten our witness of the reconciling power of Jesus Christ to a watching world.



Barry Henning

wi-fi connection

- ◆ **Network:** NCF Events
- ◆ **Password:** NCFEVENTS2020

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**

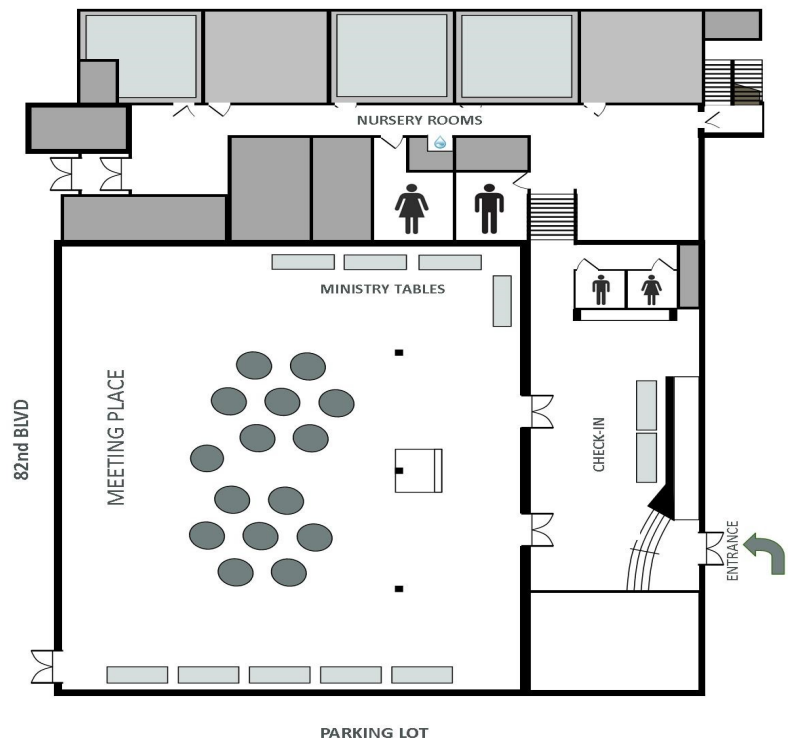
charging stations

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

conference audios

Conference audios and speaker materials will be posted online at reconciliationjusticenetwork.com/conference/2020-conference. This link will be emailed to all conference attendees when materials are available

map of facilities



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

tuesday, january 28th

8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration in Foyer, Breakfast in Gym
9:00 - 9:30 am	Worship and Prayer
9:30 - 9:55 am	“Unity Through the Cross: Forgiving as Christ Forgave Us” - Barry Henning
9:55 - 10:10 am	Table Discussion
10:10 - 10:35 am	“Unity in Our New Identity in Christ: The Core Identity Over All Others” - Irwyn Ince
10:35 - 10:50 am	Table Discussion
10:50 - 11:05 am	<i>Break</i>
11:05 - 11:30 am	“Unity Through the Anointing and Gifting of the Holy Spirit: One Spirit – A Diversity of People and Gifting ” - Thurman Williams
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Season of Prayer
12:00 -12:40 pm	Lunch in Gym
	Special Presentations - MNA, New City Network, KRS Theological Training
12:40 - 1:00 pm	Worship
1:00 - 1:25 pm	“Unity Through the Practice of Justice: How Genuine Reconciliation and Justice Are Interconnected ” - Ronnie Garcia
1:25 - 1:40 pm	Table Discussion
1:40 - 2:05 pm	“Unity Through Worship: Embracing Diverse Cultural Expressions of Worship ” - Mary Higgins and Jim Ward
2:05 - 2:20 pm	Table Discussion
2:20 - 2:35 pm	<i>Break</i>
2:35 - 3:00 pm	Panel Discussion - Craig Garriott; Caylee Dodson; Macklann Basse; Thurman Williams
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Season of Prayer; Dismissal - dinner out at local restaurants

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

wednesday, january 29th

8:00 - 8:30 am	Breakfast in Gym
8:30 - 9:00 am	Worship
9:00 - 9:25 am	“Unity Through Refusing Condemnation While Speaking the Truth in Love: How Mercy Triumphs Over Judgement” - <i>Joshua Charette</i>
9:25 - 9:40 am	Table Discussion
9:40 - 10:05 am	“Unity Through Embracing Our Diversity: Intentionally Reconciling Gender, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity in the Kingdom” - <i>Denine Blevins and Suzanne Bates</i>
10:05 - 10:20 am	Table Discussion
10:20 - 10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30 - 10:55 am	“Unity Through Preaching Reconciliation and Justice Themes in Scripture” - <i>Tony Myles</i>
10:55 - 11:25 am	Table Discussion
11:25 - 11:50 am	Season of Prayer
11:50 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch in Gym - PARAKALEO Lunch in Admin building
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Panel Discussion
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Closing Dialogue & Dismissal

njc2020

SESSION 1

UNITY THROUGH THE CROSS

FORGIVING AS CHRIST FORGAVE US

Reverend Barry Henning – Founding Pastor, New City Fellowship, St. Louis, MO

Galatians 3:27-28 *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*

Psalm 32:1-11 *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.*

1. Our sins being forgiven involves more than "pardon." In both the Hebrew "nasa" and the Greek "aphiema" words for forgiveness, the meaning includes a "lifting off" or "releasing" or "sending away."
2. Our sins being "covered" means God is actively "hiding" our sins from His sight.
3. Our sins being forgiven means they are not counted or reckoned or imputed to us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. As you work towards and seek to promote the reconciliation of Christ among His people, how much are you engaged in an active forgiveness that mirrors the forgiveness of Christ?
2. Do you find it easier to forgive the lost and confused unbeliever than it is to forgive your brothers and sisters in the Lord who may not see the need for reconciliation and justice, or see it differently?
3. The opposite of forgiveness is judgment. Without forgiveness from God, we are only left with his judgment. Do you ever struggle with the desire to take the place of God and judge and condemn your brothers and sisters?
4. How much do you find strength, hope and encouragement for the task of promoting reconciliation and justice by actively embracing the forgiveness of Christ as the path to freedom and perseverance?

SESSION 2 UNITY IN OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

THE CORE IDENTITY OVER ALL OTHERS

Reverend Irwyn Ince - Founding Director, Grace DC Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission, Washington, DC

1. The Pretext for Our Core Identity
2. The Partition of Our Core Identity
3. The Promise for Our Core Identity
4. The Practice of Our Core Identity

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How does a “colorblind,” or “I don’t see color” approach to unity in our identity in Christ threaten that unity?
2. What is/are the difference(s) between living like we are colorblind and living like we are unified in our new identity in Christ?
3. As we pursue unity in our new identity in Christ, is there a need for affinity spaces (cultural, ethnic, etc.)? If not, why not? If so, why?

SESSION 3 UNITY THROUGH THE ANOINTING AND GIFTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ONE SPIRIT – A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE AND GIFTING

Reverend Thurman Williams – Senior Pastor, New City Fellowship West End, St. Louis, MO

1. The Unifying Purpose of the Holy Spirit
 - Examples from Scripture
 - Examples from our lives / ministries
2. The Unifying Power of the Holy Spirit
 - For Transformation
 - For Witness
 - For Ministry (gifting)
3. The Unifying Presence of the Holy Spirit
 - Individually
 - Corporately

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What examples have you seen in your life and ministry of the Holy Spirit's unifying people across racial, cultural and / or other lines?
2. What do you see as potential threats in your ministry context to keeping the unity of the Spirit? What are some possible opportunities for growth?

SESSION 4 UNITY THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF JUSTICE

HOW GENUINE RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE ARE INTERCONNECTED *Reverend Ronnie Garcia – Pastor, La TRAVESÍA Church, San Juan, Puerto Rico*

Colossians: 3:11-17 “Justice through Unity” *Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Proposition: Justice is a concrete response triggered by unity.

MP1: Just affection: Unity directs our affection towards those who God loves (vv11,15; cf. Psalm 68:5; Isaiah 1:12-17)

MP2: Just endurance: Unity gives perseverance for justice (vv12-14; cf. Luke 11:11-12)

MP3: Just worship: Unity produces deeper worship that God receives (v16; cf. Isaiah 58)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Have you ever been in a situation in which you were forced to be around someone that you were sure you would not like? (Or perhaps you were simply nervous and anxious because you did not know what that person was like.) What changed after you spent time together, or worked together? How does ‘proximity’ (i.e. unity) give occasion for a new relationship?
2. When you watch the news, do you ever find yourself overwhelmed by the sheer volume of injustices in the world? Have you ever thought to yourself, ‘why bother?!’ Working for justice is like filling up leaky buckets. The work is endless. If the common ingredient is not super-spirituality, then what is the difference between a person with endurance, and a person without? How does unity give us endurance? How does the Spirit want to give you a new endurance to love others?
3. What is going on in our hearts when we seek an experience of love for God while not equally seeking an experience of love for those who are dear to His heart? Why do we do that? What are the fears that hold our hearts hostage? What is God teaching you about the worship that God receives?

SESSION 5 UNITY THROUGH WORSHIP

EMBRACING DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

Mary Higgins – Worship Director, Central West End Church, St. Louis, MO

Jim Ward – Pastor, New City Fellowship, St. Louis, MO

MARY:

1. Look at / Look to: beyond “optics”
2. Seeds, water, and sun: room to grow
3. Make it happen: Not as easy as it looks

JIM:

1. For His Glory
2. Christ Crucified: Our Power, Our Testimony
3. Our Failings: Division and Judgment
4. Moving Forward: How do we build our unity as the Church in Music and Worship?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Share concrete steps you would take to go beyond “optics”; ex. Equipping, training, etc.
2. Share ways you mentor your staff; ex. Exercises, opportunities, conferences ...
3. How do keep your ministry leaders/members aligned to the vision of your church?

SESSION 6 PANEL DISCUSSION

Craig Garriott – Exec. Dir. Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement, Baltimore, MD
Caylee Dodson – Director, Restore OKC, Oklahoma City, OK
Macklann Basse – Director, Africa Missions with Nations, Lomé, TOGO
Thurman Williams – Senior Pastor, New City Fellowship West End, St. Louis, MO

NOTES:

SESSION 7

UNITY THROUGH REFUSING CONDEMNATION WHILE SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

HOW MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGEMENT

Reverend Joshua Charette – Pastor, Great Plains Gathering, Billings, MT

1. Unity means desiring mercy, not sacrifice
2. Unity means mercy absorbs the cost of deep offense
3. Unity means I am learning to judge myself rightly
4. Unity means being merciful in a community that lacks historical memory
5. Unity means forbearance under deep difference
6. Unity means speaking honestly and vulnerably
7. Unity means friendship and love without fear

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Reconciliation is part of our identity in Christ. What are some ways we can be passive in pursuing reconciliation with others who may be ignorant and indifferent towards us?
2. It is easy to be judgmental toward others who appear to be behind in regard to the conversation of reconciliation and justice. How can we remain helpful and humble in the way we engage this conversation with others?
3. In what ways does judgment come more naturally than mercy in our interactions and relationships with others?

SESSION 8 UNITY THROUGH EMBRACING OUR DIVERSITY

INTENTIONALLY RECONCILING GENDER, ETHNIC, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE KINGDOM

Denine Blevins – Operations Manager, African American Ministries PCA – Huntsville, AL

Suzanne Bates – Professor, Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Philippians 2:3-4 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1. Men and women co-laboring takes intentionality
2. Fear limits our opportunities to work collaboratively toward a gospel-advancing mission
3. We must strive to have the mind of Christ, who related comfortably with the opposite sex

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How does the absence of women as co-laborers hinder gospel mission?
2. What role might fear play in how men and women co-labor together? Give specific examples (either imaginary or from your own experience).
3. As a man or a woman, how is God inviting you to repent in this area? (examples: failing to esteem women, grasping for power for personal gain).

SESSION 9 UNITY THROUGH THE WORD

PREACHING RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE THEMES IN SCRIPTURE

Tony Myles – Senior Pastor, New City Fellowship, St. Louis, MO

NOTES:

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Are you currently preaching and teaching these themes in your church? If so, how have you seen this impact your congregation and staff?
2. In what ways do you believe your church and staff need to grow in preaching/teaching these themes?
3. What resources are you currently using or have recently used that were helpful in preaching and teaching these themes in your church ?

SESSION 10

PANEL DISCUSSION

NOTES:

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



macklann basse

Africa Missions with Nations
Lomé, Togo



suzanne bates

NCF / Covenant Seminary
St. Louis, MO



denine blevins

African American Ministries
Huntsville, AL



josh charette

Great Plains Gathering
Billings, MT



caylee dodson

Restore OKC
Oklahoma City, OK



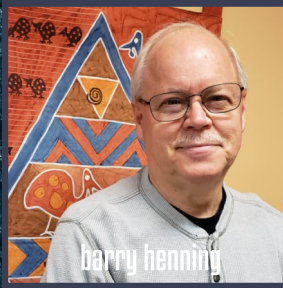
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