



Mountain Sky Conference's three Co-lay leaders cordially invite you to join us for the 2021 Mountain Sky Annual Conference to be held virtually October 21-23, with the Laity Session happening on October 21 (Thursday) from 6-8 pm. We had wanted so much to have an in-person conference, and yet felt that the importance of doing no harm in an environment of break-through infections required returning to a virtual platform. We regret the confusion we realize may result.

Laity serve significant roles in our annual conference, representing congregations and bringing perspectives that only they can share. Though virtual, the conference includes scheduled times of worship, business, education, and legislative work. Be prepared to attend and participate in all sessions including the Laity Session on Thursday evening. We are in ministry together and your inclusion and presence will make a difference to us.

We have invited Ann Michel, the associate director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and author of the book *Synergy: A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers* to share with us during the Laity Session. Her book deals with "... the changing landscape of ministry to support a more inclusive, collaborative paradigm..." and affirms the empowerment of laity and laity/clergy partnerships. The Laity Session will hopefully encourage you to grow spiritually and gain leadership skills that you can use going forward.

We hope that you are thriving in your life and ministries.

Grace & Peace,

Your MSC Lay Leaders:

Nancy Flint

Barry Welliver

Gayla Jo Slauson