

AUGUST 2023

COMMUNITY OF HOPE International



Porter at the Door of the World

COHI 2023 Conference

**All Saints
Episcopal Church
Atlanta, GA
October 19 @ 2pm-
October 21 @ 12pm**



**The Rev. Willard
Kamandani,
Priest in the
Anglican Diocese of
Southern Malawi**



Porter at the Door of the World

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The Reverend Willard Kamandani, Priest in the Anglican Diocese of Southern Malawi

LOCATION:

All Saints Episcopal Church

TRANSPORTATION:

click [*here*](#) for further details.

ACCOMODATIONS:

Book your own accommodations according to your needs* and budget. The closest hotels, within 2 city blocks walking distance are (ordered according to distance from All Saints Church & MARTA):

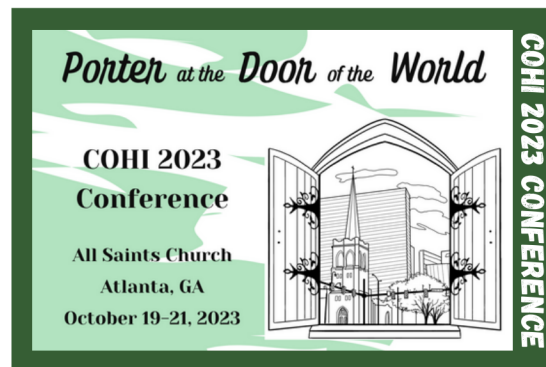
REGISTRATION:

In-Person Conference Registration - \$275 (In-Person Conference Registration Fee includes some meals (2 continental breakfasts, 1 catered lunch, 1 catered dinner, & 2 evening socials))

Zoom Participation Conference Registration - \$125

[Click HERE to register!](#)

[Click HERE for details and more information!](#)





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.





Record-Setting Number of New Centers!

CAROLYN COCKROFT-START-UP COORDINATOR

College of St. John's School of Theology/Diocese of St. Cloud
Collegetown, MN (4 centers)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Colonial Heights, VA

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC

The School for Ministry from the Diocese of East Carolina
Wilmington, NC

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
San Antonio, TX

Diocese of Vermont:

- **All Saints Episcopal Church**, Burlington, VT
- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, Vergennes, VT

- **Grace Episcopal Church**, Sheldon, VT
- **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, St. Albans City, VT

- **St. James Episcopal Church**, Arlington, VT
 - **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**, Bennington, VT
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Hours vs. Impact

SARAH ROBERTS - COHI PRESIDENT

For years there have been many questions pertaining to the counting of hours and visits. What constitutes a visit? How do I count multiple care receivers in the same visit? What if I make a phone call but have to leave a message, does that count? It takes an hour to drive to the facility and back. Should I count that time as well? The list goes on!

These are all good and valid questions that have forced us to examine what exactly we are counting and why it matters. The answer is in the question, what is the impact our organization is making? The impact pertains to our members, as well as our greater church and secular communities. It matters because we need to be able to measure, in some way, how effective our curriculum and structure are.



The answers are useful in myriad ways. We can convey to new faith communities and grantors the value of investing in Community of Hope International. We can evaluate and update our structure and modules. We can use this information to provide more opportunities to support the spiritual formation of our members and their varied ministries. The information can be communicated to the leadership of each church or organization to know that the investment they made continues to be valuable.

So, what is our impact? Our mission statement says, "Creating communities steeped in Benedictine spirituality, to serve others through compassionate listening." If serving others through compassionate listening is what we're doing, what is the best way to measure that?

I, for one, realize that my participation in Community of Hope has changed the way I see and respond to the world. It has awakened an awareness in me that everyone I interact with could be defined as a care receiver. It has become a way of life and that is truly hard to measure. Furthermore, who says how impactful our interactions are and is impact relative to time spent with a care receiver? I don't believe it is.

I believe that the potential impact should be counted equally, without regard to time. A better way to communicate impact is in the phrase "pastoral encounter". I believe that perhaps a more profound impact could be happening in 30 seconds with a member of the homeless population as opposed to 30 minutes in a hospital room. The point here is that one is not better than the other. Both of these examples are great and necessary expressions of ways we live into our individual calls and serve others through compassionate listening.

Let's begin counting pastoral encounters without hours. We are asking for an estimate. A great way to count would be to include an acknowledgement of your daily pastoral encounters during your prayer time. It could be part of your settling into silence, a brief thought of each encounter and lifting each care receiver to God in your prayer, a sort of handing off, as we are not responsible for outcomes. Perhaps you practice the daily examen before bed, briefly overviewing the day and where you met Christ in others. For more on this topic, please ask your Regional Representative for a recording of the "Leaning In" Series Session 4: Expanding the Definition of Pastoral Care.

I believe that by realizing how much impact you have on others in a given day, week, or month, will be profound for you. Not all encounters look the same, and that is okay. In the words of Desmond Tutu, "Do your little bit of good where you are, it's those bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."



Caregivers Minister to their Own

THE REV. JOANNA SEIBERTM, MD

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH-LITTLE ROCK



St. Mark's Episcopal Church has five members of our congregation at one nursing facility. Our Community of Hope caregivers go together and have lunch with them once a month. At this gathering we had catfish! After lunch we bring Eucharist to them. It is like having a small congregation!

**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 & blogs you like, ways of reaching care-receivers, and training ideas that work!

DEADLINE: 7/30/2023

Email Pam Piedfort to share your story!

pam.piedfort@cohinternational.org

