

Dear North Central Region Vincentians,

With most state and local governments still ordering shelter-in-place and prohibiting large gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we must cancel our plans for holding an “in-person” North Central Region annual meeting in Waukesha on June 11-13.

For those who previously registered for the Waukesha meeting, email Michele Schurk (mschurk@svdpusa.org). Please give her your preference for one of two options:

- Full refund to your credit card
- Donate your registration fees to the North Central Region scholarship fund

We will cancel all hotel reservations that were made in our block at the Marriott.

Since we had a number of very valuable workshops already developed, we would like to give you and your members a chance to attend a “virtual” Region meeting. Over the weeks of May 4, 11 and 18 we will be offering 18 webinars – covering Spiritual Advisor training, home visits, systemic change, spiritual growth, leadership and conference life, advocacy and more. Our National President, Ralph Middlecamp, will provide a “state of the Society” address. Registrants can attend as many webinars as they wish.

Register for the webinars by using the following link:

<https://meetingssvdpusa.regfox.com/north-central-virtual-regional-meeting>

Once registered, you will receive an email with the link to each Zoom webinar you selected. The webinars will use "Zoom." If you have not yet participated in a Zoom meeting, or need further assistance in getting started with using Zoom, please see Zoom's getting started articles in their help center found here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>

If there are handouts, they will be sent to you electronically. Many of the workshops will have an interactive component, to enable you to discuss the material with fellow Vincentians and get questions answered by the presenters.

The cost of attending the webinars is free, but when registering you will have a chance to make a free will donation towards the North Central Region scholarship fund. This enables us to cover the cost of Vincentians attending regional and national meetings like the Annual Assembly or Invitation for Renewal training when their conference or council cannot afford to do so.

Each live webinar will be recorded and the recording, presentation material and handouts will be saved to an online library that anyone can access. The link to that will be communicated after we've completed the full round of webinars.

While we will miss the fellowship of an in-person meeting this year, this webinar approach enables many more people to participate in the learning portion of a Region meeting. We hope that many who've never attended a Region meeting will take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their Vincentian ministry.