

## BRIDGEFOLK CONFERENCE 2021

### “CALLED TOGETHER TO FACE RACIAL INJUSTICE: STARTING CLOSE IN”

<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021</b>		
	START	END
<p><b>SESSION #1</b>            Conference opening: Welcome and opening worship, including reading of the poem “Start Close In” by David Whyte: <a href="http://stevenkharper.com">Poem To Live By - Start Close In (stevenkharper.com)</a></p> <p>Presentation by <b>Dr. Laurie Cassidy</b>, theologian, spiritual director and author, currently teaching in the Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University. Dr. Cassidy will lead an interactive session which will help participants to model how “to start close in” and identify racist attitudes both personally and in the broader community.</p>	8 AM PDT 9 AM MDT 10 AM CDT 11 AM EDT	10 PDT 11 MDT 12 CDT 1 EDT
<p><b>Space to Debrief</b>            There will be two debriefing rooms, with separate Zoom links, one for People of Color (hosted by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht), and another for those who identify as White (hosted by Samantha Lioi).</p>	12 PM PDT 1 PM MDT 2 PM CDT 3 PM EDT	12:45 PDT 1:45 MDT 2:45 CDT 3:45 EDT
<p><b>SESSION #2</b>  <b>Steve Heinrichs</b>, Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations for Mennonite Church Canada, is an author and activist working alongside Indigenous Peoples. He has edited several collections on Indigenous-Settler relations and the churches’ responsibility to right the wrongs of the past. Steve will explore how issues of racism, whiteness and land dispossession are connected and share from his personal experience of accompanying Indigenous Peoples in their struggle for justice.</p>	1 PM PDT 2 PM MDT 3 PM CDT 4 PM EDT	3 PDT 4 MDT 5 CDT 6 EDT
<p><b>SESSION #3</b>            Evening Prayer, led by <b>Abbot John Klassen</b> (co-chair, Bridgefolk Board) will include psalmody, hymn-singing, scripture reading and intercessions.</p>	5:30 PM PDT 6:30 PM MDT 7:30 PM CDT 8:30 PM EDT	6 PDT 7 MDT 8 CDT 9 EDT

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### “CALLED TOGETHER TO FACE RACIAL INJUSTICE: STARTING CLOSE IN”

<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021</b>		
	START	END
<p><b>SESSION #4</b>  <b>Dr. Diana Hayes</b>, Professor Emerita, Georgetown University, is a noted theologian and author. She was the first African American woman to receive the Pontifical Doctor of Sacred Theology degree (S.T.D.) from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). Her presentation will explore systemic racism and the role of faith traditions from a Womanist and Black Liberation Theology perspective.</p>	8 AM PDT 9 AM MDT 10 AM CDT 11 AM EDT	10 PDT 11 MDT 12 CDT 1 EDT
<p><b>SESSION #5</b>            Having listened to the conference discussion, <b>Dr. Margie Pfeil</b> (Notre Dame) and <b>Nekeisha Alayna Alexis</b> (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) will co-facilitate a session to help participants identify how they have been personally challenged during these two days and to identify ways in which they can move forward in making a personal commitment to becoming anti-racist.</p>	1 PM PDT 2 PM MDT 3 PM CDT 4 PM EDT	2:30 PDT 3:30 MDT 4:30 CDT 5:30 EDT
<p><b>Space to Debrief</b>            There will be two debriefing rooms, with separate Zoom links, one for People of Color (hosted by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht), and another for those who identify as White (hosted by Samantha Lioi).</p>	2:45 PM PDT 3:45 PM MDT 4:45 PM CDT 5:45 PM EDT	3:15 PDT 4:15 MDT 5:15 CDT 6:15 EDT
<p><b>SESSION #6</b>            Closing Worship led by <b>Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Soto Albrecht</b>, Bridgefolk Board member, will draw on the tradition of the Agape/Footwashing service. The service will include a reading from Scripture and a prayer of commitment to serve through consciously continuing to “start close in,” face the root and causes of racial injustice and modify our behavior in ways that lead us to become more intentionally anti-racist.</p>	5 PM PDT 6 PM MDT 7 PM CDT 8 PM EDT	6 PDT 7 MDT 8 CDT 9 EDT