



This land is my land?

The gospel of conquest and the church

4th Annual Leadership Conference
October 10-11, 2014 at Church of All Nations
4301 Benjamin St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Why this conference?

Christian faith in America has always been thoroughly colonized. The US was birthed out of colonization of the land and the genocide of its peoples, and it was Christian theology's "Doctrine of Discovery" that served as its rationale. This doctrine continues to shape America's national laws and our neo-liberal policies that are destroying local communities and the environment across the globe.

Church of All Nations is hosting a two-day conference to confront the legacy of this 'gospel' of conquest. Our questions include: How did a faith with roots in navigating the underside of imperialism become so complicit in the colonization of the globe? How does the church today repudiate this heretical gospel, exorcizing its demons from our common life and witness?

We invite pastors, theologians, seminarians, community activists, congregational leaders and young adults—those indigenous to the land and its subsequent settlers—to join in exploring how the church might take responsibility for our history, and move the church forward. Our aim is to work actively for the decolonization of our own traditions, communities, and the land that we now live on, that we might all find healing and salvation.

Location & date

The conference will be held at Church of All Nations (www.cando.org), 4301 Benjamin St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, from Friday, October 10 at 5:00pm to Saturday, October 11 at 8:00pm. There will be a pre-conference "Sacred Sites Tour" (see below) led by Jim Bear Jacobs Friday at 1:00pm. We also invite everyone to join us for 10:00am worship Sunday morning with lunch following, followed by CrossTalk (our adult education class) led by Jim Bear Jacobs that will reflect more on the themes of the conference.

The registration fee is sliding scale. This includes dinner Friday night, and lunch and dinner Saturday. To register, fill out the back page of this form and email to John Nelson at neljohwa@gmail.com. Online payment options are available at <http://www.cando.org/4th-annual-conference/>.

About the host

Church of All Nations is a multicultural Presbyterian congregation that challenges white supremacy and pursues racial reconciliation within a local church context. This has increasingly led us to engage the history of the land that non-native colonial settler culture now occupies in Minnesota, and to listen to the stories of the indigenous peoples of the land that have been displaced. We seek to journey the path of decolonization as a central part of our Christian faith and witness.



Church of All Nations

Plenary Speakers/Leaders

- **Mark Charles** is a speaker, writer, consultant, and founder of 5 Small Loaves from Fort Defiance, Ariz., located on the Navajo Reservation. The son of an American woman of Dutch heritage and a Navajo man, he seeks to understand the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and reconciliation. He partners with organizations to assist them in respectfully approaching, including, and working with native communities.
- **Annamarie Hill** is the Executive Director of the state of MN Indian Affairs Council and is an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. She has been an active participant in public policy on a tribal and state level and has worked for state government for many years, having held various positions, including, State Legislative and Public Relations Director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Investigator for the MN Department of Human Rights and Drafting and Editing Assistant for the Office of the Revisor Statutes.
- **Jim Bear Jacobs** is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and serves on staff at Church of All Nations. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is a convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a committee dedicated to creating events of dialogue and education particularly within faith communities.
- **Jin S. Kim** is founding pastor & head of staff of Church of All Nations and most recently founder of Underground Seminary, which focuses on decolonizing Christian leadership. He also serves as field staff for Korean English Ministry in the PCUSA, coaching and advising pastors/seminarians; is on the MN council of Churches board; and formerly served as PCUSA delegate to the National Council of Churches. He preaches and speaks widely on the ministry of reconciliation.
- **Sheldon Wolfchild** is a member and former Tribal Chairman of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. He is an actor, filmmaker and producer who has appeared in a number of feature films and television shows. Sheldon has been researching the history of Dakota people in MN and interviewing elders for 15 years for his three-part documentary film on the history and beliefs of the Dakota people. He will screen Part II on the Doctrine of Discovery, the religious justification early explorers used to claim lands from indigenous nations.

Schedule

Friday Oct 10

- 12:00 Registration opens
- 1:00 Plenary I: "*Sacred Sites Tour*" with **Jim Bear Jacobs**.
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 Welcome & introductions by **Jin S. Kim**.
- 7:30 Plenary II: "The Doctrine of Discovery" viewing with **Sheldon Wolfchild**, followed by discussion.
- 9:00 Fellowship

Saturday Oct 11

- 8:30 Coffee and light breakfast
- 9:00 Workshops I
- 10:30 Plenary III with **Mark Charles**.
- 12:00pm Lunch at CAN
- 2:00 Workshops II
- 3:30 Plenary IV with **Annamarie Hill**.
- 5:00 Plenary V: Panel discussion with plenary speakers moderated by **Jin S. Kim**.
- 6:00 Dinner
- 8:00 End of conference

(Optional) Sunday Oct 12

- 10:00am Worship at Church of All Nations
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:00pm CrossTalk discussion with **Jim Bear Jacobs** on Healing MN Stories' Capitol Arts Project.

“Disavowing the Doctrine of Discovery”

The conference is part of the Saint Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN)/Healing Minnesota Stories fall series titled, “Disavowing the Doctrine of Discovery: Acknowledgement, Dialogue, and Opportunities for Action.”

The Goals for the Fall Series are:

1. Increase the collective awareness and understanding of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery and its modern-day legacy.
2. Create a climate for enriching relationships
3. Seek ways forward for continued education and discussion on these issues in our faith communities, congregations and community.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Doctrine of Discovery?

A: This refers to the legal and religious justification used to take lands from Native peoples. The doctrine first appeared in 15th Century papal edicts that allowed Christian European empires to claim “discovered” lands and forcibly convert or enslave Native peoples. It appears in a more secular form in U.S. Supreme Court decisions and still defines U.S.-Indian law. Religious and secular actions that have stemmed from this worldview have deeply hurt Native peoples and their languages, cultures and religions.

Q: The Doctrine of Discovery is 500 years old. Why is it relevant for people of faith today?

A: The Doctrine of Discovery is the starting point for a much larger discussion. The doctrine’s worldview has continued for centuries. It is reflected in the 19th Century concept of Manifest Destiny. It is reflected in the broken promises and treaties. It is reflected in the boarding school era that broke apart Native families and crushed Native languages and cultures. By many statistics—such as poverty, income and health—the historical trauma suffered by Native Americans is still very present today. This history calls for a response from people of faith.

Q: This is such a huge and complicated issue. How can we expect to make any progress?

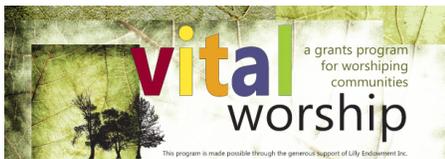
A: This is a huge and complicated issue with no easy path to healing. The scope of the challenge should not deter the undertaking. It starts with learning more about our state’s history and being open to hearing stories from Native Americans that are very different from the ones many of us learned in history classes. Some denominations have taken the symbolic step of formally repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. More concretely, there is much work to be done to undo the harm to Native American language and culture. Gaining clarity on what to do next has to start with learning and dialogue.

Q: What are possible next steps?

A: Encourage your faith community to take these issues seriously and learn more about this history. See: <http://spinterfaith.org/healing-minnesota-stories/doctrine-of-discovery.html>

Conference Sponsors

This conference has been made possible by the Vital Worship Grants Program at the Calvin Institute of Christian worship; United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities; and the Kaleo Center.



worship.calvin.edu/grants/



www.unitedseminary.edu



kaleo.center



Transportation

Those flying should book flights to the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) airport, approximately a 25 minute drive from Church of All Nations (CAN). We can provide transportation to and from the airport if you request in advance. If you are driving, directions and maps to CAN are available at: <http://www.cando.org/location/>.

Lodging

Attendees can reserve hotel rooms at a special discounted rate at the **Days Inn** (2550 N Cleveland Ave, Roseville, MN 55113, (651) 636-6730; **\$65/night if booked by Oct. 3**) in Roseville, MN, just four miles from CAN. Let them know you are with Church of All Nations when booking. Shuttles will be available to and from the conference for those staying at this hotel.

Sacred Sites Tour

Jim Bear Jacobs will lead a "Sacred Sites Tour" Friday afternoon beginning at 1:00pm from CAN. This tour features local American Indian sacred sites from the Dakota perspective. It covers Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional Dakota burial ground, and Fort Snelling State Park, the site where 1700 Dakota women, children and elders were held during the winter of 1862-1863 before their deportation. This history will inform the rest of our conference conversations. *There is an additional \$25 fee for this tour; please include it in your registration payment.*

Registration

The conference fee, including Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch & dinner, is sliding scale: \$100 for those with annual income \$50,000 and above; \$75 for those with annual income \$40,000-\$50,000; \$50 for those with annual income \$20,000-40,000; and \$25 for those with annual income \$20,000 and below. Those of Native descent are welcomed as honored attendees at no cost.

Please provide registration details below by October 3. Participants can mail their check to CAN (payable to "Church of All Nations") at 4301 Benjamin St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421; they can pay at the door; or they can pay online by following the link at <http://www.cando.org/4th-annual-conference/>.

Name: _____

Church or Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

How will you travel to the conference? Will you need a ride from the airport? Yes ___ No ___
Flight info (if you don't know yet, email to us later):

Will you stay at one of the conference hotels? Yes ___ No ___ Will you have a car? Yes ___ No ___

Are you an ordained minister? Yes ___ No ___ If so, which denomination: _____

Do you need a babysitter for children? Yes ___ No ___ If so, what times, how many children & what are their ages? _____

Do you plan to participate in the Sacred Sites tour Friday afternoon? Yes ___ No ___

Payment options (check one): Mail check ___ Pay at the door ___ Pay online ___

Need financial assistance? Contact John Nelson below for details.

Email this form to: John Nelson at neljohwa@gmail.com; direct any questions to his cell (651) 206-5149.