



THURSDAY MAIL

January 16, 2025



MISSIONAL, PASTORAL, PROPHETIC

IN THIS EDITION

- NCP Calendar of Events
- VIDEO: Message from Rev. John Molina-Moore
- from the Desk of Rev. David Baer
- from the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe
- Annual Statistical Report
- Leadership Training & Safe Church Training
- Continuing Ed Gathering & Retreat
- Healthy Boundaries Opportunity
- January Birthdays
- Around NCP
- Other Organizations

- National Capital Presbytery
- NEW ADDRESS:**
6700-A Rockledge Drive, Suite 250
Bethesda, MD 20817
240-514-5348
www.thepresbytery.org
- communications@thepresbytery.org

NCP CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 23 5:00 pm	Stated Presbytery Mtg IN-PERSON at National PC
February 8	Ally Training - In-person
February 22	Leadership Training & Safe Church Training
March 10-13	Continuing Education Gathering & Retreat
March 25	Virtual Stated Presbytery Mtg
May 6	Healthy Boundaries Training

More detailed information about each event, flyers and registration may be found on the Events page of the website



Has any church information changed since the new year? Email? Clerk of Session? Staff Member? If so, contact [Dina Bickel](mailto:Dina.Bickel@nccpc.org).

VIDEO: Message from General Presbyter, John Molina-Moore - January 23 Presbytery Meeting



ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

The stated clerk has sent a notice to clerks of session that as of January 2, 2025, the Office of the General Assembly (OGA)'s statistical reporting system is open for the 2024 reporting season. We are asking churches to submit their reports by February 1, if possible. The absolute last day to enter statistical information is February 15. This is an OGA-set deadline, and NCP staff are not able to change it.

The notice sent to clerks included the username and password for each church to log in to the reporting system, which can be found, along with much helpful information, at the link below:

<https://pcusa.org/resources/statistics-lists/statistical-reporting-faq>

Thank you for your time and effort helping to provide current information on our congregations. While the OGA directs the statistical reporting process, this information is vitally helpful as National Capital Presbytery helps its churches plan for their future! Questions? Ask the Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer.

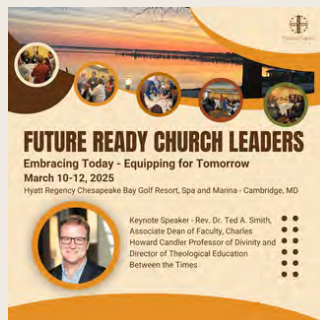
LEADERSHIP TRAINING & SAFE CHURCH TRAINING



NCP's **Leadership Training & Safe Church Training** for elders will be held on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** at **National Presbyterian Church**, Washington, DC.

CONTINUING EDUCATION GATHERING & RETREAT

NCP's annual Continuing Education Gathering & Retreat for Church Professionals on March 10-12, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, MD.



We are excited to announce our speaker, Rev. Dr. Ted Smith! Click image for flyer and to register.

January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Robert Allman III
Denise Anderson
Carol Barrett
Anne Benefield, retired
Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman
Crawford Brubaker
Tim Cargal
Mary Boyd Click, retired
Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer
MaryAnn McKibben Dana
Anne Ellestad
Mark Harper
Hilaire Henthorne
Roy Howard, retired
Megan Klose
Lisa Larsen
John Lee
Hope Lee
Craig Meek
Paul Phillips
Charles Reinhold
Young Chan Ro
Blaine Smith, retired
Keith Thompson
David Williams
Shelly Wood



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES TRAINING

ATTENTION Minister Members! SAVE THE DATE for the next IN-PERSON Healthy Boundaries Training opportunity on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. More information coming soon.

PULPIT SUPPLY LIST

If your congregation is in need of pulpit supply, reach out to our COM Administrator, Rebekah Greniven at comadmin@thepresbytery.org.

PASTORAL CONCERNS



With deepest sorrow, we share the passing of beloved **Elder Dan Acker**. Elder Acker died on December 22, 2024 and was an active member of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Services will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025. For details, click here - [The Life of Daniel R. Acker, Jr.](#)

JASHEMSKI SCHOLARSHIPS

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church is fortunate to be able to provide financial assistance from the Stanley and Wilhemina Jashemski Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students of outstanding intellectual ability and significant religious commitment.

Eligible scholarship recipients will demonstrate in their thought and action the broad religious sensitivity characteristic of Stanley and Wilhelmina Jashemski and will:

- be active members of a Christian church;
- have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 at the time of application;
- pursue a balanced curriculum that includes arts & humanities, sciences, social sciences, and mathematics; show evidence of social and civic concern;
- have financial need.

Applications for new and returning students are due February 15, 2025. The application and additional info can be found on the TPPC website: <https://www.takomaparkpc.org/jashemski-scholarship>



*Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...*

1 John 4:1a

Dear Friends,

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) traces its heritage to a reforming movement, and has built into its governance a capacity and processes for ongoing reform. *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* – the reformed church is always in need of reform, according to the Word of God. This disposition toward testing and refining our life as a church takes various forms, including in the description of the office of “ruling elder” in the *Book of Order*: “Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life” (2.0301). (Think “ruler” in the sense of “measuring stick,” not “command giver!”)

Just as the Johannine church was called to test the spirits to ensure that they supported the church’s God-given witness to Jesus as an enfleshed Messiah, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) engages in an extended period of discernment and prayer to test the faithfulness of proposed amendments to the church’s Constitution. When we consider changes to the way we organize ourselves and make decisions in the *Book of Order*, the following steps are required:

1. A presbytery communicates an “overture” to the General Assembly, proposing a change. Under the current Book of Order, the overture must have the concurrence of another presbytery. Therefore, no change to the Book of Order can be considered by the General Assembly unless at least two presbyteries have agreed to it.
2. A number of advisory and advocacy committees elected by the General Assembly, including the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, analyze and offer feedback on the proposed amendment.
3. The proposed amendment is referred to one of the working committees at the next meeting of the General Assembly, which holds hearings and considers the proposal, possibly altering it or substituting a new proposal to achieve a similar goal.
4. The proposal comes to the floor of the full General Assembly where it is debated and may be further amended.
5. If approved by the General Assembly, the proposed amendment is communicated to all of the presbyteries of the PCUSA. At this stage, the proposed amendment can’t be changed, but presbyteries have the opportunity to approve or disapprove it. If a majority of presbyteries approve within one year of the adjournment of the General Assembly, the amendment is incorporated in the next edition of the Book of Order.

I want to point out that every step I've described above takes place at one or more meetings, convened and adjourned with prayer, by a body of presbyters who have made solemn promises to carry out their ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ. That is a lot of serious, faithful testing of the spirits! And this doesn't even account for informal gatherings for discussion, individual prayer and study, and other forms of discernment that unfold outside of the formal process.

At our Stated Meeting on January 23, National Capital Presbytery will take part in the process of considering two proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*, Amendments 24-A and 24-C. ([You can find a description of these, as well as the other amendments proposed in this cycle, in a booklet distributed by the Office of the General Assembly.](#)) The Bills and Overtures Committee will be bringing the other proposals to the March Stated Meeting.) At this meeting we will reach the end of a time of discernment which began in September, when members of our community gathered in small groups for discussion, and which continued through other gatherings in October, November, and December.

Many thanks to those of you who have participated, and to those of you as well who have joined in prayer during this season. Thank you for voicing your questions, your excitement, your fears, and your hopes for the church, and for taking the time to listen to the voices of others. When I step back and see not only this presbytery, but other presbyteries coming together in a similar way and praying, talking, and listening toward being a more faithful expression of Christ's Church, I am awed and hopeful at the way the Spirit speaks to and through us!

Grace and Peace,

David



Greetings People,

“What does it mean to be WELCOMING?” This was asked by a youth leader at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church to her whole congregation. She began to reflect upon what this particular question meant to her as she attended a workshop at Keep Awake Youth Conference in Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in November. She followed up with a deeper question, “Are we always welcomed?”

The impact of her naming, are we always welcomed, to her whole congregation caught my breath. I have not poked, yet, but I immediately caught the multi level ask in her question: as a youth in her church, as a young person in her daily grind of school and peers, as a young woman in the world today, as a brown skinned woman in the world today, as a 2nd generation immigrant in the United States today, as a Christian in the world today....

To be seen, heard, and known as the Lord our God knows us. This is humbling and can support each of us to be humbled as we will encounter uncomfortable welcoming situations, discussions, and opportunities this year. Being humbled by my own dis-comfort is a breath invitation to be closer with my God and ask for direction. This particular youth leaned directly into what she sees Jesus guiding us to be: a friend to the stranger AND a neighbor to ourselves.

As we begin this season of faith, please do look at your time and calendar! See the many opportunities we have within our presbytery to share the journey of dis-comfort and WELCOME, together. That is how we grow faithfully with the Spirit.

- Ask your colleagues who are in the [Missional Incubator](#) about their journey so far.
- Take prayer discernment time and read up on the [Amendments](#) we are to vote on this Presbytery Meeting, Jan. 23rd
- Join for a renewal in [Allyship training](#) that is IN-PERSON this February 8th at Lewinsville Pres.
- Gather with the many of us on Feb. 22nd for the NCP [Leadership Training](#) as we are blessed with Le Quan Turner and Paul Vasile for worship.
- And the annual NCP [Con-Ed event](#) for minister members and other church professionals, March 10th-12th (Tell your pastors to go!)

There are teams within our presbytery who are ready to connect and support your missional stretches regarding immigration, faithful politics, discipleship, youth ministry, and more. Just ask. We are not alone as we continue to navigate, join, and ask how God is compelling us to welcome and grow!

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

MISSIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMMERSION

Wed, January 29, 4:00 PM - Fri, Jan 31, 11:00 AM
Riverside PC / Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA

There is still time to learn from the expertise of presenters and practitioners from around the country. Join us if you or your church are curious about:

- How churches become community hubs
- Best practices for repurposing church facilities
- Creating opportunities for new income streams and new expressions of church
- Taking part in the National Capital Presbytery's Missional Incubator in the future



Workshop leaders and topics include:

1. Carla Leon, CEO of Just Like Family, one of the largest health care companies in North America, will help you think outside of the nonprofit or start-it-from scratch mindset.
2. Carlin Beekman, Matt Messier, and Andrew Genova from Foundry Commercial's Mission Property Group will explore how a church's mission and vision should dictate their real estate decisions. They will cover current trends in church real estate, offering insights into how changing landscapes impact ministry opportunities.
3. Mike Bartholomew, Chief Operating Officer of FTS International, created and ran the Ideation Lab for the CIA. He will help you understand how to decide on an idea, put that idea together in a proposal, and then implement the proposal.
4. Jeff Hulett teaches personal finance at James Madison University and works with start-ups and entrepreneurs through his company Personal Finance Reimagined. He will help you understand how to craft a business plan for a new venture.
5. Nikki Collins oversees 1001 New Worshiping Communities for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her workshop will help you understand the organizational pieces needed to create a sustainable mission.
6. Chris Holland is executive director of The Common Place and Executive Pastor of Salt and Light. The Common Place is an award-winning social enterprise in Philadelphia PA. Chris will help you consider strategies for designing sustainable social enterprises.
7. Casey Thompson and John Molina-Moore from National Capital Presbytery will help you see what it takes to be a "sending church," a church that starts something new.

This event is a partnership between National Capital Presbytery and Fresh Expressions US with the Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church USA hosting a pre-event with Author Mark Eldson who wrote the book, "We Aren't Broke". To Register or for more info go to: <https://freshexpressions.com/missional-entrepreneurship-immersion>

so that our churches can grow 

THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM OF
NCP INVITE YOU TO



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE
Dismantling Racism

ALLYSHIP TRAINING 2025

led by Service Never Sleeps

an **IN-PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

Saturday, February 8

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church

Honors the Minister Member mandate and an opportunity for all employees and members of NCP churches, congregations, and partners.

Lunch will be provided

Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of *Service Never Sleeps*, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the **CLAIM** acronym: **C**are, **L**earn, **A**ct, **I**nfluence, and **M**aintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our **IN-PERSON** time together will involve breakouts for practice together in pairs and small groups intermittently throughout our time of learning, so come ready to "try on" the Ally Training strategies of *Service Never Sleeps*.

[**Register HERE**](#)

NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY
**LEADERSHIP
TRAINING &
SAFE CHURCH TRAINING**



**Saturday,
February 22, 2025**

**8:00 AM to 2:30 PM
w/Safe Church Training
from 2:45 to 4:45 PM
(doors open at 8:00 AM; lunch included)**

**National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016**

**Leading with
ENERGY,
INTELLIGENCE,
IMAGINATION,
and *LOVE***



**Worship Leader
Le Quan Turner
CRE, Adelphi Presbyterian Church**



**Music
Paul Vasile
Interim Director of Music & Organist
New York Avenue Presbyterian Church**



**Plenary Speaker
Rev. John Molina-Moore
General Presbyter, NCP**

Register HERE

thepresbytery.org/ncp-events

**Deadline to register:
Wednesday, February 12, 2025**



**National Capital
PRESBYTERY**
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NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY
**LEADERSHIP
TRAINING &
SAFE CHURCH TRAINING**
February 22, 2025

SCHEDULE

- 8:00 - 9:00 Welcome and Light Breakfast / Coffee
9:00 - 9:30 Plenary - Rev. John Molina-Moore
9:45 - 11:00 Workshop 1
11:15 - 12:30 Workshop 2
12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (Open Facilitated Conversations
grouped by Trustees, Deacons and Elders)
1:45 - 2:30 Closing Worship, led by Le Quan Turner, CRE Adelphi
Presbyterian Church
2:45 - 4:45 Safe Church Training

Offerings (select TWO)



Presbyterian Polity: Organizing and Making Decisions with Energy, Intelligence, Imagination, and Love - Led by Rev. David Baer, NCP Stated Clerk - God is up to something, and it's the church's job to discern, follow, and lead people in God's mission! Come and learn the basics of governance in the congregation, and leave equipped with tools to help your church stay focused and faithful. Workshop 1: Polity 101 -Designed for New Officers & Workshop 2: Beyond the Basics



Ordained Spiritual Leadership Outside of the (Session, Deacon, Trustee) Meeting - Led by Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, NCP Director of Congregational Development and Mission - Ordained officers are called into Spiritual Leadership of the church. How we live into and practice this spiritual leadership deserves to be constant and not just in our meetings.



Hospitality Plan - Led by Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman - Sharing the good news of the gospel includes how we welcome and are welcomed. Learn best practices in hospitality as this is one of the quickest fixes out of your Church Assessment Tool (CAT). Leaders from Brambleton Presbyterian Church will be guides for this practice based workshop.



Tools for Managing Change & Conflict - Led by COM's Ministry Relations Team members - Change is inevitable and at times our responses are driven more out of anxiety and fear of change. This can show up in our church systems as growing conflict. We all deserve ways to manage these realities into practices that enable our congregations to thrive and grow. This workshop offers helpful tools you can use right away. Resources will also be provided to take back to your congregations.



People and Property: Led by Heather Deacon, NCP Director of Business Affairs & Rev. John Molina-Moore, NCP General Presbyter. Stewarding the resources we have into the resources we want and need to grow in Christ's mission.

Safe Church Training: Offered for *current session members or elders-elect*. Topics include sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention, satisfying the new Book of Order training requirement for session members.

Register HERE
thepresbytery.org/ncp-events



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
NACIONAL KAPITAL PREBYTERIJ



FUTURE READY CHURCH LEADERS

Embracing Today - Equipping for Tomorrow

March 10-12, 2025

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina - Cambridge, MD

Leadership for The Church of the future will be different than it is today. Learn where the arch of change is pointed as we together discern how leadership of today can begin to live into the needs of The Church for tomorrow.



Keynote Speaker - Rev. Dr. Ted A. Smith,
Associate Dean of Faculty, Charles Howard
Candler Professor of Divinity and Director of
Theological Education Between the Times



\$350 /person (single occupancy)

\$225/person (double occupancy)

Includes programming, two nights, Monday heavy hors d'oeuvres, Tuesday breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and dinner

Click [HERE to register](#) (registration closes February 14, 2025)

Questions? Contact [Dina Bickel](#)



National Capital Presbytery
Presbyterian Women

Virtual

Prayer Gathering

Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 10 a.m.

“Peace, Hope, and Love”

Sharing Our Stories

Speaker: Elder Kris Maldarelli CRE Gaithersburg

Registration link

<https://forms.gle/pUmt3SAGwbvSmjkE7>



Guest Preacher:
Dr. S. Raschaad Hoggard
Mother A.M.E. Zion Church
Harlem, NY

MILK WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY

MONDAY

Join us for Community Worship
& Conversation

JAN 20 | 10AM

AT: First Baptist Church of Vienna
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Sr. Pastor
450 Orchard St. NW | Vienna, VA
www.fbcv.org

Sing a New Song!

CONCERT SERIES 2024 -2025



TERRAPIN BRASS ENSEMBLE

**JAN 31
7:00PM**



10301 River Road, Potomac, MD

www.potopres.org

Hearts in SERVICE

A Day of Ministry & Outreach

Join us we serve, pray, and connect with the
community

Will be serving hot soup and hot beverages and more to the community

SATURDAY | 1 FEBRUARY, 2025

11:00am – 1:00pm

SARGENT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5109 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave, NE 20019



www.sargent-memorial-pc.org



202-396-1710



Zoom: ID 843 7163 8361/Password: 5109



BLACK PRIDE SUNDAY

celebration

**JOIN US IN-PERSON TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR
CULTURE OF TODAY
REPRESENT YOUR FAVORITE HBCU,
YOUR SORORITY OR FRATERNITY, OR
WEAR ALL BLACK AND SHOW YOUR PRIDE**

***A SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT
FOLLOWING SERVICE***

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9 AT 10:30 AM**



**SARGENT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5109 NH BURROUGHS AVE NE, DC 20019**

AFRO CENTRIC SUNDAY



CELEBRATION

WORD BY REV. BRIAN K. MCOLLUM - MUSIC BY THE SARGENT WINGS

WEAR YOUR BEST AFRO-CENTRIC ATTIRE AND LET
US PRAISE CHRIST TOGETHER

SUN, FEB 16TH AT 10:30 AM

SARGENT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5109 N.H. BURROUGHS AVE, NE DC 20019

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

MUSIC, PRAYER, CANDLELIGHT AND SILENCE IN
THE STYLE OF THE TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

Fairlington United Methodist Church Chapel

3900 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Hosted by Fairlington United Methodist,

Fairlington Presbyterian and St. Clement Episcopal Churches.

Parking available in Fairlington UMC and Presbyterian lots.



February 5 Midwinter Prayer

March 5 Ash Wednesday





Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell
Church Consultant

m: 215-587-7239

cmitchell@pensions.org

January/February 2025

We at the Board of Pensions are working hard to serve our churches, ministers, and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am here to support you and your congregation should you have any questions about the Board's benefits and programs. I look forward to our continued partnership in the new year.

The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, mid councils, and affiliated employers.

Member/Employer Services: 800-773-7752 M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET. memberservices@pensions.org

Shared Ministry Program

The new Shared Ministry Program encourages two or more Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations to covenant to create sustainable pastoral positions for ordained ministers. Participating congregations enter into a five-year dues incentive program with the Board to receive a subsidy of the cost of benefits for pastors. Shared Ministry is not a merger of churches; rather, it is multiple, individual congregations sharing a minister with a living wage and benefits that helps ministry flourish and be sustained for the long term. [Learn more about the program](#), including key considerations and how to get started.

Assistance Program Updates

As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions continues to expand access to grants through the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. In 2024, the Assistance Program distributed over 2,500 grants for a total of approximately \$8.5 million in funds. [Read about potential grant opportunities.](#)

Other important information:

Employee Assistance Plan (EAP): Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Spring Health replaced Cigna as the provider for the EAP. Spring Health offers mental health care navigation with a broader network of providers in addition to the EAP services with which members are familiar. [Learn more about Spring Health.](#)

Remember to update Effective Salaries for the new year: Any changes to effective salaries must be reported to the Board of Pensions via Benefits Connect within 30 days of the effective date. Details about forms of compensation included in effective salary are found in [Understanding Effective Salary.](#)

Call to Health well-being program begins a new year: Call to Health is a well-being program that focuses on self-care in all areas: spiritual, health, financial, and vocational. It offers members in the medical plan the opportunity to reduce their medical deductible(s) and earn Tango cards, which can be redeemed for gift cards or used to make charitable donations. [Learn more](#) and start today.





SAVE THE DATE

PW SYNOD SUMMER GATHERING
Thursday, June 12 – Sunday, June 15, 2025

MASSANETTA SPRINGS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

A place for all people to experience God through renewal, discovery, and hospitality

Catch a first glimpse of the 2025-2026 *Horizons* Bible study
Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.

BE READY! BE INFORMED!

Hear it from the author herself—Rhashell Hunter. She will speak at two plenaries and teach two workshops.

Gain knowledge from Keynote Speaker, Bronwen Boswell, Immediate Past Acting PC(USA) Stated Clerk.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO BE THERE!

Worship, education, camaraderie, and the natural beauty of Massanetta Springs await you.

Registration information will be available by the end of January, 2025.

REGISTRATION FEES

Full-Time (3 nights and 8 meals)

Double Occupancy	Early Bird -- \$430.00	Regular Fee -- \$475.00
Single Occupancy	Early Bird -- \$455.00	Regular Fee -- \$500.00

Part-Time (2 consecutive nights and 6 meals)

Double Occupancy -- \$350.00
Single Occupancy -- \$380.00

Part-Time (1 night and 3 meals)

Double Occupancy -- \$295.00
Single Occupancy -- \$320.00

Commuter

Full Event (no meals) -- \$230.00
Single Day (no meals) -- \$150.00

Virtual Option

4 plenaries (Thursday evening, Friday morning, Friday evening, Saturday morning) -- \$100.00