



Presented by

**Michigan District**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*Heart Issues*

are

**HARD ISSUES**

**Thursday, October 15, 2020**

**In Person | Virtual**

Please note you are required to wear a face mask throughout the day.  
Please observe social distancing protocols and further local host instructions.

## Schedule

2020 Michigan District, LCMS

### Heart Issues are Hard Issues

8:30 a.m.	Registration/Fellowship	
8:55 a.m.	Opening	Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
8:57 a.m.	Worship   Message by Rev. Christopher Bodley	
9:17 am.	Individual Prayer/Response time at individual locations	
9:40 a.m.	Session 1   Pre-Recorded Message	Ed J. Stetzer, Ph.D.
10:40 a.m.	Discussion Time	
10:55 a.m.	Break	
11:10 a.m.	Session 2	Rev. B. Keith Haney
11:50 a.m.	Discussion Time	
12 noon	Q & A	
12:10 p.m.	Lunch	
1 p.m.	Session 3	Rev. Dr. Kent R. Hunter & Tracee J. Swank
1:45 p.m.	Discussion Time	
1:55 p.m.	Q & A	
2:05 p.m.	Break	
2:20 p.m.	Session 4   Pre-Recorded Message	Rev. Dr. Victor J. Belton
3 p.m.	Discussion Time	
3:10 p.m.	Final Session Closing Comments, Devotional, Prayer, and Benediction	Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
4-5 p.m.	Encouraged Socially Distanced Fellowship Time on site or off site	
7:45 p.m.	LIVESTREAM Q & A	Rev. Dr. Victor J. Belton
8 p.m.	LIVESTREAM Q & A	Ed J. Stetzer, Ph.D.

Follow-up content to be utilized at the following November 2020 Winkel will be provided:

- Additional Discussion Questions
- President's Report

**Please submit your questions for the conference Q&A sessions in the  
Comment Feature of the Livestream on YouTube**

[michigandistrict.org/live](https://michigandistrict.org/live)

- Video recordings of all sessions will be available after the conference.  
You will be notified by email of their availability.
- A conference evaluation will be emailed to you today; please take a moment to share your comments with us. Thank you.

# President's Welcome

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Dear Michigan District Pastors and other Friends,

I thank and praise our Lord Jesus Christ for **His faithfulness** to us and for your continued faithful service to Him in the strength He supplies!

What a privilege to welcome you to the 2020 Heart Issues are Hard Issues Conference in person or virtually.

To be sure, the Church has a defined role to play in the present racial tensions many are experiencing, and of which all are aware. The unrest has exposed prejudices and biases which are exhibited in many ways. The gospel-confessing Church—pictured in *Matthew 5:14*, “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden*” (ESV)—has the privilege and responsibility with all the members of the body of Christ individually, of learning about, educating about, and working to heal the racial injustices that exist in society and, because we are sinners, in the Church as well.

This year's conference is designed to enable participants to learn more about being a light to the world as we move forward in these tenuous times, praying for—and laboring towards—racial healing. Please remember what the Apostle Paul writes in *Ephesians 2* “... remember that you were at one time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that *in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace ...*” (*Ephesians 2:12–15*) How blessed we are to welcome excellent speakers, share helpful resources, encourage one another in the joy of the Lord, and find wisdom, peace, forgiveness, and rest in Him.

*“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with a full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”* (*Hebrews 10:19–25*).



Grateful to be in service with you,

*Rev. David P. E. Maier*

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President  
Michigan District, LCMS

## Keynote Speakers

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### Ed J. Stetzer, Ph.D.

Ed Stetzer holds the Billy Graham Distinguished Chair for Church, Mission, and Evangelism at Wheaton College. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton, and as chair of the Evangelism and Leadership Program in the Graduate School. Stetzer is a prolific author and well-known conference speaker. He has planted, revitalized, and pastored churches, trained pastors and church planters on six continents. He holds two masters degrees and two doctorates, and has written or co-written a dozen books and hundreds of articles.



### **Rev. B. Keith Haney**

Rev. B. Keith Haney is Assistant to the President for Missions, Human Care, and Stewardship in Iowa District West. He has been an ordained pastor for 27 years, and has served multi-ethnic urban congregations in Detroit, St. Louis, and Milwaukee. He is the author of numerous devotionals, including *One Nation Under God: Healing Racial Divides in America*. He is married to Miriam (Bickel) Haney and they have six children and one grandchild. Haney is also the author of the blog *The Light Breaks Through*, where he writes on his study of God's Word.



### **Rev. Dr. Kent R. Hunter**

Dr. Kent R. Hunter is the founder of Church Doctor Ministries. He has served as a pastor in Michigan, Indiana, and South Australia. He received his Ph.D. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and his D.Min. from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He is the author of 30 books on the subject of church health, vitality, and the effectiveness of the church. His latest book is *Who Broke My Church? 7 Proven Strategies for Renewal and Revival*.



### **Tracee J. Swank**

Tracee J. Swank serves as the leader of Church Doctor Ministries and is a certified Church Doctor consultant, certified leadership coach, and certified *Building a Story Brand* Guide. She is committed to helping local churches and ministry organizations discover their purpose and mission in the communities they serve. Tracee has an undergraduate degree in organization development from the University of Toledo and a master's degree in Theological Studies and Spiritual Formation from the Winebrenner Theological Seminary.



### **Rev. Dr. Victor J. Belton**

Pastor Belton serves Concordia College in Bronxville, NY as Regional Representative for Advancement. He has a passion for seeing young people come to Christ and is an active mentor for a number of young saints in the community. He is a certified coach through the Center for United States Missions and works with other pastors and leaders to plan and implement prayer initiatives that impact the advance of the Kingdom of God, as well as the Lord's Church and His people on earth.



### **Rev. Christopher Bodley**

Rev. Christopher Bodley was installed as Missionary at Large for A2E in 2012. Rev. Bodley was raised in an urban setting and his public ministry of over 20 years has been solely in an urban context. His background extends from being a church planter to pastoring two multiethnic congregations. Rev. Bodley has a B.A. from Concordia University Nebraska, Seward and an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind. He completed training in the Pastoral Leadership Institute. His ministry experience also includes serving as a Navy Chaplain for 12 years.





## Building a Foundation of Trust

Rev. B. Keith Haney

### Objectives

In this session we will:

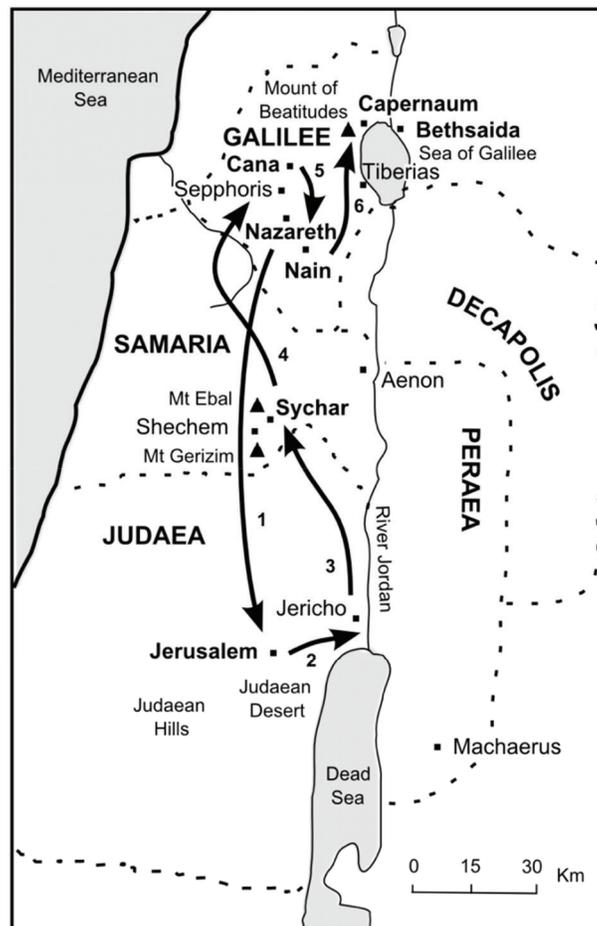
- Move from a theoretical discussion to practical steps to build relationships that can begin to bridge the racial divide.
- Analyze Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well to learn how He reached across a divide.
- Discuss five practical steps to forge a new relationship with a person of another race.

### Developing A Circle of Trust

"While we are in the moment, we don't always understand the purpose for the events in our lives. But rest assured none of those events are without a purpose." - Keith Haney

*"For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him" (Ecclesiastes 8:6).*

### Introduction



## The Biblical Context

Jesus broke three major social rules just to reach out and speak to her:

1. Middle Eastern men never spoke to a woman in public, not even to his wife, mother, or sister.
2. No Jew ever talked to a Samaritan. Jews viewed Samaritans as traitors in the sense that they betrayed their faith when they intermarried with Gentile foreigners. The Jews and Samaritans hated and avoided each other.
3. No self-respecting man, especially a teacher, would ever speak to a woman of such despicable reputation. This woman was a well-known social outcast. You see this outrage in Luke 7 when Jesus was approached by another woman who was a social outcast.

## Five Key Elements to Develop a Circle of Trust

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and maintain \_\_\_\_\_.

Integrity is the foundation of trust in any relationship. Integrity, by definition, means keeping promises and always telling the truth, no matter how difficult it might be. If we are going to have an authentic relationship, we need to have the freedom to share open and honest truths. If the relationship you are developing has integrity, it can stand the test of time.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is important.

3. Consider each other as \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Trust is established when you begin this relationship as equals. Now that may sound strange, but often we enter into a relationship with a sense of superiority. We might be thinking to ourselves, "I have something valuable to offer that person."

4. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

When you are developing a relationship, it helps if you can focus on your similarities rather than always pointing out what makes you different.

- What do you both commonly value?
- What are your passions, your fears, your struggles?
- What gives them joy?
- What challenges do they face?
- What do they fear?

5. Be willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ regardless of personal risk.

How does that look? It requires a willingness to be transparent, authentic, having an openness to share your mistakes and faults.

## Conclusion

I pray Christians never give up or get discouraged with the relationships between the races, because I believe in the power of the Almighty God. Jesus has transformed us through “living water” just as He transformed the Samaritan woman. He forgave our sins, turned us to a new life, freed us from shame, guilt, and fear. Remember, He said: *“The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* Now you have that living water to offer to hurting people. Jesus Christ can work through us to change this racially divided culture, the hateful speech and dialogue, and heal the racial division one person at a time. We Christians can be used by Jesus to change the world.

# Session 3 Notes

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## Respect is Contagious!

Dr. Kent R. Hunter and Tracee J. Swank

- I. Disrespect and disruption.
  - #1. Jesus calms the seas.
  - #2. Unbelievers become receptive.
- II. For those without Jesus, this season feels like America's second Civil War.
- III. For Christ-followers, this is a season of opportunity.
- IV. Unpacking civility.
  - A. The word "civil" means "respect."
  - B. If you respect others—even if you disagree with them—you are a "civilian."
  - C. If you live as an agent of respect, you could be called a "civil servant."
  - D. If you have a commitment to respectful behavior—you are "civilized."
    - If you are part of the human family, you are described as civilized, as a distinction from animals.
    - If you act without respect, you have fallen outside of your Creator's design for you. Your behavior is uncivilized.
  - E. When a group of individuals acts without respect for one another, they contribute to the fall of humanity.
  - F. When a nation moves in the direction of disrespect, regardless of its technological "advances," it is becoming uncivilized.
- V. "Respect" is related to the concept of "polite."
  - A. To be respectful is to act politely.
  - B. Polite behavior is the mark of civilized people.
  - C. "Polite" is the root word for "politics" and "politicians."
  - D. Those who are leaders, by definition, are to be respected and respectful.

VI. The development of the book *Restoring Civility: Lessons from the Master*.

- A. In many of these churches, there was some type of division caused by the misuse of **emails**.
- Human beings may be smart enough to invent emails, but perhaps not always wise enough to use them.
  - Why? Lack of biblical clarity.
- B. Three key areas:
1. **Gossip**
  2. **Libel**
  3. **Slander**
- C. James 3:7–10 (*The Message*)

This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women He made in His image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth.

VII. Three areas of biblical clarification that will help you and your church.

- A. Gossip is a **sin** that occurs when you say anything disrespectful to anyone about someone else who is not present.
- Gossip can be 100% factual truth. Yet, spoken to a third person, it is disrespectful and sinful.
  - Jesus addresses appropriate behavior in Matthew 18:15–17.
1. **Step #1:** If someone offends you, go to that person **alone** and talk to him/her.
    - This excludes talking first to your spouse, parents, friend, boss, pastor, fellow worker, counselor, attorney—anyone!
    - Harboring disrespectful thoughts about someone who has offended you—or ignoring the offense “to keep the peace” is **NOT** part of what Jesus teaches.
    - Stalling because you “don't like conflict” is not a biblical response. It is no excuse.
    - Your goal is not to “prove something,” but to “**restore**” someone, to restore the offense, to restore your relationship.
  2. **Step #2:** If the matter is not resolved, go back a second time. Take **another** person with you.
    - You can't just “forget about it” or make a judgment, such as “he is not receptive” or “she is an idiot.”
    - When you choose someone to go with you, you should not “prep” the person by rehearsing the offense from your perspective. Let your witness hear you and your offender with an unbiased desire to help.
    - Choose someone to accompany you who is more mature, more spiritual, than you are.

3. Step #3: Remember: Your **goal** is always repentance and restoration of behavior and your relationship.
  - In this step, Jesus says, “Take it to the church.” In the love Jesus shows people, this likely does not mean the “whole church.” If you escalate the issue, the likelihood of restoring your relationship with the offender diminishes significantly.
  - Identify a small group of seasoned believers who are well versed in Scripture, those with the spiritual gifts of wisdom, mercy, and discernment.
4. Step #4: There is no step 4, but a lifestyle Jesus demonstrated:
  - A never-ending hope and openness for restoration of the offender, through repentance and forgiveness.
  - God never gives up hope on us. We should never give up hope on others. Never give up on anyone. God doesn't!
  - In the Kingdom of God, grace rules eternal.

B. Libel: When you put into **writing** anything disrespectful about anyone and share it with someone else.

- This is where Christians often disrupt their church.
- It is libelous to send an email, text, or social media post that includes damaging material about another person and to then copy all your friends.
- Libel includes slanted news reports.

C. Slander: When communication in any form contains **demeaning** content about someone's character or reputation.

- It is slanderous for newsmagazines to print, on the cover, a disrespectful caricature of another person, for any reason.
- Comedic characterizations that disrespect the character of a person are acts of slander.

D. Libelous and slanderous forms of communication are technically **punishable** by law.

- Most of these laws are ignored.
- This reflects a loss of respect in a civilization.
- A nation, church, company, or government that ignores respect is moving toward the loss of civilization.
- A nation divided cannot stand (Luke 11:17).

VIII. Faith in Jesus Christ provides individuals with the power and presence of a mental **compass**.

A. Christ-followers measure their actions and reactions by the compass needle.

B. Jesus is the Master of civility. What was it the Son of God said while hanging on the cross?

- “Father, forgive them ...”

- IX. In reality, this nation is faced with two **pandemics**.
- A. One is **COVID-19**. The other is a self-inflicted barrage of **disrespectful behavior**.
- B. Those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior are greatly in need of **hope**.
1. Most of them are desperately in need of a vaccine for COVID-19.
  2. Many don't know that Jesus can heal the **incivility** that takes down nations.
    - But they are aware of the disruption that threatens their way of life.
    - If you and your church want to reach them where they fear for their future, introduce them to the Master of Civility.
      - They will discover a better way to live.
      - They will encounter God's way to live forever.
      - Any trained missionary will tell you: The best way to win a nation for Christ is to meet a need, point to hope, heal a hurt, and point to Jesus.

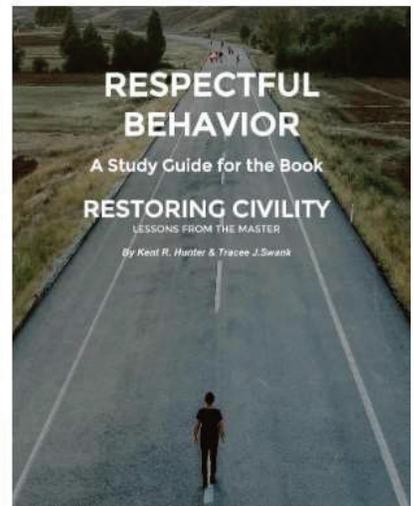
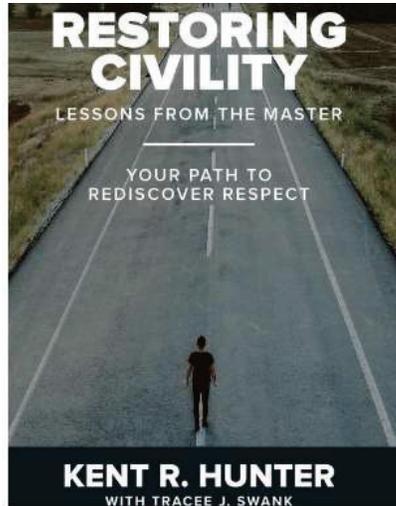
“The source of civility is spiritual.  
The result of civility is character.  
The nature of civility is servanthood.  
The purpose of civility is preservation.  
The motive of civility is love.  
The measure of civility is sacrifice.  
The power of civility is forgiveness.  
The authority of civility is submission.  
The privilege of civility is honor.  
The strength of civility is humility.  
The foundation of civility is Jesus Christ.”

Source: Kent R. Hunter, *Restoring Civility: Lessons from the Master*, Introduction, p. xiv, 2020.

# Next Steps:

Buy the book—comes with a free study guide. Get a copy for everyone in your church!

Study groups—Host a workshop for your community. Special rates apply for Michigan District churches.



# Session 4 Notes

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## The Distractions

Rev. Dr. Victor J. Belton

- 1) Honest, heartfelt, repentant prayer is key to change.
- 2) We are Gospel-confessing people who light the world.
- 3) The world has many things that distract us from the true nature of hard issues such as racial injustice.
- 4) How we are raised, what we believe, who speaks into us, and who we want to please all influence our behavior.
- 5) Watch James Baldwin's *I Am Not Your Negro*, online or on Netflix. Listen to a speech by Malcolm X, Thomas Sowell. Look online to find others whom you may find interesting presenters. Note that you can find African Americans speaking from several different points of view.
- 6) How is the enemy speaking into your relationships? How has your culture and social status influenced what you hear?
- 7) What things are commanding your attention for confession? Know that Jesus forgives your sin. Be brutally honest with yourself.
- 8) What scripture would you use to support racial justice?
- 9) What opportunities do you have to defer to people with different perspectives? With whom can you have an open and honest conversation regarding differences?

**Questions submitted for Victor Belton on the YouTube Livestream chat will be asked during the 7:45 p.m. live Q & A session with Victor Belton.**









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