

Bridgefolk Conference 2022

Mennonites and Catholics in Dialogue

“Standing at the Crossroads”

St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN
July 21-24

******All listed times are Central Daylight******

****Sessions highlighted in Blue will be broadcast via Zoom.
Content sessions will be recorded.****

Thursday, July 21

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Arrival, Registration and room assignment, Saint Mary Hall Basement

5:30 Dinner, Student Refectory (after going through the food line, proceed to the Walter Reger Room, reserved for Bridgefolk participants)

7:00 Opening Session, Abbey Chapter House

- Welcome by Abbot John Klassen & Muriel Bechtel
- Worship and music - Dr. Sarah K. Johnson & Carl Bear
- Introduction of participants - in-person and remote
- Situating the conference within 20 years of Bridgefolk History - Abbott John Klassen & Marlene Kropf

8:30 Night Prayer (Zoom will remain open for 30 minutes for on-line social time, following prayer)

8:45 Social, Abbey Chapter House

FRIDAY, JULY 22

7:00 Morning Prayer in Abbey Church (optional)

7:30 Breakfast, SJU Student Refectory

9:00 Opening Worship, Abbey Chapter House

9:30 Morning Session, Abbey Chapter House

- Sr. Karen Rose, OSB, moderator

- Introduction of the conference theme

Sr. Pat Kennedy, OSB, Saint Benedict's Monastery, and **Jaime Arsenault**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the White Earth Nation in northern Minnesota, will share the story of their communities' collaborative project to reckon with the history of the industrial and mission boarding schools (1878-1945) which the Sisters of Saint Benedict operated on three sites, including the monastery, White Earth and Red Lake Reservations, beginning in 1884.

- Break (10:45-11:00)

- Discussion (11:00-11:45) (25 minutes of circle/table discussion with framing questions from presenters; 20 minutes of open discussion)

12:00 Midday Prayer, Abbey Church (optional)

12:15 Lunch, SJU Student Refectory

1:00 Opportunity to walk and enjoy the land and lakes of St John's Abbey
(Bridgefolk Board Meeting 12:45-1:45, Abbot Alcuin Conference Room)

2:00 Afternoon Session: Theological Reflections on "How Does a Tradition Repent?"

- Margie Pfeil, moderator

- **Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs**, Co-Director for Racial Justice, Minnesota Council of Churches. A member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, Rev. Jacobs has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served in ministry

positions in several churches. He developed the “Healing Minnesota Stories” program and co-leads Sacred Site Tours in an effort to create understanding and healing between Native American and non-Native people, particularly those in faith communities.

- **Jeremy Bergen, PhD**, Associate Professor Religious Studies and Theological Studies, Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, and Faculty Fellow, Toronto Mennonite Theological Center. Dr. Bergen’s research interests include church apologies for historical wrongs. He is author of *Ecclesial Repentance: The Churches Confront Their Sinful Pasts* (T&T Clark, 2011).

- Break (3:15-3:30)

- **Discussion (3:30-4:15)** (25 minutes of circle/table discussion w/ framing questions from presenters; 20 minutes of open discussion) (ZOOM will remain open until 5 p.m.)

5:00 Eucharist (Abbey Church - optional)

5:30 Supper, SJU Student Refectory

7:00 Evening Prayer (Abbey Church – optional)

7:45 Hymn Sing, Founders Room

8:45 Ice Cream Social, Founders Room

SATURDAY, JULY 23

7:00 Morning Prayer in Abbey Church (optional)

7:30 Breakfast, SJU Student Refectory

9:00 Opening Worship, Abbey Chapter House

9:30 Morning Session, Abbey Chapter House
-Joetta Handrich Schlabach, moderator

Erica Littlewolf, Indigenous Visioning Circle Program Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee-Central States and member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation, and **John Stoesz**, former Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee-Central States and advocate for indigenous land recovery, will share about work among Mennonites in the United States to raise awareness and action regarding the Doctrine of Discovery and the history of Indigenous removal from lands settled by European immigrants.

Break (10:30-10:45)

Questions and discussion (10:45-11:30) (25 minutes of circle/table discussion w/ framing questions from presenters; 20 minutes of open discussion)

11:45 Centering prayer, led by Abbot John Klassen

12:00 Lunch, SJU Student Refectory

2:00 Bridgefolk 20th Anniversary Panel presentation and discussion with founding members Marlene Kropf, Weldon Nisly, and Gerald Schlabach, along with Abbot John Klassen

- Fr. William Skudlarek, OSB, moderator

3:00 Break

3:15 Exploring future directions for Bridgefolk - Table and on-line discussion moderated by Muriel Bechtel

5:30 Foot Washing /Agape Meal, Quad 264

Fr. John Meoska, OSB, and Marlene Kropf, presiders

5:30 Zoom liturgy led by Elizabeth Soto

SUNDAY, JULY 24

7:00 – 9:00 Check out, Mary Hall Basement

7:00 Morning Prayer in Abbey Church (optional)

7:30 Breakfast, SJU Student Refectory

8:30-10:15 Integrated closing worship and reflection on conference theme, take-aways, and commitments, Abbey Chapter House

- led by Samantha Lioi, Sarah Johnson, and Carl Bear

10:30 Mass with the monastic community (*optional*)

11:00 Departure with bag lunches available

11:45 Lunch, SJU Student Refectory, for those departing in the afternoon