Call for Contributions

PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION
From a lens of Postcolonialism and Indigenous Christianity

Forum dates to be determined

We are now receiving contributions from presenters for this year’s Stott-Bediako Forum. We welcome artists, theologians, and practitioners; young and senior leaders; and people from any region of the world to submit their proposals for consideration. Please follow the guidelines and information shared below.

GENERAL ORIENTATIONS
As INFEMIT, we believe reconciliation is at the core of the good news of God’s love for the world and, consequently, central to the vocation of the church. We understand that peace building and conflict transformation in our fractured world require reckoning with power, its use and abuse and the historical marks of these through colonial enterprises of various sorts. We acknowledge that indigenous forms of Christianity and faith expressions generated and sustained from outside established power offer valuable insights to all those seeking to live out God’s reconciling mission. We engage in and invite you into this Stott-Bediako process in hopes of learning together so that we might contribute to God’s reconciling work in the midst of the realities of our world today.

At this forum, we will be building on a process of study and dialogue that began with a consultation in 2019 and continues through various online spaces in 2020. As you prepare your submission, we invite you to read and reflect upon this Open Letter, which includes INFEMIT’s initial commitments and recommendations on the topic. Our aim is that all contributions will, in some way, add to and enrich this ongoing dialogue; so we encourage you to shape your submission around any of these three main questions:

1. How is colonialism (both its historical and current forms) at play in current conflicts, and what is the role of decolonization in peace building and conflict transformation?
2. How is our Biblical storytelling shaped by historical and neo-colonialism, and what differing narratives or interpretations of Scripture can help us on the path to peace building and conflict transformation?
3. What do we learn about peace building and conflict transformation from those who have typically been marginalized? (We welcome contributors who share firsthand from this position, esp. Indigenous people).
SUBMISSION TYPES
We welcome a variety of contributions to this year’s program, in which we aim to include panels, workshops, and breakout sessions, facilitated discussion and reflection. At the core of INFEMIT’s identity is a commitment that theology is the practice of the whole Church; it takes on diverse forms and intertwines theory and practice. We encourage creative submissions, which might include narrative, poetry, liturgy, multimedia, and visual arts. We recommend that those who would like to submit academic papers use artwork among the sources for their research and tailor presentations to be received by a wide audience. All contributors should seek to combine elements of both theory and practice in their submissions.

LANGUAGE
At the forum, we will primarily use the languages of English and Spanish. We will consider contributions in other languages, especially native languages, when provisions can be made to communicate the content to other participants.

SUBMISSION PROCESS
Your proposal, with an abstract or a general description of your contribution, can be sent in at any time while we are waiting to schedule the date of the Forum. We will notify you once the date of the forum is determined whether your submission has been selected. A full draft of your contribution must then be submitted two and a half months prior to the forum.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION AT THE FORUM
If your contribution is selected, you will have the opportunity to present at the Stott-Bediako Forum. Presentation time can range from 5 to 20 minutes, in order to leave space for interpretation between Spanish and English. Presentations may not exceed 20 minutes. Presentations should be interactive and tailored for a wide audience. Please, do not simply read your paper!

FORUM ATTENDANCE AND REGISTRATION
You will need to register to attend the forum once registration opens. We cannot cover the costs of attendance for all contributors, but we will do our best to offer some amount of financial aid to those who need it. If this is you, please make note when sending your submission.

In light of COVID-19, we will accept proposals for online presentations (without requirement that the person attend the in-person event).

Click here to submit a proposal.
We will continue to accept proposals until further notice