

JUNE 2023

COMMUNITY OF HOPE International



Porter at the Door of the World

**COHI 2023
Conference**

**All Saints Church
Atlanta, GA
October 19-21, 2023**



COHI 2023 CONFERENCE

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

"Leaning In" Series

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH | MARCH-AUGUST | 12PM US EST ON ZOOM

Jul 1, 2023

Meet the Board of Directors

Aug 5, 2023

Spiritual Gifts

Contact us at (210) 305-8066 or event.registrations@cohinternational.org

Register here: ["Leaning In" Facilitator Exchange Series](#)



New Board Face-to-Face Meeting at Kanuga, NC

PAM PIEDFORT

ST. GEORGE CHURCH - SAN ANTONIO, TX

May 23-25 was a time of laughing, working, and bonding for the new board members, Aimee Bostwick, Curriculum Chair; Joe Merlino, Membership Chair; and Willie Bobo, Communication Chair; along with the executive committee; Sarah Roberts, President; Steve Bartlett, Treasurer; and Pam Piedfort, Secretary.

The team, under the direction of Coach Brian Prior, fine tuned the extensive work done the last 18 months to update COHI's processes, procedures, and curriculum and finished planning the 2023 COHI Conference in Atlanta.



From left front: Coach Brian Prior, President Sarah Roberts, Aimee Bostwick, Pam Piedfort. Back row: Steve Bartlett, Willie Bobo, Joe Merlino.



Atlanta to Kanuga Road Crew!

Attend the July 1 Leaning In session for a Meet the Board event to see and talk to our new Board and Executive Committee!

Heritage Region Welcomes New Region Rep.

BEVERLY DAVIS

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH - HOUSTON

Lynnae Schatz has accepted the position of Regional Representative for the Heritage Region. She has worn several hats with COHI, including Board Member and Facilitator Training Facilitator which she will repeat this August. Beverly Davis is the retiring Regional Rep. and has been an asset to the Region and a friend to all.





Recommissioning at St. Mark's

JENNIFER SASSIN

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SAN MARCOS, TX

COHI lay chaplains at St. Mark's Episcopal in San Marcos, TX were recently recommissioned by The Rev. Christian Hawley.

Present for the recommissioning: Carolyn Dobbs,
Mike Boone, Linda Nichols, Donna Lewis,

Ken Nesbitt, Lee Williams, Cindy Knox, Lynn Ahrens,
Sheila Fling, Jennifer Sassin, and Lin Boudreaux.

Absent: Michael Casey and Brandon Beck



COHI Welcomes a New Heritage Region Center!

We are happy to add a new center to our rolls!
Sugar Land Methodist Church joins Heritage
Region to do the work of pastoral care through
Benedictine Spirituality,



**Sugar Land
Methodist Church**



News from the West Texas Region

TRICIA JONES - WEST TEXAS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
ST. FRANCES BY THE LAKE - CANYON LAKE, TX

The COHI West Texas Region is planning a regional training via Zoom beginning Saturday, August 19 and continuing weekly until the first week of December. This is a unique opportunity for existing centers to invite folks who may be interested in becoming a Lay Chaplain/Lay Pastoral Caregiver to participate in the training and the local center will not have to facilitate or find faculty for the 14 week training! Planning is well underway, although we have some fine-tuning to complete.



The host Zoom site is St George Episcopal Church in San Antonio. We envision that local folks would gather together at St. George to participate in the Zoom so that the bonds of friendship and community at the local center may grow along with developing these bonds with others in the region virtually. Terrific faculty have been confirmed for each module and Pam Piedfort and Tricia Jones will co-facilitate the sessions. Each West Texas Regional center will be responsible for ensuring each participant completes the participant application process and is provided with the participant training manual and a copy of the book *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century* by Joan Chittister. More information about the training will be sent this summer to all current West Texas Region centers. West Texas centers are asked to prayerfully consider who you may invite to participate in this training at your church or local organization partners. Questions, suggestions or offers to help, may be directed to Tricia Jones at triciajones.wtx@cohinternational.org or 512 497-2297.



Founder Edwin Sasek Shares the Work of ABODE–Contemplative Care for the Dying

PAM PIEDFORT

ST. GEORGE CHURCH - SAN ANTONIO, TX

Hospice Chaplain Edwin Sasek had a vision of a place where persons slipping into their next life could spend their last days, or hours, in a calm, contemplative atmosphere and not in a hospital or a nursing home. After years of praying and planning, Edwin and his wife Patsy brought ABODE to life in San Antonio, TX. Because the past couple of years have been so brutal for St. George due to the deaths of many beloved friends and family members, our COHI center brought Edwin and Executive Director Mary Thorsby in to discuss grief, last days of life, and support services they provide for those in grief.



Edwin & Mary



Edwin writes, "I remember all the loving work of so many people who helped to make our dream of 20 years a reality. As a hospice chaplain, and with Patsy in her work as a volunteer coordinator, we had seen how needed and valued such a home would provide, and friends, colleagues, and family joined in the effort. Along with volunteers and community partners and the founding board of directors, we raised the money to build and furnish the three-bedroom ABODE Home on a beautiful tree-filled landscape.

Through the generosity of many, ABODE opened without a mortgage."

To find out more about ABODE and to access its rich and prolific archive, go to the website abodehome.org. Edwin and Mary are also available to share their expertise with your center via ZOOM.



The newest video password
has been released!
Please check with your
regional rep. for more
information.

We want to hear from you!
Tell us about books and blogs you like, ways of reaching care-receivers,
and training ideas that work. **Deadline: June 30, 2023**
Email Pam Piedfort at Pam.Piedfort@cohinternational.org to share your
story!