

Year-Round Mentoring in Art, Faith, and Ministry

with Charles David Kelley and Natalie Meeks

An initiative emerging from the ELF Artists Network

Leaders



Charles David Kelley is Latvian-American, a citizen of both countries. Born in Los Angeles, he has lived in Oregon since 1980. His professional training is in Bible, theology, and missiology. Before founding Bridge Builders International, an Oregon based mission that focuses on Latvia, in 1994, Charles served in pastoral ministry in California, Texas, and Oregon for 21 years. He is chairman of BBI's Latvian affiliate, "Partners." Charles is founder of the Imago Dei Artists Network which ministers to artists and musicians throughout Europe. He is a member of the Arts Centre Group in London and serves as the LausanneARTS Coordinator for Europe. Charles is an author, pianist, and painter. He lives in Latvia 4-5 months per year. He has been married to Nancy for 43 years and has four grown children and nine grandchildren.



Natalie Meeks, co-leader of the ELF Artists Network, is the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for Bridge Builders International, which ministers to artists in multiple countries. As a free-lance writer, she has penned articles about ministries around the world. She is a lover of the classics (secular and spiritual) and enjoys reading and writing poetry. Her Christian faith and confidence in the Scriptures inform her understanding of, communication with, and ministry to artists of all kinds. She and her husband of 18 years reside in Greenville, South Carolina. They have six children, including an adopted son from Latvia. Natalie's hobbies include reading, reading, and reading.

Overview

We live in a world where the artist and the church face an uneasy relationship. Christian artists often feel lonely and isolated – the black sheep of both their church and secular artist communities. Over the course of the year, the Art, Faith, and Ministry cohort will address questions about God's view of art and creativity, the nature of calling and the use of our artistic talents, individualism in the life of the artist and God's command to live in relationship, and the viewing of our creative calling and works in light of eternity.

GOAL: To support, equip, and mentor artists, musicians, art catalysts, and ministry leaders.

PLAN:

- A Pre-Forum Seminar in Wisla, Poland on 21 May 2022 (14:00-17:30 CEST)
- Four 2-hour webinars throughout the year, with webinar assignments
- A three-day retreat in Spain (location TBD) on 6-8 Dec. 2022
- An individual coaching session (1½ hours) with Charles or Natalie in Feb/Mar 2023
- A Pre-Forum Conference at the 2023 Forum (Friday, 19th May, dinner together – Saturday, 20th May, morning). Participants will still need to apply for the European Leadership Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2023 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS/ QUALIFICATIONS: Ten to twelve leaders who are willing to commit to become part of a learning community. Each participant must be a growing follower of the Lord Jesus Christ AND either an active artist, musician, worship leader, organizer of artists, ministry leader, and/or thought leader in the world of art and faith.

COMMITMENT: In addition to submitting an application, you must commit to:

1. Thoroughly review a selection of pre-assigned materials before and after each webinar. These assignments will consist of reading selections of books or academic articles, including the list of books and articles indicated for each webinar.
2. Attend all sessions and meetings.
3. Access all webinars on a computer with a good Internet connection and using a headset.
4. Secure a copy of the needed books for assignments.
5. Pay attendance fees: *See below for retreat fees.* For the *2023 Pre-Forum Conference* the fees are 80 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room, or 68 Euros for scholarship recipients.
6. In order to be accepted to next years' European Leadership Forum all Year-Round Mentoring participants will need to nominate two other leaders for the following year Year-Round Mentoring which includes personally contacting and recruiting them by email.

2022 PRE-FORUM SEMINAR: All Art, Faith, and Ministry participants will attend the Pre-Forum Seminar with Charles and Natalie on 20th May 2022, (14:00-17:30 CEST).

2022 RETREAT: All Art, Faith, and Ministry participants will meet with Charles Kelley and Natalie Meeks near Barcelona for a three-day retreat on 6-8 December 2022.

The participant fees for the retreat are 150 Euros, or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option, which must be chosen in the application form, of paying 190 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are also responsible for their own travel expenses.

PART I: Introductory Online Pre-Forum Seminar

The Year-Round Mentoring for Art, Faith, and Ministry starts with an introductory seminar on **20th May 2022 at 14:00-17:30 (CEST) in Wisla, Poland**, with an emphasis on:

- Introducing key concepts.
- Outlining the programme for 2022-2023.
- Getting to know each other.
- Reflecting together on opportunities and challenges for artists during Covid-19.

As preparation for this Pre-Forum seminar, all participants should:

- Purchase as soon as possible the following books:
 - Francis Schaeffer, *Art and the Bible* (IVP Books; 2nd edition November 30, 2006)
 - Makoto Fujimura, *Art and Faith* (Yale University Press; January 5, 2021)

As a follow-up to the introductory seminar:

- Read *Art and the Bible* by Francis Schaeffer
- Read chapters 1-2 in *Art and Faith* by Makoto Fujimura
- Watch: [A Future for Theology and the Arts](#) with Jeremy Begbie and N.T. Wright

PART II: Webinars: Dates, Topics, and Assignments

The Art, Faith, and Ministry mentoring plan includes the following four 2-hour webinars.

Webinar One: A Theology of Art

Date TBD, time 19:30-21:30 (CET)

- I. The first part of this webinar will be devoted to getting to know each other better.
- II. Key content: *How does my faith relate to my art? Does God care about my artistic life?*
- III. Post-Webinar assignments:
 - a. Read: chapters 3-5 in *Art and Faith* by Makoto Fujimura
 - b. Read: *How Art is a Gift, a Calling, and an Obedience* by Andy Crouch (to be sent to you in an email attachment)
 - c. Watch: Talk by Os Guinness given at ELF 2013: [The Call – Finding and Fulfilling the Purpose of Your Life](#)
 - d. After completing the readings/videos, answer the following question in 500 words: *How does your conception of God and your relationship with Christ show up in the making of your art – the process itself?*
 - e. All assignments are due by 22nd October 2022 and should be submitted to natalie@bridgebuildersint.com and charleskelley@mac.com.

Webinar 2: The Calling of the Artist**Date TBD, time 19:30-21:30 (CET)**

- I. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions you may have about the assignments.
- II. Key content: *What does it mean to be called as an artist? How does this calling connect to my calling to follow Christ?*
- III. Post-Webinar assignments:
 1. Read: chapters 6-7 in *Art and Faith* by Makoto Fujimura
 2. Watch: [A Conversation Between Bruce Herman and Makoto Fujimura](#)
 3. Experience: [Ordinary Saints](#) website, featuring the collaborative works of Bruce Herman, Malcolm Guite, and J.A.C. Redford.
 4. After completing the readings/videos, answer the following question in 500 words: *Most artists have a deep need for solitude and/or isolation; yet there exists a need for community and audience. How does this apply in your case?*
 5. All assignments are due by 10th January 2023 and should be submitted to natalie@bridgebuildersint.com and charleskelley@mac.com.

Webinar Three: Artists are Humans Too: Resisting Toxic Individualism and Loving our Neighbour as Ourselves**Date TBD, time 19:30-21:30 (CET)**

- I. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions you may have about the assignments.
- II. Key content: *How is the artist to live both “outside the fray” and “within the Body?”*
- III. Post-Webinar Assignments:
 - a. Read: chapters 8-10 in *Art and Faith* by Makoto Fujimura
 - b. Read: *The Devotional Life of Bach* by Patrick Kavanaugh (to be sent to you in an email attachment)
 - c. Watch: [Eugene Peterson](#) discusses viewing our work as holy
 - d. After completing the readings/videos, answer the following question in 500 words: *How do you think that art serves as a spiritual practice? Give an example from your life and work.*
 - e. All assignments are due by 10th January 2023 and should be submitted to natalie@bridgebuildersint.com and charleskelley@mac.com.

Webinar Four: Viewing Our Creative Calling in Light of Eternity**Date TBD, time 19:30-21:30 (CET)**

- I. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions you may have about the assignments. What has happened since the retreat?
- II. Key Content: *What is the relationship between our spiritual life and our work as artists? Does one grow out of or lead to the other?*
- III. Post-Webinar Assignments:

- i. Read: *An Aesthetic Pilgrimage* by Cameron Anderson (to be sent to you in an email attachment).
- ii. Create: In place of a written response, this assignment is to create a 3–5-minute video in response to what you have learned/experienced during the year.
- iii. SHOW AND TELL: We want to see/hear/enjoy your art! Please bring your pieces of your choosing to share in person at the live Pre-Forum Seminar gathering in Wisla on 20th May.

PART III: - Mid-Year Retreat (6-8 December 2022)

All participants in the Year-Round Mentoring for Art, Faith, and Ministry will meet with Charles Kelley and Natalie Meeks in Spain for a three-day retreat **from noon on the 6th of December till noon on 8th of December**. Please schedule your travel so that you arrive on time and depart after all sessions are over. The participant fees for the retreat are 150 Euros, or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option, which must be chosen in the application form, of paying 190 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are also responsible for their own travel expenses.

This retreat will be used to get to know one another more intimately, to fellowship and worship in community (something we have all lacked desperately during this season of COVID-19), to go deeper in the topics we are studying, and to provide opportunity for one-on-one mentor/strategy sessions with Charles and Natalie, and/or amongst participants.

There will be time for group discussions, mutual learning, and the sharing of works of art. Note: A detailed programme for the retreat 2022 will be provided later.

PART IV: Pre-Forum Conference 2023

All Year-Round Mentoring participants will meet with Charles Kelley and Natalie Meeks in Wisła (Poland) for a 2023 Pre-Forum Conference from the evening of **19th May** to the afternoon of **20th May 2023**. The fees are 70 Euros for a double room and 90 Euros for a single room (or 40 Euros for scholarship recipients). Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2023 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

Everyone will have the opportunity to present his/her works of art developed throughout the year.

Note: A detailed programme for the Pre-Forum Conference 2023 will be provided later.

Application Process

To apply:

1. Complete the [online application](#).
2. All applications will be reviewed. We will notify you about whether or not you have been accepted as a participant in the 2022-23 programme within four to six weeks.

If you have questions, contact us at initiatives@euroleadership.org.