

JULY 2023

# COMMUNITY OF HOPE International



*Porter at the Door of the World*

**COHI 2023  
Conference**

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



***Keynote Speaker:***

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





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## 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:

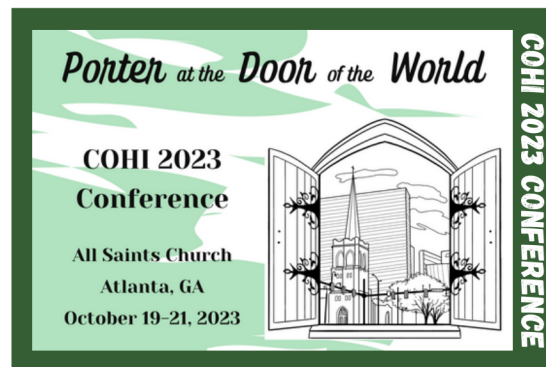
In-Person Conference Registration - \$275 (In-Person Conference Registration Fee includes some meals (2 continental breakfasts, 1 catered lunch, 1 catered dinner, & 2 evening socials))

Zoom Participation Conference Registration - \$125

[Click HERE to register!](#)

[Click HERE for DETAILED information!](#)

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## 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](mailto:triciajones.wtx@cohinternational.org) or 512 497-2297.





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## Live as Close to the Benedictine Life as You Can

**WILLIE BOBO - COHI COMMUNICATION CHAIR  
ST. JAMES UMC, LITTLE ROCK**

While working out of town one night, I went next door to my hotel to grab a bite to eat. I took an empty seat at the bar and ended up sitting next to the friendly woman that owned the place. She's the daughter of a retired pastor and a grant writer, so I instantly began talking about COHI (COHI was right in the middle of applying for a major grant at the time). When I explained that we train lay chaplains, she threw her hands in the air, shouted, "Thank God!" and proceeded to tell me what a wonderful ministry she thinks COHI is. Our conversation continued with the Holy Spirit moving all throughout.



She then introduced me to a friend of hers, a cardiologist from Africa who was familiar with Malawi. I brought him up to speed on COHI, told him I recently accepted a position on the board, and what an honor it was for me to be a part of such a great organization. He responded with an enthusiastic, "You're kidding me?!" and then he told me about a phone call he'd been on with a former classmate from his boarding school in Africa right before he joined in our conversation that he hadn't spoken to in 30 years. The classmate is part of a coalition with some other classmates of theirs to make the world a better place, and he had called my new friend asking him to join the coalition.

After hearing my story about joining the COHI board, he was inspired to join the coalition. As he departed to tell his friends of his recent conversation, he introduced me to a young lady and informed me that she was raised Mormon. She worked there but was off that night. She took a seat next to me, and we began to talk. Without me having to say much, she opened up to me telling me she had lost her faith and didn't believe in God anymore. And even though she wore a tattoo of Joan of Arc on her arm, she said that she "would be very angry if she found out God is real."

Even after the two previous conversations and the wonderful things shared, I instantly knew she was why I was sitting in that seat, at that place, at that time. The discussions held inside of COHI about being a caregiver to anyone, anywhere were realized right before me in the biggest of ways.

With people buzzing all around us, we were in our own little space unaffected by it all. My training kicked in without me even thinking about it. God took over. The tattoo of Joan of Arc was a great topic to start with, and after quite a while and many tears, she smiled, thanked me, and told me that was the best conversation she'd had in a really long time (though she did most of the talking). I told her I had something that might help her with her faith, and would bring it to her the next day as she was working then.

After I finished working the next day, I stopped in and gave her my copy of the devotional book *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. I told her I start every day with it, and if she would stick with reading it every day, I felt like she might have a different outlook on things. She thanked me again and told me she already felt better.

The night I met her, I hadn't actually planned to be there then. But something told me to go up a day early. I encourage you all to live as close to the Benedictine life as you can every day and take your training with you wherever you go. You never know the random opportunities someone will need you to be a listening presence.

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## New Center Commissions: First Two Lay Caregivers

**THE REV. DR. WILLIAM LYTLE - RECTOR**  
**CHRIST CHURCH**

The new training center at Christ Church, Gilbertsville, New York commissioned its first two lay pastoral caregivers, Susan Beach and Carol Angelone, on Pentecost. This August Carol and Sue will complete the facilitator training course and will lead Christ Church's second training beginning September 7, 2023.



Gilbertsville is a small village in a rural region. Clergy here are often stretched very thin, caring for three or more congregations, while many other congregations have no clergy at all. There has been significant interest from several churches of different denominations in seeing lay pastoral caregivers trained at the Christ Church center so that the people of this underserved area might have greater access to pastoral care. The Community of Hope International is well situated to answer the needs of these rural Upstate communities where hope is truly what they need most.

## "Leaning In" Series

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

***Aug 5, 2023***

***Spiritual Gifts***

Contact us at (210) 305-8066 or [event.registrations@cohinternational.org](mailto:event.registrations@cohinternational.org)  
Register here: ["Leaning In" Facilitator Exchange Series](#)





## Heritage West Region Hosts: “Rule of Life” Retreat

Congratulations to Regional Representative Tricia Wilson and her team for organizing a great Regional Retreat! A joyful time of community, reconnecting with friends, enjoying a lovely meal, and studying Benedictine topics was hosted by St. James Episcopal Church of Austin and attended by St. Albans Episcopal Church of Austin, Grace Episcopal Church of Georgetown, TX, and St. Richard’s Episcopal Church of Round Rock.

After opening with prayer and a video of the Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg discussing the beginnings of Community of Hope, three speakers presented different aspects of Community of Hope’s work.



The first speaker was Sue Shirley who spoke about her inspiring journey from lay chaplain to spiritual director and the profound influence Benedictine Spirituality had on her life.

Next Pam Piedfort, COHI Board Secretary, spoke about “What’s New in COHI?” following a year of working with consultant the Very Rev. Bishop Brian Prior and the institution of a new COHI Board.

The Rev. Peggy Lo, Rector of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Austin, spoke about spiritual formation and living a rule of life.

Following small group discussions, Rev. Lo led the Blessing of the Hands ceremony.

**"Rule of Life" Retreat**  
*in conjunction with a*  
**Celebration of**  
**St. Benedict's Feast Day**

**Saturday, July 8, 2023**  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
St. James' Episcopal Church, Austin  
1941 Webberville Road

*Speakers will include local clergy,  
International COHI leadership and  
local spiritual directors.  
Lunch and snacks provided.*

Hosted by Community of Hope:  
St. James' Episcopal Church, Austin  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Austin  
Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown  
St. Richard's Episcopal Church, Round Rock

Participation restricted to  
Community of Hope members.  
**All are welcome!**

[Register Online](#)

[Pay Online](#)

Suggested donation: \$15 to help with  
material materials.  
Cash payment at the door.





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

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**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 at  
[pam.piedfort@cohinternational.org](mailto:pam.piedfort@cohinternational.org)  
to share your story!**

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