

NOVEMBER 5 + 6, 2021



RECHARGE 2021



A NOTE FROM YOUR HOST

RECHARGE 2021 was designed as a gift: a space for rest and rejuvenation. Like many of you, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, we pivoted our programming, internationally and within the U.S.

Providentially, we had just hired a Church with Community Coordinator (Jodi Koeman) and were able to offer small grants to churches who were serving the most vulnerable in their communities.

Since then, we have been networking with and supporting leaders who are working in community development, mercy, and justice ministries. When it looked like we would be able to resume in person events this fall, we were eager to bring together those who have been working on the frontlines in difficult circumstances.

It is our prayer that our time together will provide you with a place to recharge, regroup, and find encouragement to continue this journey of living justice, loving mercy, and serving Christ.

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

- 6:30 Worship
- 6:50 Welcome
- 7:25 Discussion Panel: What the Global Church Can Teach Us About Resilience
- 8:00 Closing
- 8:15 Optional Gathering: Let's Stir One Another to Love and Good

SATURDAY

- 9:00 Worship
- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 Main Session: Fill Your Cup
- 10:35 Instructions for Lunch, Breakout Sessions, Quick Q&A
- Lunch and workshops will be held across the parking lot at CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ ELEMENTARY*
- 11:00 Breakout Sessions
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Breakout Sessions
- 3:00 Closing

PLENARY SESSIONS

These sessions will be live streamed for those participating remotely.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

WHAT THE GLOBAL CHURCH CAN TEACH US ABOUT RESILIENCE

PANEL DISCUSSION

Food insecurity, civil war, large scale disasters, and trauma are all too common in the poorest countries of the world. Yet the church is growing in many of these places. Vanessa Alvarez will interview Christian leaders working in community development to discover lessons learned and encouragement for becoming resilient in our own communities.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

FILL YOUR CUP

PETE WATTS

Cascading collective trauma experienced over the past year and a half has affected our communities, but how can we help when we ourselves may be experiencing burnout and discouragement? Pete Watts will share how to increase intimacy with God and become a “contemplative in action.”

WORKSHOPS

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Pete Watts will lead us in a time of spiritual restoration.

LONGEVITY, LOVING AND LEADERSHIP

THERESA SLABBEKOORN

Theresa will share with you the top four things that diminish the longevity of our pastors and leaders and God’s solution to avoid them. There will be time at the end for Q&A. She will gladly answer ministry questions on

any topic, such as sensitively and lovingly addressing self-harm, self-loathing, addictions, etc.

TRAUMA HEALING IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

CAROL BREMER-BENNETT AND MARY CRICKMORE

The Trauma Healing Institute unites mental health best practices and engagement with God through the Bible, and has proven its effectiveness in healing groups in more than 100 countries. This workshop will help you learn more about how to approach this area of ministry in your own community.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE TRENCHES: A CONVERSATION ON JUSTICE, RACE, AND FINDING GOD IN UNLIKELY PLACES

REGGIE SMITH & HENRY BOUMA

Poor neighborhoods are usually portrayed in negative terms. The use of these terms in society at large bias our perspective unless we are open to hearing the Spirit of God and the stories of people who have quietly witnessed miracles. Pastor Reggie Smith and Henry Bouma are living witnesses of such miracles in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Grand Rapids. They invite you to take a walk with them in this session at the Edge Church.

LEGACY OVER HISTORY: ENGAGING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS IN MINISTRY

PASTOR TROY EVANS

In 2011, 59% of Youth/Young adults would drop out of church by the age of 18. Jumping forward to 2020, Barna said that 64% are leaving the church. In this workshop PE will share some learnings he has gained while planting multiple churches that are led by people primarily 28 and younger. Prepare to be challenged and given practical tools that have been used in ministries throughout the US and England for more than 25 years.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

KYLE MEYAARD-SCHAAP AND ANDREW OPPONG

Can fighting for environmental justice be spiritually healing? Kyle and Andrew will discuss how creation care work is also justice work and soul work. They’ll share local and global stories about projects that started as creation care but ended in community transformation. We’ll take time for you to rediscover where your call to be centered in Christ and your call to care for creation meet.





Mary became World Renew's West Africa Regional Director, supervising and coaching a multi-national and cross-cultural team that works with twelve indigenous partner organizations. In 2014, in response to violent conflicts in West Africa and widespread suffering and trauma, Mary became a Master Facilitator with the Trauma Healing Institute, and has since then equipped leaders on three continents to lead healing groups.

SPEAKERS

VANESSA ALVAREZ

With over 20 years in ministry, former radio host Vanessa Alvarez currently serves at World Renew as the Church and Community Engagement Representative; she is also the Mobilizing Pastor at her home church The EDGE Urban Fellowship. She is passionate about music ministry, racial reconciliation, and entrepreneurship. Using her experience gained from planting three churches and leading worship, Vanessa would describe herself as a bridge builder who is driven by leadership development and encouraging others in their walk with Christ.

CAROL BREMER-BENNETT

Carol Bremer-Bennett is World Renew's U.S. Executive Director. She is born to the To'aheedliinii (Waters Flow Together) Clan and born for the Todich'iinii (Bitter Water) Clan of the Navajo Nation. Bremer-Bennett is an educator by training, with a B.A. from Calvin College and M.A. from Western New Mexico University.

Her extensive experience in Christian ministry spans more than 25 years of organizational leadership, leadership development, and administration.

She is humbled to be a beloved and adopted daughter of God; adoptions have played an ongoing role in her story. Five of her six children are adopted. She and husband Theo Bremer-Bennett have three children of Navajo descent and three of Ethiopian descent. Their family motto is: the African bus is never full!

HENRY BOUMA

Henry has been serving with The Navigators for over twenty-five years and has headed up the Navigators of West Michigan Urban Youth Ministry for twenty years. Henry lived in the suburbs when God called him to move into the urban neighborhood of Roosevelt Park to work with youth. He has been married to his wife for over 42 years and they have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three wonderful grandchildren. Henry's life was dramatically transformed by Jesus Christ in his early twenties. Henry is passionate about discipleship, raising up urban leaders, and teaching about God's amazing love.

MARY CRICKMORE

Mary Crickmore first went to West Africa in 1985 with her husband Scott to do famine relief with World Renew. In 1986, they began work with a Muslim people group who are subsistence farmers and herders. In 2004,

PASTOR TROY EVANS

After several years on the street as a gang leader selling drugs, Pastor Troy (Known as PE) was caught in a grand jury investigation. He served his time and then became homeless and saw no way back to reality. He later moved to Detroit where he surrendered his life to Jesus. Now by the grace of God ALONE he has been the husband of Dawn for 25 years and they share 4 biological children, several non-biological children, and 10 grandchildren.

PE has worked as an IT Engineer and the later owner of several IT & marketing businesses. During his time in the marketing industry, he provided services for several national and international recording artists. PE has been the Lead Pastor in 4 urban church plants. One of the more recent churches, "The EDGE URBAN CHURCH" (a hip hop church), was the first of its kind in Michigan.

PE also served as the North American Urban Church Planting Catalyst for the Wesleyan Church and then spent two years in England starting a Urban Church Planting Network. PE has been featured on several national/international media outlets, including 700 Club and the Harvest Show. PE has been a speaker for TEDxMacatawa. He

currently serves as the Lead Pastor of The EDGE Urban Church, Urban Church Planting For the Great Lakes Region, and Co-Owner of Hustle Pray Eat. PE's Book *EDGE of Redemption* (released in 2011) has been used by universities and ministries to equip and challenge individuals to reach the "hard to reach" in the urban context in the US and England. He enjoys reading, watching superhero movies, cracking jokes with his family, cooking, and developing leaders for the Kingdom.

REV. KYLE MEYAARD-SCHAAP

Kyle serves as the Vice President for the Evangelical Environmental Network. Previously, he was the National Organizer and Spokesperson for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action. Kyle holds an undergraduate degree in religious studies from Calvin College (B.A. '12), a Masters of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary (M.Div. '16), and is ordained in the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). Much of his professional experience has involved the integration of theology, science, and action toward a deeper awareness of the Christian responsibility to care for God's earth and to love one's neighbors, both at home and around the world. He is married to Allison and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with their son, Simon.

ANDREW OPPONG

Andrew serves as a Justice Mobilization Specialist for the Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice. Andrew was the Student Body President at Calvin College and also worked on campus with the Campus Involvement and Leadership Office where he oversaw the recruitment and training of orientation interns. He has his B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy specializing in Pre-Law and also held a position as the Public Policy Intern at the Constitution Project in Washington, D.C. In his current role, he works with congregations and individuals to develop a deeper understanding of, and response to, God's call to let justice flow like a river in both our personal and communal lives, as well as in the structures of our societies. He enjoys networking and encouraging other justice-seekers as they take next steps on their justice journeys.

REV. JEREMY SIMPSON

Rev. Jeremy Simpson began leading worship at 8 years old and traveled the world including France, Japan, South Africa, and countries throughout South America with the Multiethnic Youth Ensemble. He is a seasoned worship leader, musician and urban liturgist, having studied music education at Grand Valley State University and theology (MA) at Western Theological Seminary. A resident of Kalamazoo, MI, he is the Co-Executive Director and

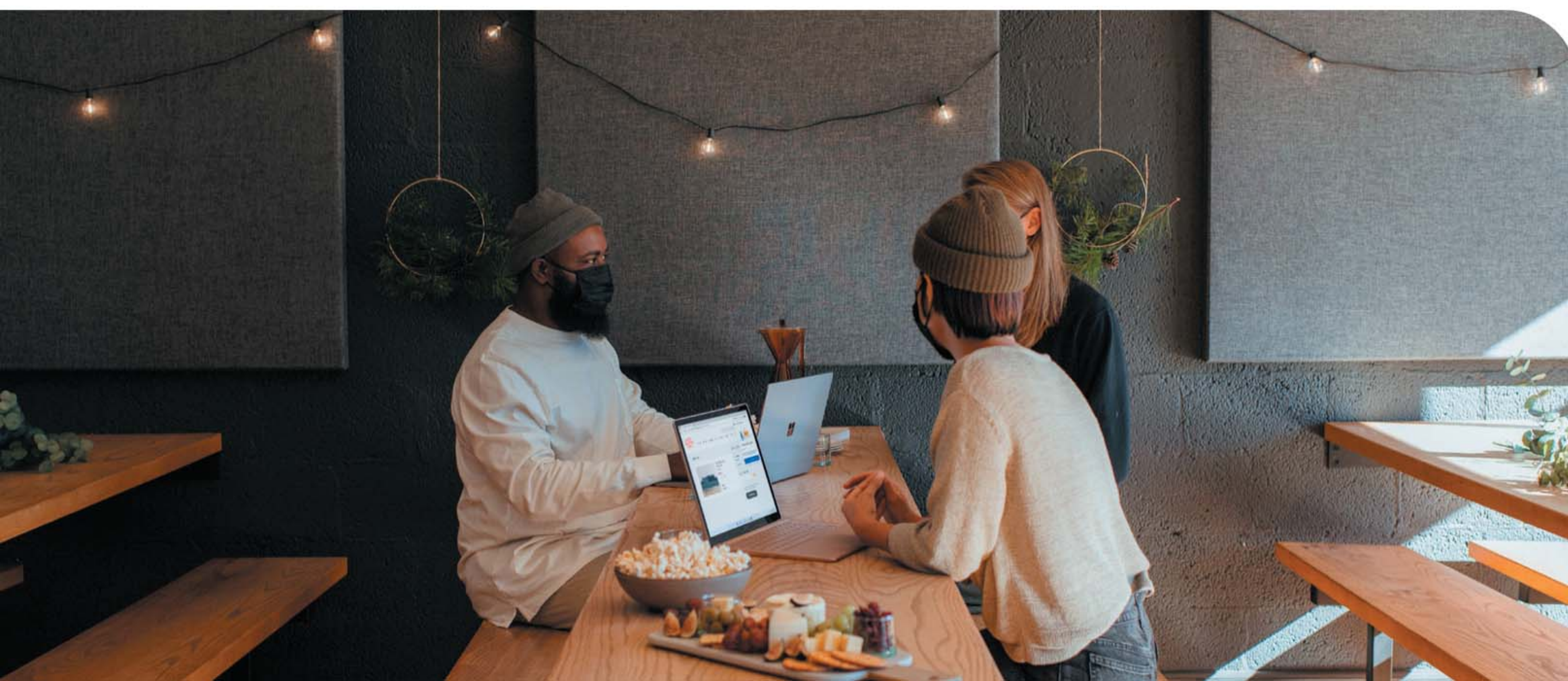
Pastor of the Wesley Foundation (wesleykzoo.org), a United Methodist Campus Ministry at Western Michigan University. He also works as a Worship Catalyzer for the office of Worship Ministries, Christian Reformed Church in North America. He is the founder of The Pursuit Gathering (pursuitcommunity.info) and continues to bring his progressive voice as a coach for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He and his wife Erica have served together in various ministry contexts throughout West Michigan and the greater NYC area. They are the proud parents of Jayden and Zoe.

THERESA SLABBEKOORN

Theresa is the Executive Director of Life Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is a Christ-centered, discipleship-style counseling ministry. For over twenty years, she has also passionately trained and equipped local congregations to be the Church so that pastors have the support they need to fulfill their vision in the community. Theresa is married to "King Richard," and they have four children, one son-in-law, and three grandchildren. One of her favorite verses is Romans 5:17, "Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

REV. DR. REGINALD SMITH

Rev. Dr. Reggie Smith currently serves as the Director of Diversity at the Christian Reformed Church in North America, where he previously served as the Director of the Office of Race Relations and the Office of Social Justice. Before his current position, Rev. Reggie led Roosevelt Park Community CRC on the southwest side of Grand Rapids, Michigan for twenty years. He has been president of the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood



Association (RPNA) board for 18 years. Through collaboration between the church and RPNA, the neighborhood has built and owned its library and arts academy and decreased gang violence. The church started Roosevelt Park Ministries, a nonprofit ministry that sought to equip children with mentors, translation service, and ESL services, for almost two decades. Dr. Smith has taught urban ministry and urban development courses at Calvin Theological Seminary, Western Theological Seminary, and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

LOIS WANYOIKE

Lois Wanyoike serves as the Proposal Developer for World Renew's constituency relations (CORE) team. In this role, she supports fundraising teams to identify and package engaging ministry opportunities to share with World Renew's constituents. Lois, a talented and detail-oriented business solutions professional, brings 19 years of work experience from the private

and development sectors in Africa and the US. She has lived and worked in Kenya, Tanzania, Lesotho, South Africa, and the US. She appreciates the beauty of diverse communities and their value in creating sustainable solutions for their own needs.

PETER WATTS

Pastor Peter Watts was born and raised in South Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Cal State Dominguez Hills where he received his B.A. in Mass Communications. He received his Master's of Education in Administration and Leadership degree from University of Phoenix. After 20 years in public education Pastor Watts went into full time ministry where he decided to go back to school at Fuller Seminary where he completed a Masters in Theology in Spring 2017. Currently he is a doctoral candidate at Fuller/North Park Seminary in the school of Theology with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2022. His educational career began 20 years ago

in LAUSD at Compton Ave Elementary School. He then taught for 7 years at a charter organization (View Park Prep) where he also was the founding Principal of Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy Middle School. Pastor Watts is a product of Holy Chapel Baptist Church where he was licensed and ordained under the leadership of Pastor George L. Thomas. In 2008 Pastor Watts and his family planted and organized The Rock Church (Reformed Church in America) which celebrated 12 years in September 2020. He is the author of the new book and journal "Prodigal Father" which narrates his 30 year journey of forgiveness and reconciliation after finding his own biological father on skid row. Pastor Watts is currently the Supervisor for Race Relations and Advocacy for the Reformed Church in America. He has been married to his wife Dr. Didi Watts for 27 years and has three adult children Jasmin Anderson, Avery Watts, and Imani Watts.

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