

# SINGLENESSE AND THE CHURCH

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

A 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

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Christina Hitchcock** is professor of theology at the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. She is a Christian theologian who speaks on critical issues such as singleness, sexual ethics, slavery in America, Islam and women in fiction. Her most recent publication, "The Significance of Singleness" (2018), was chosen one of the best theological books of the year by the Englewood Review of Books. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, studying under Iain Torrance and Ian McFarland. She also holds degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Geneva College.

Hitchcock spent her early years in Kansas and on the island of Cyprus. She currently lives in South Dakota with her husband and children. When not tending to them or their rabbits, she is an avid reader of children's literature and historical fiction.

## CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

As Brethren in Christ, we affirm the value of both marriage and singleness.

Yet in reality, we often pay only lip service to the value of singleness and struggle to know what to think of singleness and how best to do life together with Christians who are single.

Singleness is a pressing topic today, impacting how the Church engages the world. What we think about singleness impacts not only those who have never married, but also those who have experienced divorce or the death of a spouse.

This conference seeks to engage in a larger discussion about singleness in the church as a whole, and the Brethren in Christ in particular. It will address such questions as:

- How might we think more deeply about a Christian view of singleness?
- What common issues are shared by the various strands of singleness?
- How do the various experiences of singleness differ?
- How do we do ministry and life together within the Church in light of what we have discussed?

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference "Singleness and the Church" 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 pastors, lay people and friends from related denominations with the opportunity to reflect on important issues in theologically informed ways.

The conference will be held **Nov. 3, 2023**, at Hostetter Chapel.

The in-person conference requires a registration fee of \$30, which covers a catered lunch and administrative costs related to the event.

The virtual option requires a registration fee of \$10, which covers administrative costs related to the event.

**Attending this conference either in person or online is an opportunity to fulfill one Lifelong BIC Learning credit, an expectation for all Brethren in Christ U.S. ministers within each renewal period.**



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at [siderinstitute@messiah.edu](mailto:siderinstitute@messiah.edu), or visit the Sider Institute website at [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute).

## SINGLENESSE AND THE CHURCH

### REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people. Registration deadline is **Friday, October 23, 2022.**

### REGISTER ONLINE

Visit [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute) and click on the "Register" link.

### REGISTER VIA POSTAL MAIL

Send this form, along with the registration fee, to The Sider Institute, One University Avenue, 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: \_\_\_ In person (\$30 registration fee) \_\_\_ Virtually (\$10 registration fee)

# SINGLENES AND THE CHURCH

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



NOVEMBER 3, 2023 • HOSTETTER CHAPEL

8:30 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:15 a.m. "The Significance of Singleness: A Theological Vision for the Future of the Church" — Christina Hitchcock

10:15 a.m. Refreshment Break

10:30 a.m. Session #2: "The Social Realities of Singleness Today" — Paul Johns

11:45 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Session #3: "Ministry Matters" — Christina Hitchcock

2 p.m. Session #4: Theme and Variations — Table Discussions

2:45 p.m. Closing Reflections

3 p.m. Dismissal



*Sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University*



NOVEMBER 3, 2023

A conference for Brethren in Christ pastors and lay people

*Address Service Requested*

The Sider Institute  
for Anabaptist, Pietist  
and Wesleyan Studies  
One University Ave  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055

