

BETTER WITH YOU

THE Iowa Friend

By Manny Garcia, General Superintendent

In just eleven short weeks we will gather as One Church, Iowa Yearly Meeting at our 2024 Ministry Conference. Our office is buzzing with preparation as we craft experiences, curate workshops, and collect reports and updates from the various boards, committees, and teams from around IAYM. I always get excited as plans start to come together for this event, but not for the reasons you might think. Yes, I believe that the conference we are putting together is high quality and will offer some incredible tools and resources to those that attend, but what I look forward to the most is the rich fellowship and community. We have worked hard over the last three years to create an experience that provides space to be together and grow deeper in community. We have moved away from the “business as usual” approach and have slowed the pace, increased the opportunities for fellowship, and put an emphasis on providing value to those who attend. Our ministry conference is not just a business meeting, it is one of the very few chances we have each year to gather as the wider community of Friends in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. It is one of the only opportunities to affirm and encourage one another; to pray together, worship together, grow together, and renew our purpose together.

I was at a lunch with some pastors recently and was asked what they could tell their church members to help them “want to come” to this event. The truth is, there isn’t anything extraordinary in the works. There are no entertainers, no attractions, no celebrity speakers, and even the accommodations are rather basic when compared to other places you could go. But none of these things are what makes our conference distinct. What makes our gathering something worth being at is each of you. The value is in the togetherness. The laughter, the friendship, the memories, the stories, the late nights of fellowship at Smokey Row, the unexpected conversations, the “thin moments” when the kingdom of God is so evident that we can taste it.

So, what can I say to help people want to come? Well, I’ve never been much of a salesman, but I’d say it wouldn’t be the same without you. I’d say if you want to make some wonderful lifelong memories and enter into friendships that transcend locations and even generations; if you want to experience authenticity, love, joy, laughter, belonging, and a gathered experience of Jesus; if you want to be part of something that is only possible to experience when you join others in God’s will, then join us in July!

I hope, pray, and encourage each of you to be with us in July. Bring others from your church. Whether you grew up coming to this gathering every year or you’ve never been, I am convinced that you will be blessed by being part of what God does over these few days. We are better together, and we are better when you are with us!

Ministry Conference

2024

Speakers and Guest Workshop Leaders



ANNA BLANCHARD

Anna Blanchard, 17 years old, finished her junior year at Indianola High School and received her CNA through DMACC this year. She attends Motor Friends Church and is passionate about youth being a part of the Friends Church. In her free time, she likes to run, golf, or spend time with family and friends! Anna is excited to see how God is moving throughout IAYM friends churches!



ROBERT RADCLIFF

Robert Radcliff currently serves as the pastor of Riverside Friends Church in Mason City where he leads a ministry to people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. He is better known as Sarah's husband and that's his favorite title. They have served as missionaries in Cambodia and have worked with refugees in Long Beach, CA. Robert holds a Master's in Pastoral Ministry from Barclay College and begins work on a Doctor of Leadership in Global Perspective this fall at Portland Seminary at George Fox.



SARAH FITCH

Sarah Fitch is currently serving at the IAYM Ministry Assistant and Pastor of Pleasant Plain Friends Church. She graduated from Barclay College with a Bible and Theology Degree, and is currently finishing her graduate Studies in Pastoral Ministry. Wife to Hunter and Mom to Lorelai, Sarah enjoys spending her free time with her loving family. Sarah is deeply passionate about doing life with the people around her, making connections, and using the gifts that God has given her to love people well.



MANNY GARCIA

After having served nearly two decades in local church leadership roles, most recently as the Lead Pastor of Northridge Friends Church in Wichita, KS, Manny felt led to return to Iowa to partner with people and churches of IAYM. He has served as our General Superintendent since 2021. His undergraduate degree (pastoral ministry/bible) and masters degree (leadership) are both from Barclay College, and he earned his Doctor of Ministry (leadership & spiritual formation) from Portland Seminary. Manny's prayer is to see all of IAYM unite as One Church to enact and see God's will being done among the communities we are in, as it is in heaven. When he's not traveling to see the wonderful people of IAYM, you can find him at home enjoying time with his wife Jenalee and daughters Elena and Cici, taking care of his lawn, or out running on the roads and trails around Oskaloosa.



ISAAC HEBDEN

Isaac Hebden lives in Spokane Valley, WA with his incredible family. He has been married to his amazing wife for over 20 years. He and his wife have three active and fun children with whom they love to spend time laughing together. He loves to run, read, and drink good coffee. Isaac is a lead pastor at The Intersection church, district director for his denomination, director of Discover School of Ministry, spiritual director, and teacher. He has a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Spiritual Formation from Portland Seminary. His dissertation was on burnout for pastors and how they can live the abundant life that God promises, even while in ministry. He cares deeply for pastors and the valuable work that they contribute. His purpose in life is to help people grow in their knowledge of God and themselves. He loves to walk alongside people in their own personal journey and discovery of who God has created them to be as they discover more and more about the infinite love of God. His strong belief is that God wants them to be aware of His presence moment by moment and as this awareness grows, so too does the abundant life that God gives.



AARON STOKES

Aaron is currently the Registrar and Affiliate Professor of Quaker Studies at Barclay College. He lives in Haviland, Kansas with his wife, Cassie, and their three daughters: Evelyn, Nora, and Winnie. He has a strong passion for educating people on utilizing Quaker theology to inform how we might live in the present age.



SCOTT BIDDLE

Scott Biddle is a seasoned leader within the community, bringing with him an impressive 29 years of dedicated service in various church leadership capacities. Over the past five years, Scott's approach to ministry has evolved, emphasizing the transformative power of conversations in nurturing spiritual growth and impacting lives beyond the church walls. His commitment to listening and engaging with others has expanded his sphere of influence, enabling him to effectively communicate the message of love and acceptance exemplified by Jesus Christ. Scott believes that our interactions with others not only shape their perceptions of Jesus but also influence their view of the Church as a whole. He sees each conversation as an opportunity to extend compassion and understanding, helping individuals feel seen, heard, and loved. For Scott, these outward conversations are a reflection of the deeper dialogues he engages in with God and himself, guiding his mission to spread love and grace to all. Join Scott Biddle on a journey of meaningful connection and spiritual transformation.



Workshop Lineup

Sabbath

»»» Isaac Hebden

Sabbath-keeping is so difficult. The Sabbath is intended to be a gift to us, but we treat it like the gift that we return or re-gift to others. It's appreciated, but not really wanted or used. However, through the Sabbath God shows us His love. We will explore how to start keeping the Sabbath right where we are.

Maintaining Healthy Ministers

»»» Isaac Hebden

Pastors often struggle with spiritual health, even as they lead local congregations. The perils of vocational ministry can often contribute to emotional fatigue, disillusionment, and exhaustion, commonly referred to as "burnout." Pastors serve sacrificially in their churches, giving all that they have for the lives of the others, often to their own long-term detriment. Jesus calls us to live the abundant life which is available now, even to those whose vocations call for us to give our lives to the Church.

Redeveloping a Missional Mindset for North American Church Planting

»»» Robert Radcliff

Our culture has experienced two seismic shifts: a reinvigoration of church planting inside the church and the loss of Christendom in the culture. How can we, as Friends, plant churches in today's changing culture alongside other church plants? This workshop will be borrowing from Ed Stetzer's Planting Missional Churches.

AI and the Church

»»» Aaron Stokes

This beginner-level workshop delves into the intersection of church ministry and AI. Learn about the basics of AI, its potential applications in the church context, and ethical considerations related to AI use in ministry. Discover practical tips for integrating AI into church operations, explore case studies of successful AI implementations, and connect with other church leaders interested in learning about AI's impact on the church.

Exploring Quaker History

Aaron Stokes

Join us in this illuminating workshop as we journey through the rich tapestry of Quaker heritage. Discover the origins of the Religious Society of Friends, their commitment to peace, social justice, and simplicity, and the enduring impact of Quaker thought on global movements. Engage with stories of influential Quakers, explore their testimonies, and reflect on how their principles resonate in today's world.

Just A Conversation Away

»»» Scott Biddle

Join us for "Just a Conversation Away," a Fishbowl style workshop designed to help you connect with people in your communities and churches, as well as yourself and God. Experience open and engaging conversations while learning practical techniques to ask insightful questions. Through a blend of group discussions and teaching moments, you'll refine your conversational skills and unlock the power of meaningful dialogue. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your ability to connect with others, one conversation at a time.

Welcoming > Friendly

»»» Manny Garcia

Being nice and being welcoming are not the same thing. While most churches are friendly and kind to visitors and newer attendees, most fall short of being hospitable. What can we learn from God's example of love and hospitality found in scripture? In this workshop we will explore stories and principles that will help us grasp what biblical corporate hospitality looks like and how our churches can begin to embody it as a core value.

The Hard Work of Change

»»» Manny Garcia

Someone once said, "change is always perceived as loss which is often followed by anger." But is the fact that change is hard a good enough reason to avoid it? The truth is, in many places the local church is living in the past and expending a great deal of energy trying to preserve what once was, even if it is no longer effective. In this workshop we will explore why some change is necessary and how local church leaders can help others navigate changes, grieve the loss that comes with them, and move forward with a unified vision.

A Commissioned Church: A Legacy of Discipleship

»»» Sarah Fitch

Jesus' final instruction to those he spent his life teaching was to go and make disciples. The disciples had to become the disciplers. This was the start of the church and the legacy left to us. This workshop will take a look at how we might rediscover this purpose in our congregations and how it can and should impact our lives as members of the Body of Christ.

Conference Schedule

25
JULY

T H U R S

3-5pm
5:00pm
6:30pm
8:00pm

Registration
Cookout
Worship Experience
Sweet Corn Serenade in
Downtown Oskaloosa

26
JULY

F R I D A Y

7:00am
8:00am
12:00pm
1:00pm
2:00pm
4:00pm
5:00pm
6:30pm

Breakfast
General Body of Reps
Lunch (Pastor's Lunch)
Intergenerational Bible Study
Roundtables
Celebration of Service
Missions Banquet
Worship Experience

27
JULY

S A T U R D A Y

7:00am
8:00am
8:30am
10:30am
12:00pm
1:00pm
5:00pm
6:30pm
8:30pm

Breakfast
M&C Body of Reps
General Body of Reps
Intergenerational Bible Study
Lunch
Workshops
Dinner
Worship Experience
Reception in Honor of the Daleske's

28
JULY

S U N D A Y

by 9:00am
8:30am
9:30am
10:30pm
12:00pm

Move out of Dorms
Breakfast
Memorial Service
IAYM One Church Worship Experience
Celebration Lunch for Recorded
Minister, Robert Radcliff



CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS 2024

REGISTRATION
ENDS MAY 15TH

Sign up at
iaymyouth.org/camp.html

| High School: June 7-12 |
| Middle School: June 12-16 |
| Elementary: June 18-21 |
| Little Fry: June 21-23 |



MAY 19TH

IAYM REGISTRATION SUNDAY!

Get help signing up for Ministry
Conference at your church either
before or after the service!



ROMANS 12
MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2024

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS CHURCH

12th *Anniversary* CELEBRATION

We've come this far be Faith...with God

JUNE 15 - 16 2024

**JUNE
15**

OPENING EVENTS

4-5 PM- QUARTERLY MEETING

5-6PM- FELLOWSHIP DINNER

6-7 PM- WORSHIP

**JUNE
16**

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

10-1045 AM- BREAKFAST

11-1215 PM- WORSHIP

1230-130 PM- FELLOWSHIP MEAL

GROUP PHOTO/DEPARTURE

7733 W. RIVER RD BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55444

FOR MORE INFORMATION

P: 612 517 7310 //E: INTERNATIONALFRIENDSCHURCH1@GMAIL.COM

Made with PosterMyWall.com