



November 20, 2017

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**Kanuga's Lansing Lee Conference Explores Civil Discourse
March 16-18, 2018**

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. --- At a time when political tensions are high on a national and local level, this year's Lansing Lee Conference aims to equip concerned citizens with the necessary tools for leading civil discourse by exploring how to engage in conversations intended to enhance understanding.

Presented March 16-18, in collaboration with the Washington National Cathedral, Sewanee: The University of the South and the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, the conference asks how we pivot from our current state to a place of cooperation and collaboration. Republican and Democratic members of the United States House of Representative along with nationally recognized voices from The Episcopal Church will be a part of the session.

"The Lansing Lee conference is happening in the hopes that we can explore how to talk about divisive topics while remaining in relationship with each other because, as Christians, we are called to love," says Kanuga's Director of Formation Programs and Resident Chaplain Richmond Jones. "We can't love someone if we only see them as a political opinion or the candidate they support."

Confirmed speakers include The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta; The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright, Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries; The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope, Provost of Washington National Cathedral; and Alan Yarborough, the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations. An even slate of congressional members will be announced soon.

In addition to plenary sessions where congressional members will share personally from their own stories, break-out workshops will include a variety of topics designed to equip attendees to be agents of goodness in the world. This conference is expected to be in high demand so early registration is suggested.

"It takes work to look beyond a person's political views and see the human that holds those opinions and their undeniable Belovedness instilled by God," says Jones. "We are called to engage in civil conversations and trust each other to be vulnerable, and commit to working through our differences to find that we are stronger when we embrace one another in them."

For more information, visit kanuga.com/lansinglee or contact Director of Formation Programs and Resident Chaplain Richmond Jones at rjones@kanuga.org or 828-692-9136 ext. 2745.

The annual Lansing Lee Conference honors the memory of Lansing B. Lee Jr. of Augusta, GA. Lee participated in many aspects of Kanuga's programs and governance for more than 50 years. The Lansing Lee Conference is made possible by an endowment established by Natalie Lee and with major support from the Buford L. Bowen Endowment.

Affiliated with the Episcopal Church since 1928, Kanuga is a 1,400-acre conference, retreat and camp center in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Hendersonville, N.C. For more information, visit www.kanuga.org or call 828-692-9136.

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