



SDMI Leadership Conference - LC2021

An Important Update

By Dr. Linda Hardin

In early August, I drove to Ridgecrest Conference Center nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Focusing on driving proved challenging at times as I became enthralled with the beauty of God's creation. The tree-covered mountain range spoke of comfort and the promise of beautiful fall foliage. Let's hope for a late fall so we can enjoy the colorful mountainside during LC2021.

Ridgecrest Information

As you enter Ridgecrest Conference Center, you will be greeted at the gatehouse and directed to registration in the lobby of Pritchell, a magnificent white building atop a knoll. Like many hotels, you'll register, receive your room assignment, and a map directing you to Laurel. Just steps away from this registration, LC2021 will have a check-in table. You'll receive your name tag and other important conference information. Volunteers will be present to help with luggage, too.

COVID-19

While wearing a mask is encouraged in all areas, Ridgecrest requires a mask while waiting in line for meals and in all food service areas, largely the dining hall and coffee shop.

Room amenities include hair dryer, coffee maker, and a compact refrigerator. Each floor also offers a small room with a TV for your use.

How to Dress Hints

The average November high temperature is mid-50s to low 60s with lows in the mid to upper 30s. You will want to include a light jacket, and dressing with layers is recommended. Your walk between buildings is partially outdoors. While most of the walkway is covered, an umbrella may prove useful. Because there are no formal dinners or events, you can leave dressy shoes and clothes at home but include good walking shoes to enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Workshops

LC2021 offers over 40 workshop options in four sessions. Click [here](#) for information with workshop titles, presenters, and descriptions. The workshop list will be updated as more information is received. In addition to the workshops, you'll have opportunity to network with other ministry leaders. You'll also meet your region's educational field coordinator. Networking and sharing are important elements of LC2021.

Inspiration and Worship

Little compares to the joy of gathering with Christian brothers and sisters as we worship and praise our Lord together. [Scott Kelley](#) will lead us in musical worship. Keynote [speakers](#) will inspire and challenge us. We will learn more about A Journey of Grace and be equipped to see God working in our lives and how to walk with others through their journeys, too.

Free Time Options

Ridgecrest is located minutes away from Black Mountain, a town with numerous shops and eateries. Do you like chocolates or ice cream? Then Kilwin's Black Mountain Chocolates, Fudge, and Ice Cream is the place for you. Yummy, indeed.

About a 10-minute drive away is The Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove. Here you can visit Chatlos Memorial Chapel, a pictorial display of Billy Graham's life and ministry, and Ruth's Prayer Garden. Allow a minimum of one hour here.

Transportation

Ridgecrest Conference Center is about a 30-minute drive from the Asheville Airport. There are companies providing transportation to and from Ridgecrest. Information along with cost estimates are posted [here](#).

The SDMI team looks forward to meeting and sharing LC2021 with you.