

REFOCUSING OUR FAITH

Re-examining Brethren in Christ Core Values After 20 Years

**NOVEMBER
12-13, 2020**

A virtual conference for Brethren
in Christ pastors and lay people

Sponsored by the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University

SESSIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Session 1: The Value of BIC Core Values, Two Decades Later

In this session, speakers will reflect on the enduring value of the BIC Core Values statement 20 years after its first formulation in 2000. Each speaker will speak to the enduring value of the core values statement based on their particular location within the BIC U.S.: Leadership Council, General Conference Board and individual BIC congregation.

Session 2: The Theological Foundations for Brethren in Christ Core Values

In this session, speakers will engage one of the texts read and discussed by participants in the original core values consultation in 1999: Luke Keefer Jr.'s essay "The Theological Foundations for Brethren in Christ Core Values." Speakers would analyze the Keefer thesis by assessing the validity of his argument, pointing out additions or changes they might make and suggesting areas for further conversation, investigation and/or consideration.

Session 3: Core Values "For Such a Time As This"

In this session, speakers will address how the 10 core values equip pastors to lead their congregations in an ever-changing cultural context. Focusing on three major challenges facing congregations in the present moment—the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice and political partisanship—this session invites sustained reflection on the ways in which core values hinder adaptation to the present context and/or poise us to embrace it and capitalize on its opportunities.

Session 4: Using Core Values in the Local Congregation

In this session, speakers will describe some of the ways that their congregation has used the core values in worship, preaching/teaching, Christian education, assimilation and other areas of ministry. The idea would be for speakers to share what they have done so that participants will hear what others have done and be inspired to use the core values in new ways in the future.

Session 5: Where Do We Go From Here?

In this session, speakers will project and make suggestions for the next 20 years of Brethren in Christ core values. How do they inspire mission (or distract from it)? How might they be engaged/translated for our changing contemporary contexts and needs? How do we need to articulate the core values afresh? What else should we be doing to engage our core values in ministry?

This conference seeks to reflect on the Brethren in Christ core values and to assess how these core convictions can inspire effective ministry and move us to action, in the present and future.

It will encourage leaders and laypeople in the Brethren in Christ Church to consider such questions as:

- What are the theological foundations for our BIC core values?
- How do our core values hinder adaptation to our present contexts and/or empower us for relevant ministry?
- How can we use our core values in worship, preaching/teaching, education, assimilation and more, within the local congregation?
- What's the future of BIC core values?

CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference "Refocusing Our Faith" is sponsored by the E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University. It will provide Brethren in Christ ministers, lay people and friends from related denominations with the opportunity to reflect on important issues in theologically informed ways.

The conference will be held on **November 12-13, 2020.**

The conference requires a registration fee of \$10, which includes pre-conference materials and covers administrative costs related to the event.

Attending this conference is an opportunity to fulfill one Lifelong BIC Learning credit, an expectation for all Brethren in Christ ministers within each renewal period.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety of our community, this year's study conference will be held online via Zoom.



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at siderinstitute@messiah.edu, or visit the Sider Institute website at messiah.edu/siderinstitute.

REFOCUSING OUR FAITH REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people.
Registration deadline is **Friday, November 6, 2020.**



REGISTER ONLINE

Visit messiah.edu/siderinstitute and click on the "Register" link.

REGISTER VIA POSTAL MAIL

Send this form, along with the \$10 registration fee, to The Sider Institute, One University Avenue Suite 4033, Messiah University, Mechanicsburg PA 17055. Make checks payable to "Messiah University."

Name(s) (required) _____

Address (required) _____

Email (required) _____

Phone (optional) (_____) _____

Church affiliation (required) _____

For Brethren in Christ pastors:

Would you like Lifelong BIC Learning credit for attending? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I plan to attend (check all that apply):

☐ All five sessions ☐ Session 1 ☐ Session 2

☐ Session 3 ☐ Session 4 ☐ Session 5

REFOCUSING OUR FAITH

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(All times in Eastern Standard Time)*

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

2:00 p.m.	Session 1: The Value of BIC Core Values, 20 Years Later
4:00 p.m.	Session 2: The Theological Foundations for Brethren in Christ Core Values

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

11:00 a.m.	Session 3: Core Values "For Such a Time As This"
1:00 p.m.	Session 4: Using Core Values in the Local Congregation
3:00 p.m.	Session 5: Where Do We Go From Here?



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