

Morning Seminar Topics

Choose 3

Tuesday (T), Wednesday (W), Thursday (Th)

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)

- **Dr. Thomas Ferguson**
- **Dr. Michael Trice**

This seminar is for newcomers to 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 conversation and engagement, 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 Beyond Bilaterals: Ecumenical Implications of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) – Level 2 (T,W)

- **Rev. Dr. Cheryl M. Peterson, ELCA**
- **Rev. Dr. Michael Lee Nelson, UMC**
- **Br. Jeffrey Gros, FSC**

Dr. Peterson will speak on the JDDJ and introduce the idea of 'beyond bilateral' which emerged in the Columbus 2001 consultation. Dr. Nelson will refer to the association of the WMC with the agreement on the doctrine of justification as stated in the JDDJ, what happened in Seoul in July 2006 and what the implications might be. Br. Gros will open the discussion further to the understanding of the doctrine of justification in other traditions, such as Orthodox and Baptist, in relation to the JDDJ and the association statement.

3 Baptism: Ecumenical Implications of Theology, Ritual and Practice - Level 2 (T, W)

- **Rev. Ruth A. Meyers**
- **Very Rev. Robert B. Flannery**

This seminar will focus on the theological and practical implications of Baptism as put forth in the recent survey and subsequent document of the Illinois Conference of Churches, "Baptism: An Ecumenical Study of Similarities, Differences and Opportunities." Other studies and research will be used as background and supportive material. Discussion will be held regarding ways to celebrate baptism for inter-church couples as well as consideration of the use of an ecumenical baptism certificate.

4 Ecumenical Scripture Studies: Can We Read Scripture in Common? An Ecumenical Bridge – Level 3 (W,Th)

- **Dr. Frederick Gaiser**
- **Dr. Philip Towner**

How can ecumenical partners study the scriptures together? Is there a distinct method or venue or historical vantage point that has enabled an ecumenical approach to biblical exegesis? Should all responsible scripture study today reflect ecumenical awareness? What ingredients would such ecumenical awareness bring to biblical interpretation?

5a Capacity of Faith to Inform Culture in the 21st Century: "The Christian Faith as the Matrix for Culture" – Level 2 (T)

- **Rev. Robert Barron**

This presentation will show how the fundamental doctrines of Christianity—creation, Trinity, grace, redemption, resurrection—provide the matrix for a whole way of thought and action. Throughout its history, this distinctively Christian culture has been in a tense relationship with the various cultures that it has confronted. The same is certainly true today. The workshop will explore ways in which the conversation between the Christian and secular cultures can be facilitated.

5b Capacity of Faith to Inform Culture in the 21st Century: "Faith Generates a Culture: the Challenges of Secularism, Nihilism, and Ecumenism as seen from a Latino Catholic Perspective." – Level 2 (Th)

- **Dr. Peter Casarella**

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

6 Ecumenical Advocacy on Moral Issues – Level 2 (W,Th)

- **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon**

Advocacy offices in Washington are sponsored by the churches to enable ready access to government and timely response to its actions. How do these offices work? How are current moral issues addressed, issues of war and justice, economics, human rights, and advances in medical science, to name a few? Is there an ecumenical approach to global issues such as genocide, interreligious violence, the AIDS crisis, to enable a united Christian voice to be heard?

Eight or more of the 18 Sessions are available each day of the Workshop.

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7 Emerging Church – Level 1 (W, Th)

■ Dr. Dwight Friesen

An introduction to the Emerging Church movement and its participation in, perceptions of, and commitment to the ecumenical movement.

8 HIV/AIDS: Parallel and Together - Level 1 (T,W)

■ Right Rev. John B. Chane

■ His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos

The scourge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is being addressed by organizations and churches worldwide. Clergy and lay people, working as individuals and in groups within and outside of the Church, have initiated programs designed to train health care workers, to support the education of individuals and families, and to assist other organizations in their attempts to obtain access to treatment and to help stop the proliferation of the virus. One such program is the "Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)" founded in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1998. Right Rev. John Chane, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, DC, and Bishop Demetrios, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, will present their insights and what the churches are doing and can do.

9 How Dynamics of Race Influence Ecumenism (historic and current) – Level 1 (T,W)

■ Bishop Thomas E. Hoyt, Jr.

■ Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.

The present-day ecumenical movement began at a time when most of today's communions were segregated (by church law or defacto). The only African American communions participating in the movement are the historic Black Methodist Churches. This seminar will explore the reception received by these Churches (i.e. Christian Churches Together) and how race has surfaced in recent years as a primary focus of Churches Uniting in Christ.

10 The Church and the Triune God: Agreed Statement of the Anglican/Orthodox Theological Dialogue – Level 3 (T,W)

■ Bishop Mark Dyer

The Cypress Agreed Statement of the International Commission for Anglican—Orthodox Theological Dialogue is the fruit of the third phase of Anglican—Orthodox international dialogue. It reflects the further consideration given to ecclesiological issues discussed in earlier phases and registers considerable agreement over a range of issues ranging from the Trinity and the Church to Episcopé, Episcopos and Primacy, to Priesthood, Christ and the Church, and deals with such controversial issues as Women and Men, Ministries and the Church and Heresy, Schism and the Church. Bishop Dyer served as co-chair of the Commission which produced this document from 1990.

11 New Horizons in Christian Unity – Level 1 (W,Th)

■ Rev. Raphael Allen

■ Mr. A. J. Boyd

■ Dr. R. M. Keelan Downton

Believers, not belongers; Spiritual, not religious; Post-ecclesial, not post-Christian. How has the generation that grew up with the internet, cell phones, and the multimedia worship experience engaged the ecumenical mandate? What is on the horizon as Generations X and Y grow in their contribution to the call for unity? The panel will discuss the future of ecumenical efforts from diverse perspectives within the postmodern generations.

12 State Councils of Churches: Focus on Structure – Level 1 (Th)

■ Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler-Hoffman

■ Rev. Warren Murphy

The reality of less time and money available for our churches has implications on the statewide ecumenical level. Over the last few years, the Illinois Conference of Churches has gone through a process of restructuring partially due to those factors, but also out of a definite intention to create something new in regard

to ecumenical dialogue and procedure. The State of Wyoming also has a unique way of approaching ecumenical matters for its member judicatories. These diverse states, one large and one small, will be used as examples. We will see how they function structurally in today's ecumenical climate and share ideas as well as possible directions for the future.

13 Theology Student Essay Contest – Level 1 (T)

■ Winners

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the observance of an octave of prayer for Christian unity by the Society of the Atonement at Graymoor, NY (which later came to be known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity), theology students have submitted papers using the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Theme, "Pray without ceasing." Students have been asked to explain how the theology and practice of prayer promotes and brings about an eschatological reality and promise of Christian Unity. They have also been asked to write a prayer that speaks to their own tradition's understanding of this eschatological reality and promise. Come explore and discuss with these students.

14 Analysis on Full Communion – Level 2 (T,Th)

■ Very Rev. Dr. William H. Petersen

For several years the Faith and Order Commission in the United States studied the emergence and use of the term "full communion" in the ecumenical movement. This workshop comes out of the corpus of that work and, with attention to diversity of usage and progress of reception, will present an analysis of the term in regard to its problems and possibilities in forwarding the ecumenical movement.

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15 Interreligious Relations Chicago Style: Edgewater Community Relations Association (ECRA) – Level 1 (Th)

In many Chicago neighborhoods, churches and synagogues are collaborating with programs designed to help keep their community viable by addressing multiple issue of poverty, crime, homelessness, hunger, loneliness and mental illness. A panel from ECRA churches, synagogues and mosques will explore interreligious relations within a multi-cultural community.

16 Muslim-Christian Women: Two Models of Chicago Dialogues – Level 1 (Th)

- Ayse Arslan, Executive Assistant, Niagara Foundation
- Rev. Catiana McKay, United Methodist Church
- Dalila Benameur, Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview IL
- Andreatte Brachman, St. Fabian Roman Catholic Parish

Chicago is home to a large and growing Muslim community. Over the last decade many exciting initiatives have emerged, especially among women. A Muslim and a Christian will share experiences of their women's dialogues. One dialogue is between the Turkish Cultural Organization and the Northern Illinois United Methodist Church Conference. Another dialogue is between women members of the Mosque Foundation and St. Fabian Catholic Church, Bridgeview, Illinois.

17 Chicago Ecumenical Story: A Protestant Ecumenical Experience of Shared Ministries – Level 1 (T)

- Rev. Monte Johnson, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA
- Rev. Gabi Aelabouni, St. Elias Christian Church, ELCA
- Rev. Larry Kamphausen, Church of Jesus Christ, Reconciler
- Rev. Laura Gottardi-Littell, Church of Jesus Christ, Reconciler

A panel will tell how a group of churches in Edgewater have creatively shared collaborative ministries beyond denominations to act ecumenically at the grass roots. The leaders in the Edgewater area will describe their ministries together.

18 Social Justice Chicago Style: Keeping the Family Together – Level 1 (W)

- Rev. Jacques Conway, Neighborhood United Methodist Church
- Ms. Elena Segura, Assistant Director, Office for Peace and Justice, Archdiocese of Chicago
- Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, President of Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
- Mr. Nazar Sloboda, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchial Chancery Staff

There are many justice issues that ecumenical coalitions address in the urban context. Using the lens of "keeping the family together" our panelists address three areas of concern: Gun violence, immigration and community organizing.



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008

April 14-17, 2008
(Monday through Thursday)

Eight or more Seminars each day
on critical ecumenical issues

+

Meetings of Denominational
Worship Services

+

Wednesday Evening Cultural Event:

**"You have come to the lake shore"
- At the newly designed Spertus
Institute of Jewish Studies
building by Lake Michigan,
view a window on Jewish life and
history with a museum and library
tour, dine in Wolfgang Puck Cafe,
and be welcomed by
Jewish community leaders.**

Chicago Marriott O'Hare

(Conveniently located minutes from O'Hare
International Airport)
8535 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Reservations: 1-866-614-8407
Information: 1-773-693-4444
Free Airport Shuttle

NWCU2008 registration fee:
\$125 before February 29
(\$150 after March 1)

YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER ONLINE
Updates: visit
www.nwcu.org

Christian Unity is closer than you think.

Register now for the 2008 National Workshop: April 14-17