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<http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org>

Inland West Conference to be On Line

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last winter when we were in the depth of the pandemic I was certain that we would be able to hold an in person conference by fall of 2021. I was also certain that by the first of September we would be fast approaching a saturation of 80% of our national population vaccinated.

I have been proven to be wrong on both counts.

The Mission Center Staff has been considering the question of whether to move the Conference scheduled for September 25-26 to Zoom and make it a virtual conference. Earlier in the week we have met with Pastors, Congregational Financial Officers, and the Advisory Council and brought them into the conversation. From the standpoint of fellowship and strengthening of the body, there was unanimous support for an in person conference. However when considering the following factors a decision has been made to move the conference on line.

- The rise of Covid-19 which has caused many of our area hospitals to be filled to maximum capacity.
- Travel costs for everyone. Airline tickets are up, gasoline is \$3-\$4, motel and meal costs are up.
- Due to Covid restrictions we were not going to be able to have meals together at the church
- Offering part of conference on line as a hybrid caused some Pastors to think that many delegates would not travel due to the above factors.

Due to these factors and others **Inland West Mission Center Conference 2021 will be held on line.**

Congregations will still be expected to elect delegates and submit those names to the mission center for registration. You can look forward to a schedule in the next week or two.

I know that this is a disappointment to many, but we need to play our part to stop the continued spread of the disease and make sure all are well.

John G VanDerWalker II
Inland West Mission Center President
