



2022 Pacific Northwest District Missionaries Conference

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Our PNW District Mission Board would like to invite you to attend the 2022 Pacific Northwest District Missionaries' Conference at **Southridge Lutheran Church in Kennewick, WA for Tuesday to Thursday, February 8-10, 2022**. Due to substantial increases in costs to host our annual pastors' conference at resorts, we are saving money on rental fees and grateful that Southridge Lutheran Church is willing to host us. Our conference fee of \$140 will go towards meals and paying the cost of our speakers. For anyone needing to fly, the Pasco airport is conveniently nearby.

Our 2022 Missionaries' Conference is going to tackle a cultural movement of growing concern and interest to us in the Pacific Northwest District termed "Critical Theory" in the academic world. In case this term is new to anyone, Critical Theory is an umbrella academic term for a variety of concepts from the "woke movement" including "Critical Race Theory" and given birth to a variety of studies programs (such as gender studies, queer theory, post-colonialism and post-structural studies). For us as Christian leaders these academic movements, espoused in Critical Theory, are reshaping our culture. We feel this conference is well-timed and urgently needed to help us begin to address these cultural shifts in view of God's Word. The men who are speaking on the topic are hoping to provide us with a balanced view of the positives we can learn from ideas within Critical Theory while also carefully addressing some of Critical Theory's deeply flawed solutions. Certainly if we are reaching out with Gods' Word to a culture more and more influenced by these ideas equipping ourselves to engage is worth the time!

We have invited a series of speakers to come and help equip us to understand and minister to our members and prospects who are increasingly influenced by aspects of Critical Theory. Dr. Mike Berg from WLC will be our keynote speaker helping us understand the origins and the difficult question, "What is Critical Theory?" as well as applying some practical experience on talking to young people about it. Additionally, we are pleased that Prof. Aaron Robinson will be joining us to help us in ministering to minorities in a multi-ethnic communities and in our congregations. He has served in a multi-cultural congregation in Toronto, Ontario and at an inner-city congregation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and now serves as the Cultural Diversity Coordinator at MLC. Finally, Pastor Kent Reeder at Illume in Seattle is going to supplement the other invited speakers with practical implications for ministering to people in view of Critical Theory, i.e. the street evangelism side of things.

Our District Mission Board has arranged for a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn at Southridge in Kennewick, WA. Discounted room rates are available for booking at **\$109/night** for a single or double room with queens. Rooms must be booked by **January 17, 2022** to receive the group discount. Again all the conference sessions will be hosted at Southridge Lutheran Church in Kennewick, Washington. The conference will be providing you with two meals (dinner on Tuesday and lunch on Wednesday). Conference participants will be responsible for the rest of their meals. The Hampton Inn does include free breakfast if you stay there.

Hotel booking information

You may make a reservation online using the following directions provided by the hotel:

Hampton Inn Kennewick at Southridge

3715 Plaza Way, Kennewick, WA 99336

1. Go to website by clicking this link. https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/vsktchx-hampton-kennewick-at-southridge/?SEO_id=GMB-HP-VSKTCHX
2. Select dates you would like: Feb 7-10, 2022
3. Click on Special Rates and enter the Group Code: WEL
4. Click Check Rooms & Rates
5. Book your room!

To make reservation over the phone:

1. Call the front desk at: 509.820.3023
2. Let them know you're with the WELS Church Conference, give them your Group Code (WEL), check in/out dates, and name.

Cutoff Date: The group's cutoff date is on (January 17, 2022).

Conference Fee

Our District Mission Board is keeping the same fee from last year for our conference this year at **\$140.00**. Our fees this year are used to cover the cost of flying in our speakers and the cost of food. You are invited to submit your fee to Pastor Kevin Schultz. Checks may be made payable to Kevin Schultz or to "PNW DMB". If it is helpful, you may send payments directly by Venmo to the account: **@PastorKevinSchultz**. If you choose to mail a check here is the information:

Pastor Kevin Schultz, Registrar
5860 N LaRochelle Drive
Coeur D'Alene, ID 83815
Office: (208) 449-2080 Email: Pastor@TheVineIdaho.org

Attached along with this letter is a tentative schedule so you can plan on when to arrive and leave. The exact session times and details are still being worked through, but in case anyone is hoping to fly in to Pasco or deciding whether to fly or drive I hope this schedule will help.

God be with you all as you celebrate the birth of the Savior and have a blessed New Year!
In Christ,

Pastor Geoff Cortright
(on behalf of the PNW District Mission Board and District Praesidium)