WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? SEMINARS

REGISTER NOW

Join the New York State Council of Churches, Goldstein Hall Attorneys at Law, Pace University Land Use Law Center, New York Homes and Community Renewal and other partners for a day of conversation with colleagues and experts that will inspire you to:

* Think in new ways about how congregations can reach out to their communities and to revitalize.

* Draw on the theological riches of your tradition to address attitudinal and legal barriers which prevent your neighborhood and region from welcoming people of all incomes and races and helping them to live, work and participate in your local economy.

* Renovate and improve your property to further your mission. During these day-long conferences we will:

  * Consider the theological basis for the congregation’s work to offer hospitality to the stranger and strengthen a social fabric that can leave so many feeling isolated. And we’ll directly address the architectural, zoning, financial and social barriers that stand in the way.

  * Equip you with practical tools that will enable your congregation to take important new steps in following the biblical command to love our neighbors—and our neighborhood.

Register now at www.nyscoc.org Cost is $40 per participant, $100 for a team of 3. Lunch included. Scholarships available upon request. The seminars will be held from 9AM to 5PM at the following locations:

- Tuesday, October 22nd, White Plains, Pace University Land Use Law Center
- Tuesday, November 12th, Medina (between Rochester and Buffalo), First Presbyterian Church
- Tuesday, January 28th, (Wednesday, February 5th, snow date), Western Long Island, Location TBA
- Tuesday, March 17th, Saratoga Springs, New England Congregational Presbyterian Church
- Tuesday, May 19th, Syracuse, University United Methodist Church

We invite your organization to join a growing list of legal, faith, architectural, planning, development, and banking and title organizations supporting the Who is Our Neighbor Program. Sponsorship information is available on our website at www.nyscoc.org
Our growing list of sponsors include:

Lead Series Sponsors: Goldstein Hall Attorneys at Law, Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

Supporting Series Sponsors: New York State Association for Affordable Housing, Enterprise Community Partners White Plains

Lead Regional Sponsors: United Methodist City Society White Plains Seminar

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, (ELCA), Medina Seminar

Supporting Regional Sponsors: Interfaith Dwellings Corporation of New Rochelle, SHORE (Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility), St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Bedford, NY. White Plains

Ministerial Association of Medina, Medina Seminar

Contact Rev. Peter Cook at 508 380-8289 or pcook@nyscoc.org for more information.

**CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE**

**Change the Roots – Change the Fruits**

**Register Now for Tuesday, October 15 – Thursday, October 17, 2019 in Owego, NY**

This year’s Protestant Chaplains Education Conference will once again be held at the Owego Treadway Conference Center/Quality Inn located in Owego, NY.

This Conference warmly welcomes all chaplains and volunteers seeking support, education and collegiality, who work in any chaplaincy setting—hospitals, jails, prisons, children’s and youth facilities, mental health, disaster-preparedness ministries, state, county and state institutions to name a few.

*Purchase your registration here for the full conference* and catered meals for Tuesday dinner and lunch and dinner on Wednesday. The hotel provides a complimentary breakfast, for Wednesday and Thursday mornings. This price also includes a $25.00 registration fee.

You may also register for part of the conference with the registration form at this link. [2019 Registration form for Annual Chaplains Education Conference](#) Or, you may also use this form for the full conference if you prefer to send a check.

This registration does not include your hotel arrangements, you will be making those on your own. Call the Quality Inn 607-687-4500 and be sure to tell them you are part of the NYSCOC (New York State Council of Churches) Conference.

The hotel rooms will be $75 per night, this price is offered as long as you reserve your room before September 25, 2019.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Greta Thurnberg, the young Swedish environmental activist, is in the United States to highlight the environmental crisis. Many activities are scheduled around her visit and in conjunction with United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit.

Click here for an extended interview on Democracy Now with Greta Thurnberg. A particularly helpful news piece about the environmental crisis, is an extended interview on Democracy Now with Naomi Klein author of the newly release book, On Fire.

CLIMATE STRIKE, SEPTEMBER 20

NEW YORK CITY

Please join with other people of faith to support young people around the world, and across New York City, as they leave school on Friday, September 20, to call for action on the rapidly accelerating climate crisis. With the United Nations convening its Climate Summit on the following Monday, the youth-led Climate Strike in New York will have a global impact.

We will gather at St. Paul’s Chapel of Trinity Church Wall Street (209 Broadway, near the Fulton Street subway station in lower Manhattan) starting at 10:30. We encourage you to arrive by 11:15, or as soon as possible thereafter. St. Paul’s will provide light refreshments, and sign-making supplies. At noon we will leave St. Paul’s for Foley Square to join other marchers. Once we all assemble, we will depart from Foley Square at 1:00 to march to Battery Park. The rally in Battery Park will begin around 3:00 and end around 5:00. Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and others will speak.

Please register your interest in participating and sign up to receive further updates on plans for the day, at http://bit.ly/StrikeEventB. General information on the strike can be found at https://strikewithus.org/nyc/. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Father Matthew Moore (revmatthewm@gmail.com). If you arrive in Manhattan after we have left St. Paul’s Chapel, or need any other assistance on the 20th, please call Father Matthew on his cell phone (718-757-4012).

ALBANY

Capital District to Join September 20 Student Climate Strike

March to Start at 11:00 AM at 79 Sheridan Ave., Albany; Rally West Capitol Park 1

On Friday September 20, Capital District residents will participate in the international student climate strike. March begins at 11:00 AM at 79 Sheridan Avenue in Albany culminating in a rally at the State Capitol (West Capitol Park) at 1 PM.

Here are the Facebook links
FB march: https://www.facebook.com/events/2563094470409904/
FB rally: https://www.facebook.com/events/1288680494645374/
For general background information go to: https://globalclimatestrike.net/
RING CHURCH BELLS, SEPTEMBER 20, 12 NOON

Global Catholic Climate Movement suggests a powerful form of local witness in support of this Friday's Climate Strike. Please consider ringing the bells in your own churches starting at noon this Friday (marking the moment when student strikers will leave school). Riverside Church in Manhattan will be ringing their bells for three minutes, starting at noon. If others throughout the state follow suit, it will be a striking statement of Christian concern for the earth and its inhabitants.

If you are willing and able to forward this to other congregations (not just Episcopal ones!) in your community, it would be a great help.

2019 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 9AM - 4:30, NEW PALTZ

Sane Energy will join an INCREDIBLE group of climate leaders for the 2019 Climate Solutions Summit. We will speak about the fracking infrastructure invasion and our suggested solutions. The summit is an opportunity for organizers and people from all communities across the region to come together to share projects, case studies, resources, experiences and skills to tackle climate change and implement solutions.

A GATHERING IN SILENCE ON THE EVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL’S CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Quaker Meeting House, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003 (between 15th and 16th Streets, and 2nd and 3rd Avenues), Please arrive by 7:20pm

We will gather in silence between 7:30pm and 8:00pm

This will be followed by a period of contemplative sharing 8:00pm – 9:00pm led by Christiana Figueres, CEO of Global Optimism
Chief Dwaine Perry, Chief of the Ramapough-Lunaape Nation will also participate. People of all faiths and those unaffiliated are welcome. Contact: TheEarthSilence@gmail.com

TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN NEW YORK STATE

OCTOBER 1, 2019

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2850 GUILDERLAND AVENUE

ROTTERDAM, NEW YORK

Join us at 7 PM, Tuesday, October 1, for a full discussion of the state of environmental policy in New York State. Topics will include implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the Green New Deal and divestment of fossil fuel stocks.

FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

We urge you to be in touch with Tom Dinapoli, Comptroller of New York State, to ask him to divest New York State Pension Funds of fossil fuel stocks. Click here for a flyer explaining what to do and say.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS NEEDED NOW

WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT

We need your help. The Working Families Tax Relief Act H.R. 3157. The HTC offers an excellent opportunity to improve the economic security of many working New Yorkers. It strengthens the highly successful Earned Income Tax Credit. It also improves the Child Tax Credit (CTC) helping millions more children in low-income families get a good start in life. Working with the Fiscal Policy Institute, The Schuyler Center and others, we are seeking signatures from at least 50 faith communities, not-for-profits, advocacy groups and other organizations on this letter which will be sent to Congressional Representatives in New York.

Please review the language in the letter at this link which will be sent to the members later in September, and add your organization to the list of supporters via our online response form. Click here for data about the EITC and CTC for each congressional district. Please complete your sign on by 5pm on Friday, September 20.

Every day, working New Yorkers are left behind as their wages continue to stagnate and costs continue to rise. Let’s be sure our representatives understand how important strengthening and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) is to the people and communities they represent. Thank you for your help in seeing this important legislation passed.

HEALTH CARE FORUM, SEPTEMBER 23

“Guaranteed Health Care” Manhattan Town Hall –Metro New York Health Care for All is joining with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and its partners in the Campaign for New York Health to host a public forum on the New York Health Act, a bill to create a fully universal health care program for all New Yorkers. It will be held on next Monday evening Sept. 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hartley House at 413 West 46th Street. This event will build on a very successful one held in Brooklyn in early August. RSVPs and more information are available here.
PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

As authorized by the New York Legislature, a panel was appointed to consider instituting a public financing system for state elections. At the second hearing in Albany, supporters packed the room and there was a line of 30+ people told to wait outside when the room reached capacity. The testifiers were overwhelmingly speaking out in support of a strong public financing program. You can see some of the highlights on Fair Elections' Twitter and by searching #FairElections.

Video from Second Hearing in Albany

Watch the hearing proceedings: https://campaignfinancereform.ny.gov/event/albany-public-hearing-meeting

Watch our press conference: https://www.facebook.com/fairelectionsny/videos/512978669492881/

Press Coverage

New York State Panel Hears Input on Public Campaign-Finance System

Jimmy Vielkind, Wall Street Journal, 9.18.19

Fusion voting again takes top billing in campaign finance meeting (copied below)

Bill Mahoney, Politico, 9.18.19

Public Finance commission hearing overshadowed by arguments on fusion voting

Karen Dewitt, WXXI, 9.18.19

As campaign reform commission begins its work, new report looks at Albany’s 2018 fundraising

Aidan O'Shea, The Legislative Gazette, 9.18.19

Democrats recruit fusion voting opponents — Violence spiked at Rikers — New York bans most flavored e-cigarettes

Erin Durkin and Anna Gronewold, Politico, 9.18.19

Fair Elections for New York campaign to hold rally in Albany

Staff, WNYT, 9.18.19

Group rallies in Albany to get big money out of politics

Staff, WNYT, 9.18.19

Commentary: To threaten fusion voting is to threaten democracy
SAVE THE DATE

COLLEGE BEHIND BARS

https://www.pbs.org/show/college-behind-bars/

A film by Lynn Novick. Ken Burns is the executive producer

Tune in or Stream November 25 and 26 at 9/8c. on PBS stations nation-wide

COLLEGE BEHIND BARS, a four-part documentary film series, tells the story of a small group of incarcerated men and women struggling to earn college degrees and turn their lives around in one of the most rigorous and effective prison education programs in the United States – the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI).

Shot over four years in maximum and medium security prisons in New York State, the four-hour film takes viewers on a stark and intimate journey into one of the most pressing issues of our time – our failure to provide meaningful rehabilitation for the over two million Americans living behind bars. Through the personal stories of the students and their families, the film reveals the transformative power of higher education and puts a human face on America’s criminal justice crisis. It raises questions we urgently need to address: What is prison for? Who has access to educational opportunity? Who among us is capable of academic excellence? How can we have justice without redemption?

In faith,

Peter Cook

Executive Director