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WELCOME TO "ENGAGE"

On behalf of the Mission Conference Council I welcome you to "Engage," the 2023 Santa Barbara Mission Conference. We are happy you're here! This is our 21st annual conference, to which we say, "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father." The church partners who produce the conference are El Montecito Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara, The Free Methodist Church in Santa Barbara, Montecito Covenant Church, Oceanhills Covenant Church, and The Presbytery of Santa Barbara and its member churches.

Months ago, as the Council prayed and discussed a theme for 2023, they chose "Engage." This is a word taken from our mission statement: "To inform, inspire, and engage in the work of God's mission." "Engage" is not a topical theme; it is suitable for use in any year. The Council intends its conference to go beyond informing, and even inspiring; it intends to provide for the Holy spirit to move people to engage in mission, where mission may be local or global, may be evangelism, discipleship, justice, compassion, or caring for creation.

We are excited to have both this year's keynote speakers. Becca Stevens is an author, speaker, Episcopal priest, social entrepreneur, and founder and president of the Thistle Farms in Nashville. She will speak Friday evening and again Saturday afternoon. A.J. Swoboda, Associate Professor of Bible and World Christianity at Bushnell University, has authored many books, including *After Doubt* (2021). He will speak Saturday morning. Outstanding individuals will lead six breakout sessions on a variety of mission topics.

Three Pickles Deli is providing Saturday's box lunch. Lunch will be at tables in the Christian Fellowship Center (CFC), where many of the tables will be hosted by conference speakers and breakout leaders. Or take your box lunch to many other locations on the campus.

May you be blessed by the conference and moved by God's Spirit. Tell your friends about us! Follow us on social media and come back next year for the 22nd annual Santa Barbara Mission Conference!



Chuck Curtis
Director

WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW

Conference Pastor. Rev. Tom Stephen has volunteered to be Conference Pastor. He will be available throughout the conference to pray with individuals or groups. How is God speaking to you during the conference? Tom will be more than happy to pray with you and help you discern. He will be there for any prayer needs.

Prayer Room. A room downstairs from the Sanctuary has been set aside as a prayer room for your use at any time during the conference. Look for the "Prayer Room" signs to guide you there.

Box Lunch. Mid-day Saturday you will receive a box lunch and a drink, provided by Three Pickles Deli. By signs and conference hosts you will be guided to the north entrance of the CFC to pick up your lunch. There are many round tables in the CFC where you may sit. Look for the speakers and breakout leaders and join them there. Also, there are many areas on the campus where you can have your lunch.

Food Hospitality. In addition to the box lunch, the conference provides refreshments throughout its the day-and-a-half run: 1) post-conference reception on Friday night, 2) Continental Breakfast Saturday morning, and 3) mid-afternoon cookie & coffee break before Saturday's final session.

Social Media. Stay connected – follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook: sbmissionconference. Instagram: @sbmissionconference

Recordings. Videos of this year's keynote speeches and breakout sessions will be loaded onto our website within days. Look for them starting Feb. 5. Questions? Email us at info@sbmissionconference.org.

WE'D LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE

Nolan Anderson, Web Designer and Graphic Artist

Yvonne Bazinet, Financials

Best Western Encina Lodge

Bonnie Boe, Treasurer

Korbin Breeden, Director of Social Media

Rev. Ann Conklin, Host Pastor

Maria Curtis

Eben Drost, Worship Band Leader

Megann Drost, Program Coordinator

Alex Epstein, Sound Technician, FPCSB

Shirley Fender, Registrar

Dr. Kirk Gilbert, Senior Advisor

Daniel "DJ" Johnsen, Keynote Speaker Coordinator

Jim Kreyger

Fred Marsh, AV Support

June Michealsen, Keynote Speaker Coordinator

Jan O'Connor, Food Hospitality Coordinator

Dave Peterson, Emcee

Denise Rodman, Business Manager, FPCSB

Santa Barbara Inn

Rev. Tom Stephen, Conference Pastor

Paul Tarasick, Facilities Manager, FPCSB

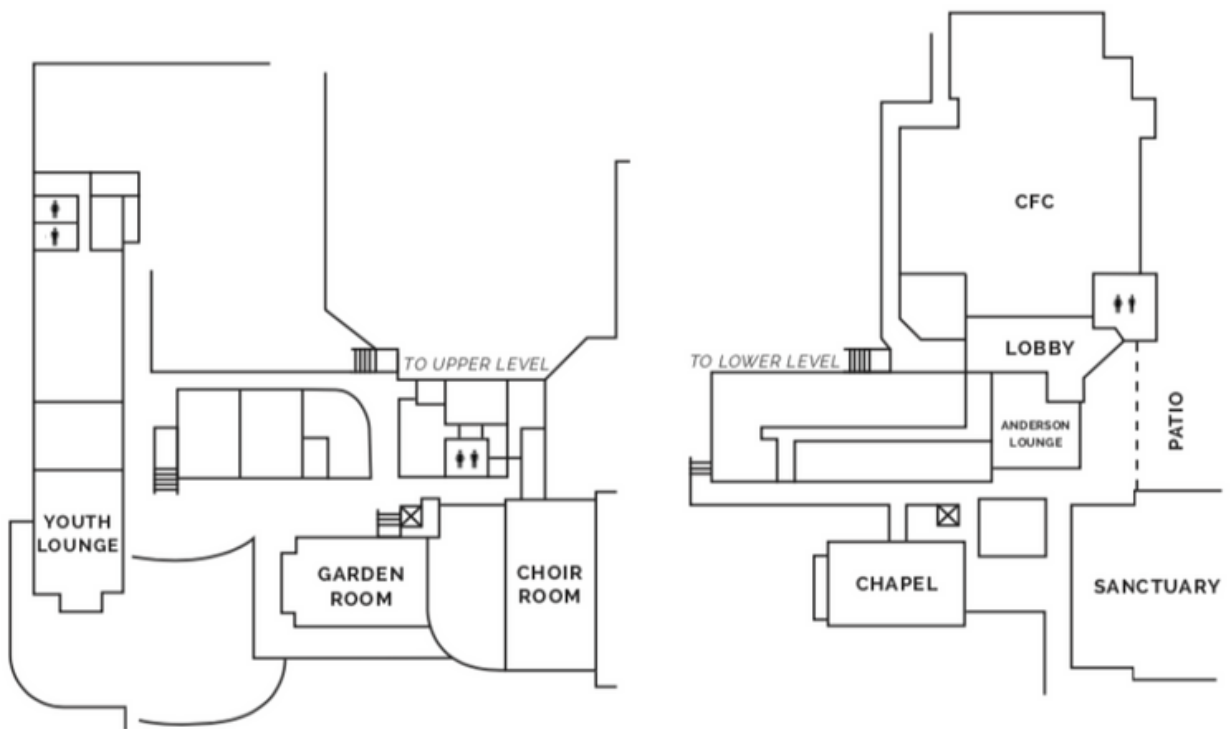
Three Pickles Deli

Justin Walker, Videographer, FPCSB

Brent Winebrenner, Videographer

Worship Band Musicians

VENUE MAP



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY EVENING

6:00-7:00 PM Onsite Registration Open **Patio and Narthex**

7:00 PM Friday Evening Gathering **Sanctuary**

Dave Peterson, Emcee
Tom Stephen, Conference Pastor
Worship: Eben Drost and friends
Becca Stevens, Speaker
Q & A following speech

9:00-10:00 PM Reception and Book Signing **Fireside Lounge**

SATURDAY MORNING

8:00-9:00 AM Onsite Registration Open **Patio and Narthex**

Continental Breakfast **CFC Patio**

9:00 AM Saturday Morning Gathering **Sanctuary**

Dave Peterson, Emcee
Tom Stephen, Conference Pastor
Worship: Eben Drost and friends
A.J. Swoboda, Speaker
Q & A following speech

10:55-11:55 AM Morning Breakout Sessions **Assigned Rooms**

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

11:55-1:10 PM	<u>Lunch: Pick Up Your Box Lunch</u>	CFC
1:15 PM	<u>Saturday Afternoon Gathering</u> Emcee and Conference Pastor Worship Becca Stevens , Speaker	Sanctuary
2:20 PM	<u>Afternoon Breakout Sessions</u>	Assigned Rooms
3:20-3:35 PM	<u>Cookie and Coffee Break</u>	CFC Patio
3:35 PM	<u>Saturday Final Gathering</u> Becca Stevens and A.J. Swoboda : Hearing God's Call Communion Charge and Blessing	Sanctuary
4:40 PM	<u>Conference Concludes</u>	Sanctuary

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING

M1

The Mission of God and Engaging with Others

Speaker: Dwight Radcliff

The *missio Dei* demands engagement with others. Whether you are at home or abroad, the mission of God calls us to be like Jesus; incarnated Word of God interacting with all people by God's Spirit for the sake of God's Kingdom. How do we enter into the worlds of others with care, concern, and humility? In his breakout session Dr. Dwight Radcliff will help us to so enter.

M2

Living in the Digital Age

Speaker: Felicia Song

What is the Good News for a culture driven by the promises of productivity and digital technologies? For many, living in a digitally saturated society means that we are being daily trained into seeing life in terms of relentless scarcity rather than grace-filled abundance. This breakout session will examine how our contemporary digital practices function as "liturgy" that form our lives away from the Kingdom of God and suggest how Christian witness today can be rooted in a journey towards freedom in our relationships with our digital devices.

M3

The Theology of Walking – Part 1

Speaker: Sean Chow

If we're interested in really serving our neighborhoods in Christ's name, it makes sense for us--as individuals and as churches--to get to know our contexts in more authentic ways than our usual patterns of life allow. The morning and afternoon sessions of this breakout will offer some tools for doing that. In the morning, we'll hear from Rev. Dr. Sean Chow, who has done a lot of work on exactly this question of missional/contextual engagement.

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

AFTERNOON

A1

Engaging a Spirituality of Being Sent

Speaker: Paul Jensen

What calling have we sensed for the mission to which God is sending us? Are we in a fog regarding that calling or burned out in it? Do we sense God might want to send us to care for surprising new people and give us fresh unexpected tasks? Do we feel a healthy inadequacy in whatever call we may sense and are we practicing healthy rhythms of rest and engagement in mission?

A2

God's Presence in Ukraine

Speaker: Lena Giffoni & Tom Stephen

Lena Giffoni emigrated from Ukraine over 20 years ago. She now leads remote Bible studies for Russian-speaking Ukrainians from her home in Ventura County. With her pastor, Tom Stephen of Monte Vista Presbyterian Church, she will lead a session on God's presence in Ukraine. They will share stories from churches and ministries who are working in Ukraine now.

A3

The Theology of Walking – Part 2

Speaker: DJ Johnsen

If we're interested in really serving our neighborhoods in Christ's name, it makes sense for us-- as individuals and as churches--to get to know our contexts in more authentic ways than our usual patterns of life allow. The morning and afternoon sessions of this breakout will offer some tools for doing that. In the afternoon, we'll hear about one example of the kind of engagement that Sean Chow describes: a walking experiment in the neighborhoods of Santa Barbara lead by DJ Johnsen, Aaron Sizer, and June Michealsen..

SPEAKER BIOS

Keynote

Becca Stevens

The Rev. Becca Stevens is an author, speaker, Episcopal priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tennessee. She is notable for founding Magdalene in 1997, now called Thistle Farms, to heal, empower, and employ female survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction.

Becca balances the practical and divine with an inspirational voice in the huge choir of people championing the work for a more loving, compassionate, and just world.

Fearless of the exponential growth of her work, she challenges social norms and inspires women to step up for each other - with grace, generosity, vitality, spirit, and love.

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A.J. Swoboda

A.J. Swoboda (PhD, Birmingham) is associate professor of Bible, theology and World Christianity at Bushnell University and lead mentor for the Doctor of Ministry Program at Fuller Theological Seminary on the Holy Spirit and Leadership. He is the author of many books, including *After Doubt* (Brazos). He lives and works on an urban farm in Eugene, Oregon.

SPEAKER BIOS

Breakout

Sean Chow

Rev. Dr. Sean Chow is the Executive Director of the San Diego Presbytery. He is leading the presbytery through a strategic vision to plant churches, revitalize churches, and be more missionally focused. Sean was the Associate for 1001 New Worshiping Communities for Training and Leadership Cohorts for the Presbyterian Church. He resources and consults with regional denomination bodies, churches, and church plants as they launch new creative expressions of church.

He is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University (2005), Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary (2009) and a Doctor of Ministry at New York Theological Seminary (2022). Through it all, there is an inner desire is to be a part of a God driven movement that impacts the world for God's glory. His aim is to prepare, equip, and sustain leaders to do the work in which God calls them. Sean is the author of *Rediscovering Vitality: A Handbook for Church Visioning and Missioning*. He is a frequent speaker to churches, committees, gatherings, and conferences.

Sean and his family live in Southern California where he can be found on a local tennis court having reconnected to an old passion.

Lena Giffoni

Lena Giffoni was born in Ukraine and accepted Christ in 1994 through a YWAM missionary outreach. She currently reaches viewers around the world with her Russian language ministry on YouTube. For many years she has been involved with ministries in Russia and Ukraine. She is an author of *Return to Joyful Living: Reclaiming Life From Fear, Anxiety and Toxic Overthinking*.

Paul Jensen

Paul Jensen is the Founder & President of The Leadership Institute. He is also an Affiliate Professor of Christian Spirituality in Contemporary Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ and pioneered secular campus ministries and trained campus chaplains for the Adventist Church in North America. Paul was a graduate visiting student under N. T. Wright at Oxford University and completed a Ph.D. at Fuller Seminary's School of Intercultural Studies under Wilbert R. Shenk and Richard V. Peace. He is the author of *Subversive Spirituality: Transforming Mission through the Collapse of Space and Time* (Pickwick Publishers 2009) based on his Ph.D. work. He has written articles on spirituality and discipleship including entries in *Blackwell's Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* (2012) and *Zondervan's Encyclopedia of Christian Spirituality* (2011).

SPEAKER BIOS

Breakout

DJ Johnsen

Daniel "DJ" Johnsen is the Director of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice at Oceanhills Covenant Church in Santa Barbara. DJ is a Westmont College grad ('15) and is currently pursuing graduate work in Christian Formation at North Park Theological Seminary. Compelled by the pattern of Christ found in Philippians 2, DJ is a champion of service, self-giving love, and solidarity with the poor and marginalized. He works especially with unhoused peoples, underserved youth, and those who need a second chance.

Dwight Radcliff

Dwight Radcliff is Academic Dean for the William E. Pannell Center for Black Church Studies and Assistant Professor of Mission Theology and Culture at Fuller Theological Seminary. Black church studies, cultural anthropology, and missiology are a few of the areas where he has expertise. He completed his M.Div. degree in Fuller's School of Theology and Ph.D. degree in Fuller's School of Intercultural Studies. Prior to his academic career he was a deputy and a chaplain in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. In addition to teaching he serves as senior pastor of The Message Center in Gardena. He and his wife have two daughters.

Felicia Song

Felicia Song is a sociologist who studies the social and cultural effects of digital technologies on community and identity in contemporary life. Trained in history, communication studies, and sociology from Yale, Northwestern and University of Virginia, she is Professor of Sociology at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA.

SPEAKER BIOS

Emcee

Dave Peterson

Dave Peterson currently serves as the Area Director for Young Life in Santa Barbara, CA. He has spent the past 20 years walking alongside young people and encouraging them to follow Jesus. He's helped build teams in the Pacific Northwest, the Carolinas and now on California's central coast. He's dedicated to passing on the lessons he's learned to other leaders and to laughing as frequently as possible.

Conference Pastor

Tom Stephen

Rev. Tom Stephen serves as pastor of Monte Vista Presbyterian Church in Newbury Park, California. Tom is committed to helping people grow in prayer, compassion, humility and their enthusiasm for the gospel of Jesus. He grew up in Southern California and received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from University of Redlands. He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1990, where he met his wife Virginia, who is an ordained Methodist Minister. Together they have written articles for Youth Worker Journal and curriculum for Focus on the Family and published *Fearless: 40 Days of Living with No Fear*, which incorporates extreme surf photography and devotional scripture readings. Tom and Virginia have four kids, three dogs and lots of fun.

Mission Conference Council

Yvonne Bazinet
Rev. Ann Conklin
Chuck Curtis, Lay Pastor, Chair
Shirley Fender
Rev. Mickey Fenn
Dr. Kirk Gilbert, MD
Daniel Johnsen
Calli Marquez
Loyda Marquez
June Michealsen
Aaron Sizer, PhD
Rev. Tom Stephen
Brent Winebrenner

Vision and Planning Group of SBMC

Jennie Fuentes
Rev. Ken Hwang
Rev. Dr. Scott Lisea
Rev. Doug Ranck
Rev. Dr. Mark Seversen
Rev. Jeff Shaffer
Blake Thomas

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

anonymous
David and Cynthia Ardell
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Peter and Kati Buehler
Gayle Clay
Charles and Maria Curtis
Douglas DuCharme
Ellen Duke
Shirley Fender
Stephen and Joy Frank
Kirk and Pamela Gilbert
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Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Thousand Oaks
First Presbyterian Church San Luis Obispo
First Presbyterian Church Santa Barbara
First Presbyterian Church Santa Paula
Free Methodist Church Santa Barbara
Goleta Presbyterian Church
Montecito Covenant Church
Oceanhills Covenant Church
Presbytery of Santa Barbara
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

IN RECOGNITION

Calli Marquez

The Santa Barbara Mission Conference recognizes Calli Marquez for his 20 years of extraordinary service to the conference. Each year Calli would begin working 6 days before the conference, devoting many hours to setting up the sound in the sanctuary and the breakout rooms. The results were always excellent, especially the balanced sound output from the worship band. Also, he made the technical connections for videography. Calli's work for the conference is one of many ways he has served God and God's mission at First Presbyterian Church.

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