



The NATIONAL WORKSHOP on CHRISTIAN UNITY 2009

Morning Seminars

Choose 3

Tuesday (T)
10:30-11:45

Wednesday (W)
10:30-11:45

Thursday (Th)
10:15-11:30

† Level 1 - First time participants (recommended)

† Level 2 - Assumes a moderate level of understanding

† Level 3 - Advanced level seminar

1 Ecumenism 101 Level 1 (T)



Panelists:
Dr. Thomas Ferguson (TEC) and
Dr. Michael Trice (ELCA)

This seminar is for all those who are new to the formal structures of the ecumenical movement. It provides a brief history and introduction to the movement, context for current dialogues, overview of national and international ecumenical conversations, and a sampling of new and emerging discussions. The presentation will draw on the attendees' experience of ecumenical engagement and will encourage conversation and interaction.

2 Student Essay Contest Level 1 (T)

Speakers: Winners of the Contest
Moderator: Elizabeth Ring

Theological students were asked in their 2008 fall semester to submit an essay that drew on the theme, "That they may be one in your hand," (Ezekiel 37:17) which suggests a move from apostasy to dispersion to redemption and finally to unity. The students were to address the ecumenical weaknesses of their own traditions, reflect on biblical stories that could strengthen their witness to Christian unity, and then propose reforms that would enhance their own church's ecumenical insight. The essay contest winners from the denominational ecumenical networks will comment on their essays and lead a panel discussion in the seminar on ecumenical reforms.

3 Eucharist Level 2 (W, Th)



Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Louis Weil (TEC)

This seminar is the second in a three-year series on "Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry," Faith and Order Paper No. 111 issued by the World Council of Churches in 1982. This year's focus will be on the theological and practical implications of Eucharist. Among items to be discussed is whether increased mutual understanding expressed in the statement may allow some churches to attain a greater measure of eucharistic communion among themselves, and so bring closer the day when Christ's divided people will be visibly reunited around the Lord's Table in the Church's highest act, the praise of God.

4 Patristics and the Early Church's Contribution to Ecumenism Level 3 (T, W)



Speaker: Rev. Joel Elowsky of
Drew University

This seminar will present some of the key patristic interpretations of one of most often cited biblical passages for Christian unity, John 17:21 "That they may all be one." Discussion will include how the ancient church understood the unity embraced in this passage and how they viewed the role of the Trinity and, more specifically, the Holy Spirit in bringing about the unity to which this passage urges both the church and her members. The conclusions of this presentation seek to provide guidance from the ancient Christian writers in understanding what kind of unity is possible and should be sought today and how this might inform our 21st century discussions on ecumenism.

5 Living the Lund Principle Level 3 (W, Th)



Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Paul Schreck (ELCA)

Churches should act together in ALL matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately. This is the Lund Principle. Agreed at the 1952 Faith and Order Conference of the World Council of Churches convened in Lund, Sweden, this break-through principle remains tragically unknown to many people. Very few church leaders consciously try to live by it. Although reaffirmed in the 1995 papal encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, lack of awareness of the principle begs the question, "Is the principle viable today?" This seminar will explore the implications of the Lund Principle for the life and mission of congregations, local judicatories, and beyond. What "deep convictions" compel separation today? To what extent can we combine our Christly ministries? What is the impetus that keeps Christian communities functioning autonomously? How will your congregation live the Lund Principle?

...Seminar listings continue





The NATIONAL WORKSHOP on CHRISTIAN UNITY 2009

Morning Seminars

Choose 3

Tuesday (T)
10:30-11:45

Wednesday (W)
10:30-11:45

Thursday (Th)
10:15-11:30

† Level 1 - First time participants (recommended)

† Level 2 - Assumes a moderate level of understanding

† Level 3 - Advanced level seminar

6 Capacity of Faith – Latino-Catholic Perspective Level 2 (W, Th)

† Speaker: Dr. Peter Casarella (RC)

Christian faith has as its very foundation a belief that Christ is revealed as a new Adam, whose mission for the world includes the promotion of the unity of all believers and of mankind. The faith of Latina and Latino Catholics is sometimes falsely portrayed as inhabiting a cultural and religious barrio in which little or no attention is paid to this fundamental truth. The point of this presentation will be to reflect on the Biblical, spiritual, and ecclesiological foundations for making a proposal generated in and through the Christian faith that will foster genuine unity in the world today. In the process, the specific challenges faced by Latino Catholics with regard to secularism, nihilism, and the Biblical mandate for Christian unity will also be discussed.

7 Racism as an Impediment to Ecumenism Level 2 (W, Th)

† Speaker: Task Force Members

This seminar is the first of a multi-workshop series on dismantling racism in our churches as we seek to live faithfully into God's gift of unity. It will explore the implications of racism to Christian unity and the various resources our communions have to share as we seek to live into God's admonition to act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

8 Can Mormons Be Part of the Ecumenical Movement? Level 2 (T, W)

† Speakers:
Dr. William Millett (LDS) and
Dr. Richard Mouw (PCUSA)

Even though Arizona's second largest religious group is Mormon, it has been common for traditional Christians to exclude the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from ecumenical dialogue. This exclusion is based primarily on Christology and the Trinitarian doctrines that they hold. Or have held. Theology within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has started to use a more orthodox vocabulary that requires us to revisit this seemingly adversarial relationship. Dr. Millett will present Mormon thought on Christology, the Trinity, Soteriology, and Eschatology. To provide a probing response Dr. Mouw will speak from the perspective of a conservative evangelical. Then, perhaps, a new conversation can begin between all of us.

9 The Ecumenical Implications of Post-Modern Thought Level 3 (T, Th)

† Speaker:
Very Rev. Dr. Nick Knisely (TEC)

In the 20th Century developments in science and philosophical thought have led to a reevaluation of the Enlightenment intellectual enterprise which underlies most of Protestant and post-Tridentine theological thinking. As scientific discoveries have repeatedly confirmed that this reevaluation is required of all secular thinking, theologians and philosophers are starting to reexamine the historical methodology of denominational thought. There are likely significant opportunities to recast the ecumenical enterprise as a result. This seminar will discuss some of the philosophical and scientific developments in thinking and suggest a few possible implications for the ecumenist.

...Seminar listitngs continue



Phoenix, Arizona
April 27 - April 30



The NATIONAL WORKSHOP on CHRISTIAN UNITY 2009

Morning
Seminars

Choose 3

Tuesday (T)
10:30-11:45

Wednesday (W)
10:30-11:45

Thursday (Th)
10:15-11:30

† Level 1 - First time participants (recommended)

† Level 2 - Assumes a moderate level of understanding

† Level 3 - Advanced level seminar

10 Common Words Among Christians and Muslims Level 3 (T, W, Th)

† Speaker: Dr. Lucinda Mosher

On 13 October 2007 A Common Word Between Us and You: An Open Letter and Call from Muslim Religious Leaders was promulgated. Addressed to “Leaders of Christian Churches, everywhere,” this invitation to fellowship and dialogue had 138 signatories, each significant in stature and influence, and together embodying the worldwide breadth of Islam. In the year since its release, A Common Word has elicited a variety of thoughtful responses. This seminar will explore this phenomenon and several other recent Christian-Muslim dialogical projects—the ways in which they have honored or protected difference as well as the ways in which they have celebrated the common ground upon which Muslims and Christians stand.

11 Missions with Native Americans Level 2 (W, Th)

† Speakers: Members of Arizona’s
Native American Communities

Christian ministry and evangelism among the Native People of America has been marked with both success and failure. The failures often have been caused by an unwillingness on the part of European-style Christianity to account for the significant cultural differences not only between the dominant western culture but also the differences between the tribes among whom the missionaries attempted to work. The lack of sensitivity has created a climate where at least one tribe has requested all missionaries of any denomination to remove themselves from tribal lands. In this workshop we will review the history of missionary work in the Southwest and discuss present ecumenical efforts that are attempting to work with more sensitivity and cooperation with tribal leadership today.

12 How Christian Faith Speaks to the Issue of Immigration Level 2 (T, Th)

† Speakers: Bishop Gerald
Kicanas – (RC, Tuesday only);
Bishop Minerva Carcano – (UMC);
Joe Rubio – (RC, Thursday only)

The national issue of immigration reform takes on special focus in a border state like Arizona. How should the faith community respond in face of “enforcement first” policies that show disregard for children or their families? Is the “new sanctuary” movement an appropriate response? How much should we press for fairer employment and social service laws that have been sharply curtailed in this state? Two of Arizona’s bishops and a Christian activist who have all been in the forefront of this debate will discuss what has happened and what we hope can happen.

*“See, I am doing something new! Now
Sit springs forth, do you not perceive it?
In the desert I make a way, in the
wasteland, rivers.”* Is. 43:19.