

Annual Conference 2017 Events

Preaching in Postmodernism: Visions and Voices for God's Hope

Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm - Brightbill Professor of Preaching and Worship

What is postmodernism and what does it mean for preaching today? How can we better communicate gospel and hope in a culture whose interests, concerns, and questions are often strange yet potentially enlivening for the church? Come and learn what it means to preach about hope through stories, images, and questions that invite others to join us in creating something new with God. *0.1 CEU*

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 + 12:30 P.M.



Hope for God's Green Earth: A Biblical Vision

Dan Ulrich - Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells a story of God's love and care, not only for human beings but also for the rest of creation. Humanity's rebellion against God causes creation to suffer, but God has the power to transform human hearts and thus fix what is most wrong with the world. Participants will leave this Bible study with a big picture of biblical teaching about God's green earth, plus some inspiration to cooperate with God in making it greener. *0.1 CEU*

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 + 9:00 P.M.



Raising Lifelong Disciples

Russell Haitch - Professor of Christian Education and
Director of the Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults

This session will equip you to respond to all the polls and news stories that talk about rising atheism and secularism in the present age, especially among people of young ages. First, regarding the global scene: Hot religion seems to be getting hotter, and cool religion, colder; the overall trend is probably toward global religious warming. Second, regarding atheism in the United States: It is certainly on the rise among young people; biological, social, and cultural causes will be adduced. Third, this session will offer two key strategies for responding to atheism (and more broadly, secularism), which can be used in church preaching, teaching, and even everyday conversation. *0.1 CEU*

THURSDAY, JUNE 30 + 9:00 P.M.



BETHANY SEMINARY AND
BRETHREN ACADEMY LUNCHEON

Spirit Moving: An Alum's Story of Ministry in Transition

President Jeff Carter will bring stories of what is happening at the Seminary today, followed by a presentation on ministry transition and discernment by Bethany alumna Erin Matteson.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30 + 12:00 P.M.

Young Adults in Pastoral Ministry: Vitality in a New Day

Amy S. Gall Ritchie, facilitator - Director of Student Development and Alumni/ae Relations
Audrey and Tim Hollenberg-Duffey, Hagerstown Church of the Brethren, and Eric Landram, Lititz Church of the Brethren

As the life of ministry and congregations change, is there vital life for new pastors? What can it mean for young adults called to congregational ministry in our current times? Come and explore what it has meant for three of Bethany Theological Seminary's recent alums who entered full-time pastoral ministry immediately after graduating. Anticipate a blend of traditional and revitalized, creative and steady stories from the pulpit.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30 + 9:00 P.M.



Science Fiction and Theology: Connections with Culture

Steven Schweitzer - Academic Dean

Science fiction is extremely popular in our wider culture. This genre is filled with theological themes: Who is God? What does it mean to be human? and What is the nature of evil and how is it overcome?, to name only a few. Based on a course Steve Schweitzer teaches at Bethany, this session will explore some examples from widely popular science fiction series—*Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, and *Doctor Who*—that allow connections between theology and culture. 0.1 CEU

FRIDAY, JUNE 30 + 9:00 P.M.

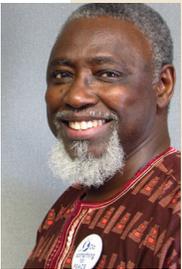


The Role of Women and Youth in Peace Building

Musa Mambula - International Scholar in Residence

Women and youth are often described as the pillars of society, considering their capability of playing strategic roles in peace building. They have the potential to act as community leaders in reconciliation and postconflict reconstruction, essential for the promotion of intergenerational exchange between generations and fostering partnerships with community groups. During this session, we will learn that we all must pursue peace through dialogue and mutual understanding and be ready to make sacrifices for the well-being of our fellow men and women.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30 + 9:00 P.M.



Is Christ Transforming Culture, or Is Money Transforming Culture? How Generosity Can Save Your Soul

Mark Lancaster - Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

This session will look at various writings on the power of money in transforming culture vs. other writings, such as those of Niebuhr. Mark Lancaster, executive director of institutional advancement at Bethany, will challenge us to consider how obedience to Christ can transform culture and open us to a level of generosity we never before have considered possible. 0.1 CEU

SATURDAY, JULY 1 + 12:30 P.M.



Conflict Transformation: A Case Study from Flint, Michigan

Debbie Roberts, facilitator - Assistant Professor of Reconciliation Studies

The story of unsafe drinking water in Flint, Michigan, was big news. For the people of Flint, water is still a precious commodity. What can the church do? Two congregations are trying to make a difference. This session will give participants an eyewitness account of churches working to find solutions for the disadvantaged people in Flint. Join Bill Hammond and Janice McHaney, residents of Flint, and Debbie Roberts from Bethany to ponder a situation that calls for restorative justice. 0.1 CEU

SATURDAY, JULY 1 + 9:00 P.M.

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