

OCTOBER 2023

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

International



COMMUNITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PORTER
AT THE
DOOR OF
THE WORLD



OCT 19, 2023
@2:00PM-
OCT 21, 2023
@12:00PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

FR. WILLARD KAMANDANI
PRIEST IN THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF SOUTHERN MALAWI



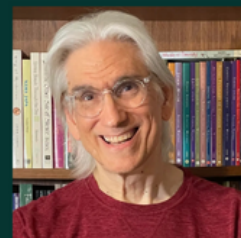
WITH FRIENDS OF COHI



THE RT. REV.
BRIAN PRIOR
BISHOP IN THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



SALLY ULREY
CANON FOR
CONGREGATIONAL
VITALITY AND
MINISTRY
DEVELOPMENT



CARL
MCCOLMAN
LAY
CISTERCIAN



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!](#)





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COMMUNITY OF HOPE

LAY CHAPLAINCY
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
BENEDICTINE HOSPITALITY



Community of Hope International

384 likes • 452 followers

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Cultivating New Relationships

We are excited to announce our partnerships with the following:

- The Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud & St. John's University
- The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta- School for Lay Ministry
- The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina- School for Ministry
- The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane
- The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont





Stained Glass Piece for Auction

JOIN AN ENCORE PRESENTATION OF LAST YEAR'S WILDLY SUCCESSFUL STAINED-GLASS AUCTION!



COHI is grateful to Frank Sassin for again donating his lovely stained-glass pieces to our fundraising auction at the 2023 COHI Conference in Atlanta. The proceeds will benefit the continuing COHI work in Malawi of the Rev. Willard Kamandani, keynote speaker at the conference. Attend the conference in person or on Zoom to participate!

Houston Church Honors Retiree Beverly Davis

DEACON BETH HARTFIEL - CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Beverly Davis worked at Christ the King Lutheran Church for over 20 years. She has retired as the Director of Congregation Care. If you know Beverly, you know that she isn't one for a big party focused on her, nor does she enjoy large extravagant gifts. Thus, the congregation decided to give donations to a few organizations that are near and dear to Beverly in lieu of gifts. Included with this letter is a donation to Community of Hope International in honor of Beverly Davis and the ministry she has shared with both of us. We pray this gift helps you continue your ministry.





COHI Groups Mourn Loss of Lay Chaplain Susan Hiller

KAREN HUBER-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH REGION

Susan Sudduth Dodson Hiller, age 79, ended her battle with brain cancer at dusk on September 1, 2023. Susan was trained as a lay chaplain at St. James United Methodist Church and used her training to be the leader of the pastoral care program at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church as well as extensive bereavement and hospice care volunteering. Karen Huber comments, "She was also on the COHI regional council to help plan retreats. She was secretary up until January of this year when she was diagnosed with inoperable glial blastoma. That job has fallen to me, but for my friend Susan I will do it!"



After she lost her first husband in 1980, she joined a grief support group for young widows where she met and became friends with Anise (Ann) Baskette, another beloved COHI lay chaplain. Together these young widows became successful entrepreneurs when life threw them curve balls, starting a company that eventually became Medical Office Management Systems, Inc. ("MOMS") which was later acquired by WebMD. For their success with their company that provided computer infrastructure to medical offices they were recognized in 1998 as Small Business of the Year for the state. After retiring from business, Susan returned to grief counseling and hospice work and developed superb skills in this difficult discipline. She completed Community of Hope training at St. James United Methodist Church and then co-led many classes teaching others. She also worked for a number of years with Baptist Hospice, and also Arkansas Hospice with which she served on the board for a number of years. She made hundreds of visits to hospice patients. As a continuation of her love for bereavement counseling she became heavily involved in her lay pastoral role as leader of the pastoral care program at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.



TODAY WE TALKED

JULY 28, 2007

BY TED HEATHERINGTON

Today we talked.

I said, "I'm confused." You asked about my devotions.

I said, "I get angry." You quoted a verse.

I said, "I hurt." You said "Believe."

I said, "I'm depressed." You said, "Rejoice."

You said I could call. I said I would try.

You said you would pray. I suppressed my doubts.

You said things would get better. I wondered, When?

As we parted, you waved with a smile.

Today we talked. Neither of us listened.

And though we talked, there was silence.

Nobody said, "I care."

Today we talked.

I said, "I'm confused." You asked, "About what?"

I said, "I get angry." You asked, "When?"

I said, "I hurt." You asked, "Why?"

I said, "I'm depressed." You said, "I care."

You said you would call. I said, "Please do!"

You said you would pray. I knew you would.

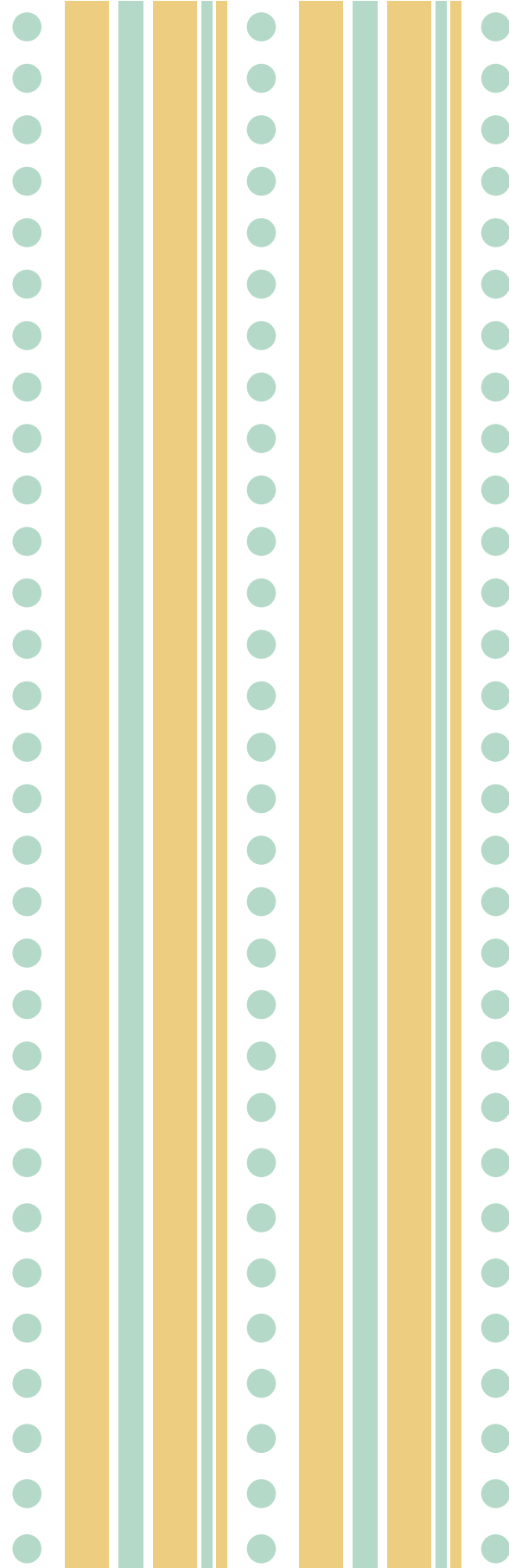
You said things will get better. I tried to believe.

You said there is hope, and you wrapped it in a hug.

Today we talked. You listened for both of us.

And as we talked, there was a third voice.

He said, "I care" with your lips.





Understanding Changes in our Annual Reporting

SARAH ROBERTS, COHI PRESIDENT

Change is hard! I know, I get it! For the last few years, Community of Hope has been in a significant state of transformation. Beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic, then changes in leadership, both on the Board of Directors as well as Regional Reps, and a robust organizational redevelopment project, we have been in a stage of intentional “disruption”, as our coach refers to it. While our structure continues to change, policy and procedure changes will follow.

Since 2020, we have dropped counting the number of hours spent as a metric in our annual reporting and this year we are expanding our understanding of how/where caregiving is done. We want to include a count (or estimate) of simple pastoral encounters in addition to scheduled pastoral visits because we recognize that we are “serving others through compassionate listening” in many more ways than we previously focused on.



In 2020, because we were unable to do much, if any, pastoral visits, we began to ask for a narrative on the overall health of the center. The information has been so helpful to know how the centers have been doing, and the variety of ways they are serving, we have continued to ask for that as part of the annual report.

The board has decided to permanently change the report to follow the calendar year, extending the current due date for 2023 reports to January 1, 2024. The Leadership Team Guidelines will be updated with this information.

Here is what we need from each center:

1. Number of Active Lay Chaplains.
2. Number of Pastoral Encounters/Visits.
3. How often the center is conducting Circle of Care.
4. When the last training was offered/if there is a plan to offer training.

In addition to these four points, a brief narrative that speaks to the overall well-being of each center including any struggles, and what kinds of caregiving the members are doing.

I hope that this helps you, not only in understanding the changes to the reporting process, but in why we are moving in the direction that we are. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Peace,

Sarah Roberts

Sarah.roberts@cohinternational.org



**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: 11/3/2023

Email Pam Piedfort to share your story!

pam.piedfort@cohinternational.org
