



The Community of Hope International CONNECTIONS



Spring 2017

A Warm and Joyful Welcome to these new COHI centers:

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church
Sewickley, PA
April 17, 2017



Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Stillwater, MN
April 21, 2017



"ALWAYS WE BEGIN AGAIN"

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING
COHI 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: JUNE 2-4, 2017

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Registration; 10am-12pm
Welcome (following lunch) - Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg.
Sr. Carol Perry's first Bible Study "Moses"
Time with Regional Representative and New Centers meet with Cynthia Oliphant.
Opening Eucharist - Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge.
Rev. Dr. Steven Peay - "Always We Begin Again - Renewing the Heart"
Social

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Rev. Dr. Steven Peay - "Always We Begin Again - Renewing the Parish"

Workshops:
"Pastoral Care When Caring for Alzheimer or Dementia Patients"
Maria Wellisch
"Beginnings and Growth of COHI"
Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg
"Reconciliation" - Fr. Peter Funk
"Living into Benedictine Spirituality"
Br. Michael Gallagher

Sr. Carol Perry's second Bible Study, "Matthew"
Taizé Service followed by Social.

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Sr. Carol Perry's third Bible Study, "Lydia."
Rev. Dr. Steven Peay - "Always We Begin Again - Renewing the World Around Us"
Blessing of the Hands Service
Noon lunch followed by departure



Notes from the Executive Director, Jennifer Sassin

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Happy Easter! Every day I am reminded of the wisdom, grace, and dedication of our COHI community members. Like the kaleidoscope of spring colors unfolding around us, daily we all reap the value we commit to our ministry in so many brightly colored ways. Whether it is welcoming inquiries, assisting new centers and supporting established centers, looking for new and better ways to communicate, planning for the future, taking care of the nuts and bolts of daily operation, or most importantly caring for each other and those to whom we minister, COHI is a vibrant, strong community sharing the love of Christ with all.

Things have been busy the first quarter of 2017! The Executive Board has been working on setting strategic goals that will take us into 2020, expanding communication efforts, connecting with our centers through our regional representatives, and planning for our upcoming conference June 2–June 4, at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Our conference planning committee has been dedicating their time to put all the pieces together to deliver a meaningful and rewarding event for all of us. Not only have they planned a great program, but they have also done so by keeping costs low, honoring the intent of the conference from its inception—to be a community building event rather than a money maker. From lining up our key note speakers to planning workshops, services, and social events and walking the Trinity University campus to determine the need for golf carts for attendees with mobility issues, no stone has gone unturned! Please plan on joining us as “Always We Begin Again.”

See you in San Antonio! Jennifer

The Holy Spirit at Work in Our Greater Community and a Call for Support!

Since its inception in 2010 the Community of Hope International in the Diocese of Upper Shire, Malawi has been faithfully serving those in need and flourishing. Now, The Rev. Canon Andrew Sumani, who has recently become the National Supervisor for COHI in Malawi, is leading the effort to plant new seeds in the country’s four Anglican dioceses. Please read his words below.

“COHI as a ministry of healing and presence takes the centre stage in Malawi where poverty related effects are so numerous. More than 96% of the total population live below a dollar. Our population is 80% Christian and the other religions share the remaining percentage. The huge numbers of Christians in the Country provide an opportunity for pastoral ministry. Surely many people need pastoral care especially considering the fact that many of them are poverty stricken so diseases and deaths are regular occurrences of the day.

With the economic situation in Malawi as alluded to above; it is impractical to raise funds to run trainings and other relevant errands for the ministry. If possible I was thinking that COHI MALAWI can partner with two or three Churches in the U.S., those that may be willing to support COHI work in Malawi and have a missionary minded agenda. COHI Malawi can then link up with them and discuss how the partnership will function. I pray that this plan can work so that COHI MALAWI can be so vibrant.”

Upon prayerful consideration, if your COHI center feels called to expand how you “listen with the ear of your heart” and partner with COHI MALAWI, please contact Jennifer Sassin (jennifer@jsassin.com) or (713-569-4546). Together we will work with the COHI Board of Directors and COHI MALAWI to find viable options for training and other areas needing support.

Submitted by Jennifer Sassin



News from the Regions

AFRICA: MALAWI

JENNIFER SASSIN,
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

ANDREW SUMANI NATIONAL SUPERVISOR
OF COHI MALAWI

In 2010 a team of three people: Rev. Tom Papazoglakis, Rev. Mother Elizabeth Papazoglakis and Bryan O'Carroll (then a seminarian at Nashotah Seminary but now a Parish priest) in liaison with Rev. Andrew Sumani (at that time a seminarian at Nashotah Seminary) organized a training of clergy in the Diocese of Upper Shire. More than 23 clergy including the Bishop of the Diocese, Rt. Rev. Brighton Malasa attended the training.

The ministry was received with great enthusiasm among clergy and immediately was introduced in several parishes within the Diocese of Upper Shire.

Malawi is one of the most peaceful countries in the world. People live amicably hence providing conducive environment for ministry. Ironically Malawi is ranked third from the bottom of the poorest countries in the world.

This aside, most people love God. Our population is 80% Christian and the other religions share the remaining percentage. The huge numbers of Christians in the Country provide an opportunity for pastoral ministry. Surely many people need pastoral care especially considering the fact that many of them are poverty stricken so diseases and deaths are regular occurrences of the day.

COHI as a ministry of healing and presence takes the centre stage in Malawi where poverty related effects are so numerous. There are many issues that demand pastoral care and COHI precisely provides that type of care.

The COHI is already operational in one of the four Dioceses. My deepest desire is to see COHI getting grounded in all the four Anglican Dioceses in Malawi. I pray that the ministry shall become a tool of bringing healing to the wounded and broken hearted souls.

I thank The Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg, and Jennifer Sassin so much for the effort to revamp COHI MALAWI in a systematic way by appointing a National Supervisor.

I would like also to thank the team that sacrificed to come to Malawi and facilitated the establishment of COHI Malawi. God bless you all.

For me, this is a wonderful opportunity to serve God through COHI MALAWI and be able to reach out to others for God's glory and honor.

Submitted by Rev. Canon Andrew Sumani, National Supervisor of COHI Malawi



More

Region News

WEST TEXAS REGION

LIN BOUDREAX

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

COHI West Texas Region at Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
Annual Council in Corpus Christi, Texas, February 23-25, 2017



Every year for the last 12 years, COHI West Texas Region has purchased a booth at the annual diocesan council of the Diocese of West Texas. Our booth backdrop decoration features pictures of all the active COHI centers in the West Texas Region. We give out free bookmarks and COHI brochures that tell about Community of Hope and meet many people who want to learn more about COHI. We also sell notecards - the proceeds of which go to the treasury of our Region to help with retreats, scholarships to the retreats and to the COHI annual Conference, and pays for the next year's booth. We feel that this booth is a valuable tool in reaching out and connecting to our larger community.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Rockport, Texas will be presenting COHI training to a new class beginning in January 2018. Meantime many of our lay chaplains were recommissioned in March 2017. Pictured above are: back row, left to right - June Gregory, Sherri Collins, Connie Myers, Karen Medley, Martha Berkebile, Pam Heidt, Milby Wade, Diana Severino-Saxon, and Mike Patton. Front row, l. to r. - Pinky Gonzalez, Judy McCalla, Sarah Shugart and Barbara Patton. Other active lay chaplains not pictured: Jean Albright, Carol Allen, Ruth Douglas, JoAnn Leonard, Ann Martel, Yvonne Moor, Diana Sebastian, and Eileen Vincent.



GREAT LAKES REGION

KATE MAXWELL, OSB

The Great Lakes Region now has a new Regional Representative. Kate Maxwell has graciously agreed to assume that position and was elected to the position by the COHI Board of Directors. Helen Appelberg had been serving as temporary Regional Representative for the Great Lakes Region for many years.

Kate is "very enthusiastic about the work of COHI and would like to help it grow in this region." She is the coordinator of COH in her congregation, St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in St. Paul, Minnesota and a "professed Benedictine so that (her) life is bounded by the Rule." She has already organized a "Region Basket" for the COHI June Conference Raffle.



...and finally, as

Always we begin again...

For those of you who would rather have your daily readings on your Kindle, Br. Michael Gallagher reports that Joan Chittister's *Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century* is now available in ebook form on Amazon.

RAFFLE

As our Executive Director explained on page two of this newsletter, "the intent of the conference is to be a community building event rather than a money maker." The Raffle and/or Live Auction is designed to help defray some of the cost of holding the annual conference. Several Regions are providing a "Region Basket" filled with special items from their centers. Here are some of the items being offered in a raffle this year at the conference:

1. A weekend for two at the Holy Cross Monastery in Beaumont, TX, as guests of Br. Michael Gallagher and Fr. Peter Funk. Time to be arranged with the prize winner.
2. A week at a beachhouse in Surf City, North Carolina (Topsail Island.) The beach house has two 2 bedroom apartments, one top floor, one first floor, each with own kitchen and bath. Each apartment sleeps 6 people.
3. A beautiful cross, lovingly designed especially for COHI by wood artist, Sy Berdeaux, Alexandria, VA. The cross is made from wood found on one of George Washington's farms at Mr. Vernon.

If you would rather not register on line at www.cohinternational.org with a credit card, simply fill out this form and send it with your check to: Cynthia Drake, Administrator, Community of Hope International

13501 Ranch Road 12, Suite 103

Wimberley, TX 78678

Contact Cynthia Drake (512)626-4854 if you have mobility issues and will need to rent golf cart space.

Contact your Regional Representative for scholarship money that is available for those who need help to defray expenses.

RATES FOR ROOM AND BOARD:

Includes 2 nights of single or double occupancy in suite arrangements - (two connecting rooms with a shared bathroom and 7 meals)

•Double Occupancy (per person)

Early Bird Registration \$275

(After May 1, \$305)

•Single Occupancy

Early Bird Registration \$320

(After May 1, \$350)



COMMUTER RATE:

Includes all conference days and 3 lunches and 2 dinners.

Early Bird Registration \$150

After May 1, \$180

Registration closes on May 15. If you can't register by May 15, Contact Cynthia Drake for assistance - (512) 626-4854

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and zip _____

Phone number _____

Name of your COHI center _____

Gender: Circle one: Female or Male

Choice of rates (see rates on left):

Check one:

Double Occupancy, Early Bird \$275

Double Occupancy, after May 1, \$305

Single Occupancy. Early Bird \$320

Single Occupancy. after May 1, \$350

Commuter, Early Bird \$150

Commuter, after May 1, \$180

Please specify in the space below the names of people that you would prefer as your roommate/suitemate

Roommate _____

Suitemate(s) _____