

A Quiet Day for 21st Century Pilgrims

On the 400th anniversary of Congregationalism's arrival on the shores of North America, there are many things that we remember about these bold Pilgrims who struggled to make their way across the Atlantic Ocean and establish a community in the rugged wilderness of this continent. One of the things that was brought with them was a commitment to a vibrant and profound spiritual life. As we prepare for this historic Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Portland, Maine, a Quiet Day on Friday, June 26, 2020, from 9:00 am-3:30 pm, will give attendees and others the possibility to practice the spiritual disciplines of our Pilgrim forefathers and mothers, in particular the keeping of silence and prayer.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard, our Retreat Guide, is well-known within the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. He is the former Executive Secretary of the NACCC, and has served Congregational churches in California, Iowa, Maine, and Massachusetts, in both settled and interim ministries. Tom has led many Quiet Days and Silent Retreats, and has been a leader and an active supporter of the work of the Congregational Retreat Society throughout its history, as well as a proponent for the encouragement of an intentional devotional life within local churches.

Situated on the Atlantic coast on Casco Bay, according to the website of Southern Maine Community College, the Peter A. McKernan Hospitality Center, where the retreat will take place, "offers a quintessential Maine venue" and the "space includes a welcoming foyer, main lobby...and [a] bar and glass-enclosed wraparound porch with breathtaking views of the Casco Bay islands, the shipping channel and the Atlantic Ocean." The main structure was built as a double officer's quarters in 1902 and was part of what was once Fort Preble, which provided fortified protection of Portland Harbor during the Revolutionary War and on through World War II. As the website explains, "Through the generosity of the voters and many private citizens of Maine, the building was restored and renovated in 1993 to be used as a training facility for students in the SMCC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs."

This event is being sponsored by the Congregational Retreat Society. For more information, you may contact the Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Chaplain-Director of the Society, at drcapacker@gmail.com or by calling (734) 755-4131. Checks for \$30, which includes lunch, must be sent directly to the Pine Hill Congregational Church, 4160 Middlebelt Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323, made out to the Congregational Retreat Society. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY INFORMATION OR PAYMENT WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE OR TO THE NACCC OFFICE IN OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN.** Do make sure to pre-register by Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at the address above —Space is limited and registration will only be finalized when full payment is received.



Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made out to the Congregational Retreat Society

Dietary Restrictions: _____

_____ Yes, I can drive _____ people (including myself) in my vehicle. _____ I will need transportation.