



2023 SOWING PEACE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2023 | DOUBLETREE BY HILTON | BILLINGS, MONTANA

INFORMATION SHEET

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

- Corlette Sande | Director of Ministry Relations | corlette@rw360.org
- Colin Sauskojus | Director of Training and Networking | colin@rw360.org

EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS AND THEIR CHURCHES TO BE SOWERS OF PEACE

“A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:18).

The intense spiritual, racial, political and sexuality conflicts that are polarizing America have flooded into every part of daily life, including the church.

Judging, attacking and canceling others has become a common practice. This behavior is fracturing families, friendships and churches every day. It is also disrupting the workplace and driving exhausted pastors out of ministry. These tensions are magnified by a [steep decline in the religious values that used to characterize our nation](#).

But God is always up to something good. As he has done again and again in times of turmoil, he delights to call and empower his people to be sowers of peace (James 3:18). That is exactly what this year’s conference is designed to support and encourage.

This year’s keynotes and workshops will **equip you with gospel-based skills that enable you to bridge theological, political and cultural tensions**, to listen with discernment and compassion to people with opposing views, to use insightful questions to promote reasonable dialogue, and to engage others with the kind of **wisdom, grace and truth** that builds mutual respect and promotes the restoration of peace in our families, churches and communities.¹

Our conference will also provide training and resources that **enable your church to establish a Peace Sower Team** that provides ongoing training, coaching and conciliation services to your congregation and community. Such services have been proven to promote peace and unity, prevent divorces, promote evangelism and reduce the counseling burden on pastors (see [details here](#)).

God alone can change people’s hearts and behavior, but we can be his willing instruments as we learn how to live out the relationship-changing exhortation of [Romans 12:18](#), *“So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”*

¹ Our speakers will not take polemical positions or offer political strategies. Instead, we will provide guidance on how you can approach the relational challenges triggered by disagreements over controversial issues ([see this example](#)). As you improve your ability to engage others with Christ-like humility, grace and truth, you are more likely to be effective at preserving relationships, influencing others’ perspectives and promoting reasonable agreements.

SPEAKERS

- [Keynote Speakers](#)
- [Workshops Speakers](#)

DEFINITIONS

Relational Wisdom, in essence, is the desire and ability to obey Jesus' timeless command, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39). To put it another way, relational wisdom (RW) is a theological paradigm that combines the [gospel](#), the wisdom-principles of scripture and our God-given capacity for "[emotional intelligence](#)" into a discipleship paradigm for developing skills that strengthen relationships and prevent conflict ([dig deeper here](#)).

Relational Peacemaking is a systematic theology for resolving conflict and reconciling people. This training is based on Ken Sande's book, [The Peacemaker](#), which has sold over 500,000 copies in 20 languages and is organized under four key principles (the "4 G's"): **G**lorify God, **G**et the Log Out of Your Own Eye, **G**ently Restore and **G**o and Be Reconciled ([dig deeper here](#)).

RW Life Coaching is a specialized form of "life coaching" that focuses on assisting individuals to accelerate the growth of the six core disciplines of relational wisdom in order to build stronger and more meaningful relationships and to "get upstream of future conflict."

Conflict coaching assists others to resolve existing conflicts personally and privately by applying the principles of relational wisdom and peacemaking .

Christian Conciliation is a process for resolving disputes between Christians in a biblically faithful manner. This process may involve **conflict coaching** (advising individuals how to resolve a dispute personally and privately), **mediation** (meeting with both parties to improve understanding and facilitate a voluntary agreement) or **arbitration** (a trusted individual resolves a conflict by rendering a binding decision). These processes are described in detail in [Guiding People Through Conflict](#) and the [Handbook for Christian Conciliation](#).

Peace Sower Teams are comprised of volunteer instructors, coaches and conciliators who serve their church or ministry by equipping and assisting others to practice relational wisdom and peacemaking in their daily lives, thereby addressing relational issues before they require pastoral counseling or intervention (see [details here](#)).

To learn more about RW360's training options in each of these areas, see [RW360 Training and Certification Program](#).

SCHEDULE

- **Preconference** (Conversational Coaching) Thursday, Nov. 2, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Main Conference:** Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm – Sunday, Nov. 5, 10:30 am

REGISTRATION AND REFUNDS

- Preconference: \$165 (\$175 after May 15)
- Individual: \$319 (\$329 after May 15)
- Group of 4+: \$309 (319 after May 15)
- Registration refunds, minus a \$40 administrative fee (per ticket), are available through Wednesday, October 4, 2023. After this date, no refunds will be given. To request a refund, email a conference coordinator. The Eventbrite processing fee is not refundable.

\$99 REGISTRATION BONUS

When you register, you will receive a special coupon worth \$99 that provides you with **free access to all of the recordings from our previous conferences**. This includes over 40 hours of expert training on relational wisdom, peacemaking, coaching and conciliation ([see details here](#)). If you already have access to this material, you may transfer this coupon to one friend.

MEALS

- Registration fee covers coffee and snacks during breaks, lunch on each full day of the conference, which includes Thursday (for those who attend the pre-conference training), Friday and Saturday, and the Vision Banquet on Saturday night. We are happy to accommodate requests for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian meals.
- You may enjoy other meals in the hotel or at one of the twenty excellent restaurants that are available within three blocks of the hotel, which provide a wide variety of cuisine that can fit every budget.
- Spouses, who do not plan to attend any training, may purchase **one or both** of the following meal plans so that they can join the group during certain meals. **Option 1** covers the Thursday evening reception and lunches on Friday and Saturday for **\$70**. **Option 2** covers the banquet on Saturday evening for **\$40**. Spouses may enjoy other meals on their own at the hotel or at one of the nearby restaurants.

SMALL GROUP ROUNDTABLES

Our keynote and workshop speakers are highly relational people, so they love to engage others in small groups where they can answer questions and share insights about matters of mutual concern. Therefore, most of our speakers will be available for multiple roundtables during the conference. Group size will typically be limited to 8-12 people. You will be able to sign up at the registration table during conference.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

- The DoubleTree Hotel is providing a special conference rate of **\$119/night**. This rate is available from Sunday, October 29 through Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

- Use this [link](#) to make your hotel reservation or call (406) 252-7400. The booking link will automatically populate the RW360 group code “REL” into the special rates category. If not, insert REL in the special rates section yourself.
- If booking by phone, mention the REL group code to the hotel representative for quick access to our block of rooms.
- Hotel reservations may be canceled without penalty at least 48 hours before check-in.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

The DoubleTree Hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport.

- To arrange for an **arrival shuttle** from the airport to the hotel, please call the hotel at [406-252-7400](tel:406-252-7400) the day prior to or the day of your arrival in Billings.
- If the DoubleTree Shuttle is not at the airport when you arrive, it will be there shortly since they run every 15 minutes.
- To arrange for a **departure shuttle** from the hotel to the airport, please go to the hotel desk to be added to a departure list.

Uber and Lyft options are also available in Billings. If you prefer to rent a car, you can make reservations through the [rental car services](#) at Billings Logan International Airport. The DoubleTree Hotel provides free parking for conference attendees.

PRECONFERENCE TRAINING ON CONVERSATIONAL COACHING

Preconference training will take place from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 2. This training will equip you to meet with a friend, coworker or relative for an informal personal conversation, perhaps over coffee or a meal, in which you assist him or her in discerning and planning ways that he or she can strengthen specific relational skills or restore a strained relationship by applying relevant principles of relational wisdom or biblical peacemaking.

This training provides a brief introduction to the four-step RW Coaching Paradigm and shows how it can be applied in a variety of life situations. It will also help you to evaluate how relevant these skills are to your life and to decide whether to continue with further coaching training.

This training fulfills the requirements for a Conversational Coaching Certificate™ and is similar to the web-based practicum available through the [RW Academy](#). Since this preconference training is conducted in person with a larger group of students, however, it will be even more dynamic and interactive. This event will also include lunch, where you can build relationships with people who share your interest in peacemaking and coaching.

For more information on our Coaching Training Program, please see our [Academic Catalog](#).

KEYNOTE AND WORKSHOP HANDOUTS

- **Option 1:** You can pay a “\$10 Handout Fee” when you register for the conference. Your complete set of printed handouts will be available at the beginning of the conference.

- **Option 2:** A week before the conference, you can go to a special link on the conference website to download and print the handouts for any sessions you desire.

WEATHER AND RECOMMENDED CLOTHING

We normally expect sunny days with daytime temperatures ranging from 49 to 60F in November, but evenings cool down substantially, so bring a jacket and plan to layer if you plan to stroll around in the morning or evening. Warmer clothes and walking shoes or boots will be needed if you plan to visit Yellowstone Park or any of our other nearby outdoor offerings.

During the conference itself you may wear whatever is comfortable for you. Our gatherings are informal, so many people will be dressed in business casual or blue jeans. If you want to dress up a bit, however, please do so. Some folks like to dress up a bit more for our Saturday Vision Banquet (“Montana formal” means wrangler jeans, an open collar shirt, sport coat, and cowboy boots), but we love to see people wearing whatever they like.

ADVANCE STUDY

Most of the conference workshops will be built on the foundational principles of [relational wisdom](#) and [relational peacemaking](#). Therefore, in order to understand and integrate the concepts presented in these workshops, all attendees are encouraged to (1) complete our foundational course in relational wisdom ([online](#) or through a [small group study](#)) and (2) either read [The Peacemaker](#) book or complete our foundational course in relational peacemaking ([online](#) or small group study) **prior to attending the conference**.

CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE

Our conference bookstore will feature books and training materials developed by RW360, as well as books authored by conference speakers. Debit or credit cards required to purchase resources (no cash sales).

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please go to our [FAQs](#) for information on the recreational opportunities that are available during your visit to Montana.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Our team is here to serve and bless you, so please don't hesitate to communicate any needs, concerns or questions you have. We are looking forward to all the Lord will accomplish at the annual conference this year as we focus on how to *“live at peace with one another, as far as it depends on us!”*

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