



*AJCU Faith, Justice & Reconciliation
Assembly 2024: Creation of a Hope-filled Future
Call for Proposals*

“Injustice is rooted in a spiritual problem, and its solution requires a spiritual conversion of each one's heart and a cultural conversion of our global society so that humankind, with all the powerful means at its disposal, might exercise the will to change the sinful structures afflicting our world.”

- Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.,
*The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in
Jesuit Higher Education*, Santa Clara University, 2000

Important Dates

November 1, 2023: Call for Proposals (CFP) submission deadline

January 15, 2024: CFP Decision date and notification by email

July 16-19, 2024: AJCU Faith, Justice and Reconciliation Assembly

To submit a proposal, please click here: [Assembly 2024 Call for Proposals](#).

We invite you to submit a proposal for the first *AJCU Faith, Justice & Reconciliation Assembly*: an historic gathering to be held at Loyola University Chicago from July 16-19, 2024. The Assembly is an outgrowth of the *Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education Conference*, which first took place at Santa Clara University in 2000 and has since reconvened every 3-4 years. This new Assembly is now a formal AJCU program.

In its new form, the Assembly will highlight not only the work on justice taking place at our Jesuit institutions, but also engage the work of justice with faith and reconciliation. The president of each AJCU institution has been asked to select a delegation from their school to attend. Another new aspect of the Assembly is the creation of six Commissions: teams of faculty and staff across the AJCU network who have been working together since Spring 2023 on major issues of Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation affecting AJCU institutions. Each Commission will present their work at the Assembly with time for participant engagement and dialogue. Commission themes are:

- Citizenship and Democracy: Exercising Individual Freedom for the Common Good
- Student Spiritual Growth and Mental Health: Toward a Hope-filled Future
- Prison Education: A Call to Conversion in Our Shared Humanity
- *Laudato Sí*: Advancing a Shared Agenda for our Common Home
- Justice and Reconciliation: Addressing the Legacy of Slavery and Oppression by Jesuit Institutions
- The Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm: Responding to Students and their Hungers

The theme for the Assembly, *Creation of a Hope-Filled Future*, draws from the four [Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus](#):

1. *Showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and Discernment.*
2. *Walking with the Excluded: Walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice.*
3. *Journeying with Youth: Accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future.*
4. *Caring for our Common Home: Collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's Creation.*

As we envision this gathering as a space of learning, reflection, and discernment, the review committee is now accepting proposals for *Posters, Roundtables, Workshops, and Lightning Rounds* that:

- Meaningfully engage the connections between Faith, Justice, and/or Reconciliation;
- Balance conceptual and theoretical frameworks with *concrete, pragmatic examples*, preferably from *more than one program or institution*;
- Foster discovery and address critical challenges through idea-sharing, community-building and reflection;
- Encourage discussion and engage participants interactively, rather than only through the presentation of material.

Proposal Formats

Posters encourage broad dissemination of, and dialogue on, research, ideas, and practices. They allow presenters to share (a) models of faith, justice, and/or reconciliation-focused curricular and co-curricular frameworks, pedagogies, and approaches; (b) strategies for institutional transformation and community partnerships; (c) research findings and disaggregated data; and/or (d) high-impact practices for faculty development, community engagement, or coursework activities. In addition to the in-person poster session, there will be an asynchronous, online poster gallery on AJCU's YouTube channel.

Roundtables are 20-minute interactive sessions that are intended to promote insights and conversation among participants related to the intersections of faith, justice, and/or reconciliation. They will open with a 3-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute discussion and questions. Roundtables normally accommodate 8 to 10 people. Presenters will give the same presentation three times within the overall 60-minute session. After the presentation and discussion, attendees will be asked to move to another table in the room, so that the process begins again. The sessions are informal in nature. Proposals should include at least three discussion questions and evidence of how participants will be actively engaged throughout the session.

Workshops are 60-minute sessions designed to build skills and provide concrete takeaways. After a brief presentation of the central faith, justice, and/or reconciliation issues at stake, workshop facilitators guide participants through discussion, reflection, and/or hands-on, collaborative activities. Proposals should include a schedule for how you plan to use the time; articulate clearly the specific activities designed to engage participants; and list specific takeaways.

Lightning Rounds offer a great opportunity to highlight aspects of a program or approach, raise questions about a topic of interest, and connect with others at the Assembly. Each presenter will have five minutes to summarize their Justice-Faith-Reconciliation research or project in a succinct and engaging manner. As in an elevator pitch, presenters will delineate the highlights of their work and explain its significance in a very brief span of time. When all 5-minute presentations are complete, there will be a fifteen-minute Q&A, with an additional five minutes at the end for small conversations and networking. Tips gleaned from the American Historical Association for crafting a successful lightning round presentation can be found [here](#). Proposals should include a brief overview of the topic to be presented; a clear description of how you will capture the audience's attention; and three to five keywords that will assist the conference planning team to organize lightning round themes. Proposals seeking to present an entire program or a full traditional paper will not be accepted.

Proposal Review Criteria

- **Clarity:** The proposal is well-written, and clearly describes what the session will hold for conference attendees.
- **Relevance:** The topic is current and relevant to the Assembly themes of Faith, Justice, Reconciliation and/or the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). Proposals can be related to or distinct from Commission themes.
- **Lessons Learned:** The proposal provides evidence of lessons learned, challenges overcome (or not), and broad applicability. In general, preference will be given to presentations that address developed models, rather than proposed or early-stage work.
- **Outcomes:** Outcomes are clear, specific, and relevant. Activities, deliverables, and takeaways are clearly stated and appropriate for the proposed session type.
- **Interactivity and Engagement:** The proposal includes explicit plans for involving participants in reflection, discussion, exercises, and other activities that will help them understand and apply the material.
- **Participants and Perspectives:** Proposals reflect diverse perspectives, innovations, disciplines, and strategies for change. *Preference will be given to collaborative proposals that draw presenters from multiple institutions and offer a range of perspectives.*

Submitting A Proposal

To submit a proposal, click on and complete the [Assembly 2024 Call for Proposals](#). The following information will be requested on the Proposal page:

- Session format (Poster, Roundtable, Workshop, Lightning Round)
- Session title (*100-character limit, including spaces*)
- Brief description to be used in conference program if accepted (*150-word limit*)
- 3 to 5 descriptive Keywords (for main elements/topics covered)
- Name, title, discipline, Jesuit college/university, and contact information **for each presenter**. Please indicate which presenter will be the main contact for information regarding acceptance and scheduling.
- The proposal description can be either uploaded in a .docx or .pdf file or cut/pasted into the Description of Session section.
- Any accommodations requested in order to participate fully in the Assembly.

Note: Although proposals will first be considered in the category submitted, the review committee may decline a proposal for presentation in a specific format, but recommend its presentation in a different one. If such a recommendation occurs, the presenter will be given a choice of participating in the new format, or not presenting.

Notification

Applicants will be notified by e-mail of the status of their proposal no later than January 15, 2024. If a proposal has multiple presenters, written correspondence will *be sent only to the primary contact*. It is the responsibility of the primary contact to disseminate all information regarding the proposal to all presenters.

Conference Registration

All session presenters are responsible for conference registration fees, travel, and lodging expenses. More information can be found on the [AJCU Faith, Justice, & Reconciliation Assembly](#) webpage. Questions? Email us at assembly24@ajcunet.edu.

We warmly invite members of the Jesuit higher education community from every discipline and department to bring your insights and best practices, your scholarship and pedagogical experience, your aspirations and inspirations, to enrich this gathering of colleagues in working toward faith, justice and reconciliation and accompanying young people toward a hope-filled future.