



Dear Laity Summit Registrant,

Welcome to the 2021 Great Plains Conference Laity Summit! We are excited that you are joining us for a day of learning, connection and renewing of the soul. Though we wish that we could be with you in person we are thankful for the opportunity to gather in a virtual setting.

The theme for this year's Laity Summit is "Building a New Normal". This theme was developed with the intentionality of honoring our experiences of this past year and thinking about how we can build on those experiences as leaders, communities, churches, and persons of faith. We are not going back to what we knew but we can build a foundation for what is emerging. We have the opportunity to create a "new" that embraces who we are and what we dream our churches and communities can be. This is our time and it is exciting to think about how we as the laity of the Great Plains can step boldly into this new normal and be the church!

The Laity Summit Planning Team endeavors to provide lay persons an event that inspires dynamic leadership, cultivates leadership and discipleship skills, and enhances resources and networking opportunities. We are grateful to the conference for supporting this event and especially the Communication Team that has dedicated much time and effort in helping us produce this summit in a virtual format.

You are receiving a packet of materials to support the activities of this event. In the packet you find items chosen to help you be successful in this virtual learning setting:

- Schedule and list of opportunities to connect that will be available during the day
- "Soul Reset" written by Junius Dotson, our keynote speaker and also the General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries.
- "See All the People" journal from Discipleship Ministries and a pen which we hope you will use to record notes to yourself reflecting your plan of action.
- 2020 Lay Servant Ministries Catalog. Please explore this publication to learn more about Lay Servant Ministries and the courses and products offered. This is an opportunity to expand your learning moments beyond today.

We are also excited to provide prayer and thank you cards. Please use time while participating in the Laity Summit to send a note to some people who you want to thank for building you up leadership. The other card is a prayer for an emerging leader who could use some encouragement from you!



As we prepare for the day, we have some helpful hints to make the experience smooth.

- Download the latest version of Zoom prior to logging on to the Laity Summit. This is extremely important if you are using your phone or iPad or notebook like device.
- All links to workshops, engagement opportunities and keynote speakers will be located on a secure webpage. You will receive information for the web page the week of the Laity Summit. Please be on the lookout for the email containing this information. It will be coming from the Great Plains Conference office via the same email address from which you received the confirmation email and other conference communication. If at some time you hit unsubscribe to receiving emails from the Great Plains Conference you will not receive this important email. To re-subscribe please visit <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/gpconnect>

Again, we are so excited that you will be joining us on March 20th. Thank you for your commitment and your willingness to lead and be present in our churches and communities. Your witness and leadership as a lay person is needed as we look to forward in "Building a New Normal".

Blessings to you and your family from the Laity Summit Planning Team:

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