

RCCongress 2010

Embracing Change: Communicating Faith in Today's World

April 7-10, 2010 • CHICAGO
Religion Communication Congress • www.rccongress2010.org



Winter 2008-2009

Global Partners Fund scholarships make it easier for young people to participate in Religion Communication Congress 2010

“The greatest gift at RCCongress 2010 is that bridges might be built between all these young people from around the world who are answering the call to communicate faiths that are so varied in different cultures and traditions.”

So said Father Derek Simons SVD in announcing the Global Partners Fund of RCCongress2010. The Fund assists qualified students and young communications professionals, in the fields of religion and faith, from outside the USA and Canada to participate in Religion Communication Congress 2010, the world’s largest interfaith gathering of faith communicators. Eligible young people are invited to apply for grants of up to \$3,000 to help cover the cost of registration, travel, food, and lodging. Interested young communicators should apply as soon as possible to allow time to meet all passport and visa requirements. Full [information and applications](#) and contact info for Father Simons are on our web.

“While much of our media has become borderless, there still are lines that divide people of faith from understanding one another. That’s why this event is essential for us to create a communication culture of the future that embraces change and opens understanding.”

Jeanean Merkel,

*Program Chair,
RCCongress 2010*

and Director of Communications, [Lutheran Services in America](#)



Chicago congress a once-a-decade opportunity for communicators

The Windy City again is the setting for a once-a decade forum for religion communicators. RCCongress 2010 will feature panel discussions, expert roundtables and skills-building workshops with a focus on changes in technology, society and perceptions of religions that affect the way communicators tell their faith stories. The Congress is expected to attract more than 1,000 people from a broad variety of faith traditions, areas of communications specialization, and worldwide geographic locations. To get more information and to meet our [planning group](#) visit rccongress2010.org.

Many workshops, panels planned for RCCongress 2010

There is no shortage of interesting and informative workshops and panels planned for RCCongress 2010. Here are just a few. Visit the website at rccongress2010.org for updates.

“Helping Kids Mind the Media in Faith Communities”

As media encroach closer and closer into our lives, young people in particular seem to embrace media most strongly and learn to multitask using this literacy from a young age. “Media literacy education, therefore, is an educational imperative for faith communities in the 21st century,” says workshop leader **Sister Rose Pacatte**. She is the founding director of the [Pauline Center for Media Studies](#) in Culver City, Calif.



“Social Media Marketing”

Leah Jones, the Digital-Culture Evangelist at [Edelman PR](#), will show you how to take your organization beyond tactics and buzz words to talk about real conversations — with real people and in real life in this changing media landscape. She has written about the intersection of Judaism and the internet and teaches colleagues digital skills.



“Cultural Diversity and Communication – A Panel Presentation”

Moderator **Dr. Jim McDonnell**, is an internationally known communications and media expert. He has spoken, taught and trained in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America and is director of advocacy for [SIGNIS](#) (the World Catholic Association for Communication). He is a former director of the Catholic Communications Centre, the



national communications development and training office for the Catholic Church in England and Wales and is the author of “Cultural Diversity: A European Perspective” in *Media Development* 2006/1.

“In the Spotlight: Media Interviews for Religion Communicators”

This is the workshop for people who serve as spokespersons for their organizations or who prep others for media interviews. Workshop leader **Anutamama Dasa** is director of communications of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and has taught communications on six continents.



“Web Ministry 3.0: A View of Emerging Tools and Applications”

Matt Carlisle leads an experiential workshop looking to where the Internet is headed. He’ll highlight emerging Web-based applications and lead a dialogue on the impact of these technologies, their theological underpinnings and how church communicators should use them effectively, if at all. A 15-year veteran of nonprofit web development and former director of web ministry at United Methodist Communications, he is the founder of [Big Heart Design](#), in Nashville, Tennessee.



A rabbi, a Muslim and a Baptist preacher walk onto a stage—and everybody laughs...



Which is probably exactly what will happen as a comedy troupe of diverse religious backgrounds converge at the opening dinner for RCCongress 2010 at Chicago's Marriott Downtown Hotel. Rabbi Bob Alper, the Rev. Susan Sparks and Azhar Usman have made names for themselves across the globe as entertainers who marry humor and faith. Alper served congregations for 14 years and holds a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Sparks is a trial attorney turned Baptist minister who currently serves Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York. Lawyer and activist Usman says his life's goal is "to promote better understanding of Islam and Muslims" through comedy.

All three entertainers have been featured in major U.S. news outlets for their ability to find the lighter side of faith, albeit through pointed insight.

You can [read more about this multi-faith comedy team](http://rccongress2010.org) on our website at rccongress2010.org

Celebrating the sacred at RCCongress 2010

Creative artists **Ken Medema** and **Jorge Lockward** will design and lead the music for RCCongress2010.



Medema is a renowned composer, performer and recording artist who wowed audiences at the 2000 Congress by listening to the stories of the speakers and singing songs improvised from their words. About his thoughts for RCCongress 2010, Medema says, "The power of story will bring community. Story is the currency of people on the street."



Jorge Lockward, who brings to the gathering his experience in adding multi-cultural music expression to worship services, will create a musical and visual expression of the sacred experience at the Congress. Lockward, a native of the Dominican Republic, has performed in a variety of ecumenical settings including the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

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"I'm looking forward to connecting with communicators from all over the world at RCCongress 2010. I'm also looking forward to sharpening my communications skills through the various workshops that Congress 2010 will provide. I still use practical ideas in my work everyday that I learned at Congress 2000."



Larry Hygh, Jr.

Communications Director of California-Pacific United Methodist Annual Conference; Member of the Planning Committee for RCCongress 2010, Pasadena, California

Become a cooperating organization for RCCongress 2010

Undergirding our efforts to again bring together the largest interfaith gathering of religious communications professional in the world are the many organizations that have signed on to support RCCongress 2010.

We're happy to welcome some of our newest cooperating organizations, including the London-headquartered [Council for World Mission](#), [Interfaith Marketplace](#), [American Theological Library Association - Chicago](#), [Cameroon Baptist Convention](#) and Canada's [Christian Reformed Church](#).

These and scores of other organizations are showing their support by praying for, promoting and planning to attend the 2010 event. New groups are signing on as cooperating organizations every day.

Find out how you can become a cooperating organization by visiting the website at rccongress2010.org or emailing us at info@rccongress.org.

Promotional resources available via the web

To make it easy and convenient for you to promote Religion Communication Congress 2010, we have prepared a number of [resources](#) that you can download from the website at and use on your organization's site or to distribute at organizational meetings as a way of sharing the news about Congress. There already are a variety of resources available for download or by mail—fliers, pens, logos, mastheads, bookmarks—and we'll be adding new things as we go along.

The best promotion we can get for RCCongress 2010 is through our participating organizations and our other friends who are using the power of their networks to invite people to gather with their communications colleagues in Chicago at RCCongress 2010. We invite you to take advantage of the resource page to download or request everything you need to help make sure our upcoming Congress is as inclusive as possible.

Registration information for RCCongress2010

Registration opens in April 2009

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

Room Rate: (Single/Double Occupancy): \$189 + 15.4% tax per night

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| Full Registration: | \$400 |
| Early Registration | \$375 |
| Student Registration | \$250 |
| Retiree/Senior Citizen Registration | \$250 |
| Group Registration (10 or more) | \$325 |



For full information about the registration rates for the Congress please visit the website [registration info](#) page.

Religion Communication Congress

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