

SEMINARY FOR A DAY WORKSHOPS AND LEADERS

Choose one morning (A-F) and one afternoon (G-L) workshop

Morning: 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

A. Looking for the Truth? Space Matters

Who we are, where we come from, how we live, the questions we ask—in short, the space we inhabit—plays a powerful role in how we determine meaning. Context matters! In this workshop, we will investigate the importance of context in our search for meaning as we engage the biblical texts.

Facilitated by: Brian K. Blount, Ph.D. *Brian is president and professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. He was called to this position in 2007, after serving for 15 years as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary. Professor Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He is the author of six books.*



B. Black Sacred Rhetoric: Developing Our Ethical Voices about Engaging Concerns and Difficult Problems in Society



Participants in this workshop will study the fundamental principles in Black Sacred Rhetoric, so we can use rhetorical tools which govern effective Christian communication in the Black Church Community to talk about some of the exasperatingly contestable issues in the daily-ness of life.

Facilitated by: Katie Geneva Cannon, Ph.D. *The first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Katie focuses her work in the areas of Christian ethics, Womanist theology, and women in religion and society. She has lectured nationally on theological and ethical topics and is the author or editor of numerous articles and seven books including Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community and Black Womanist Ethics. Katie is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York, Johnson C. Smith Seminary, and Barber-Scotia College, and is the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond.*



C. Parables of Jesus: Stories to Encourage and Challenge



One of the signature features of Jesus's teaching was his use of parables to communicate his message. This workshop will explore several of the parables, highlighting especially the way in which they leave decision and response in the hands of the listeners. What message of encouragement and challenge do the parables of Jesus address to twenty-first-century readers?

Facilitated by: John T. Carroll, Ph.D. *John is the Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where he has taught since 1992. His primary research and teaching interests include the Gospels, the message and ministry of Jesus, early Christian apocalyptic literature, theological interpretation of the Bible, and the intersections between the Bible and contemporary culture and religious practice. He has authored or co-authored six books; his most recent book is Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016). John is a semi-professional musician (trombone), and recently retired from a successful 15-year amateur baseball career.*



D. Preaching with the Spirituals

This workshop, led by our afternoon keynote speaker, will explore the African American spirituals as a resource for preaching today.

Facilitated by: Luke A. Powery, Ph.D. *Luke is the Dean of Duke University Chapel and Associate Professor of Homiletics at Duke Divinity School. His teaching and research interests are located at the intersection of preaching, worship, pneumatology, and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora. He has written two books, titled Spirit Speech: Lament and Celebration in Preaching, and Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope, co-authored an introductory textbook on preaching, titled Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place, and is currently working on two devotional books of meditations on the Spirituals for the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. Luke was ordained by the Progressive National Baptist Convention and has served in an ecumenical capacity in churches throughout Switzerland, Canada, and the United States.*



E. Should Seminarians Study Islam? World Religions and Theological Education

In the experience of many congregations, religious pluralism has moved from a theoretical concern to an everyday reality. Not only do most American Christians work alongside close colleagues devoted to a variety of faith commitments, but the religious landscape surrounding our congregations has become increasingly diverse in ways impossible to ignore. This workshop will focus on the challenge of religious pluralism for theological education. For what purposes would a seminarian study Islam or any other religious tradition beside Christianity?



Facilitated by: Stanley H. Skreslet, Ph.D. *Stan returned to Union Presbyterian Seminary in 1997 after 10 years of service on the faculty of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo through the mission program of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Previously, he taught at the College of Idaho, after having been Chaplain and Director of Church Relations for the College. His scholarly interests are focused particularly on the field of missiology, but also include the history of Christianity, Islam, and Orthodox Christianity, especially as these latter topics relate to the Middle East. Stan is an ordained Presbyterian minister and member of the Presbytery of the James. He is the immediate past president of the American Society of Missiology and a former academic dean on the Richmond campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary. His most recent book, Comprehending Mission, a comprehensive introduction to the field of missiology, was the first publication to receive the American Society of Missiology's annual book award.*



F. Drama, Intimacy, and Vulnerability: Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture

Digital culture is contested space when viewed from a spiritual perspective. It offers potential tools for spiritual formation and also presents challenges for maintaining healthy relationships and communication. Contemporary research on cyberbullying, sexting, and adolescent moral development can help us navigate these challenges and respond effectively.



Facilitated by: Karen-Marie Yust, Ph.D. *Karen-Marie's work focuses on nurturing spirituality and encouraging theological reflection intergenerationally and across the lifespan. Her current research explores the effects of digital culture on spirituality, particularly among children, youth, and young adults. She draws from findings in media studies, developmental psychology, and educational theory to describe how online participation shapes personal identity and communal relationships and then reflect theologically on how the Church might respond constructively to the realities of contemporary life. She is also exploring the changing dynamics of congregational life and asking how these changes offer opportunities to develop new approaches to faith formation and new foci for educational ministries. She is interested in taking Christian education outside traditional programs to other venues, such as online sites and non-religious gathering spaces.*

An experienced pastor and Christian educator, Karen-Marie is ordained with dual standing in the United Church of Christ and Disciples traditions.



Afternoon: 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

G. Praying the Lord's Prayer with Theologians

Many of us pray the words of the prayer that Jesus taught several times each week. And yet, many of us perhaps have little understanding of what the various petitions are seeking from God. This workshop will explore the diverse ways in which theologians through the ages have explained the meaning of each part of the prayer. This is a chance to deepen your appreciation for one of the treasures of Christian practice.



Facilitated by: Dawn DeVries, Ph.D. *Dawn's scholarship includes the history of doctrine and Reformed theology. She was named a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology for 1997–1998. She was a delegate for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the 8th Assembly of the World Council of Churches and for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to the International Eastern Orthodox/Reformed Dialogue. Dawn served on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Special Committee on Catechism. She published Jesus Christ in the Preaching of Calvin and Schleiermacher and is currently editing the New Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology.*

Dawn is a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School (M.A., Ph.D.), and The College of the University of Chicago (B.A.).



H. Who is Our Neighbor? Wisdom from the Desert Mothers and Fathers

The early Christian desert mothers and fathers are often seen as separate from and uninterested in the larger Christian community, at best fonts of individual spirituality. This workshop counters that view, discussing the many ways in which monks living outside the “world” were in fact centrally concerned with their neighbors. Gathered together, we will consider how the struggles of these Christian forbearers help us think about what it means to be neighbor in our own time.



Facilitated by: Christine Luckritz Marquis, Ph.D. *Christine joined the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty as Assistant Professor of Church History in fall, 2013. An M.A.R. graduate of Yale Divinity School, she received her B.A. in Religion from Illinois Wesleyan University. She earned her Ph.D. in Early Christian Studies from Duke University in 2012. Christine’s teaching and research explore early Christian communities and their practices, especially those founded in Egypt and Syria. She co-edited and translated The History of the Great Deeds of Bishop Paul of Qentos and Priest John of Edessa, Texts from Christian Late Antiquity volume 29 (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2010).*

Dr. Luckritz Marquis appreciates the opportunity to share her expertise in public forums. When she is not writing or teaching, she enjoys farmers’ markets, cooking, and assisting local food programs that seek to provide access to and education about sustainability.



I. Tiptoeing on Eggshells? Navigating our Way in Ideologically Diverse Faith Communities

If we value the presence of the church in the world, how do we work with the presence of the world in the church? To what degree are members and leaders able to share diverse political and social convictions? This workshop will explore opportunities and strategies through which faith communities may facilitate genuine and substantive conversations in a time of ideological polarization.



Facilitated by: Ken McFayden, Ph.D. *Ken serves as Academic Dean of the Richmond Campus and Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development. Courses he teaches are in the areas of congregational leadership and administration. He has provided leadership for international travel seminars to Brazil, Ghana, Korea and China.*

In addition to his teaching and administrative roles, Ken has served as keynote speaker on the topic of leadership and change in a variety of settings. He has conducted numerous workshops and consultations for clergy and lay professionals in the theory and practice of leadership, and in team development, strategic planning, and conflict management. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).



J. Polity Matters for Mission and Ministry



Presbyterian polity (church government) is often thought of as rules and regulations that have to be followed. There is another way to look at our polity: as a way to do mission and ministry. Come and learn how our polity is an opportunity for your church to be involved in mission and ministry for Christ.

Facilitated by: Rev. H. Carson Rhyne *Carson has been the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the James since 1997. He serves Union Presbyterian Seminary as Affiliate faculty, teaching Presbyterian Polity and Worship and Sacraments, and assisting in the Office of Field Education and Placement. Carson has taught Presbyterian Polity for Church Business Administration for a number of years in our certification program.*

He graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, with a B.A. degree in religion and Christian Education, then received his Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary. He is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as a Certified Christian Educator. He served two congregations in Georgia and served on Presbytery staff as Associate for Christian Education. He then came to Virginia and was organizing pastor for two congregations here before being elected to serve as General Presbyter and Stated Clerk.



K. Musical Resources for Pastoral Care Ministry

Have you ever wondered why we have church disagreements about music? Have you ever considered what constitutes good music for you, personally? Would you like to have a playlist for using when visiting? What are the narratives that rest in our hymn choices and other personal preferences? What is neuroscience saying about the power of music to heal? These and other questions will be the focus of our time spent together.



Facilitated by: Carol Schweitzer, Ph.D. *Carol's main interests include pastoral theology and the psychology of religion. She has experience as a pastoral counselor and family therapist. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she has served as a pastor in several Pennsylvania churches.*

Carol's degrees are from Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D.), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div.), and Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ (Bachelor of Music)



L. Freedom and Form in Christian Worship: Discerning the Balance for Your Congregation

The PC(USA)'s Book of Common Worship identifies the principle of "form and freedom" as a marker of Christian worship. In this workshop, we will consider how the historic form of Christian worship is balanced by freedom, and how congregations can weave these together for faithful worship for their time and place.

Facilitated by: Richard W. Voelz, Ph.D. *Rich is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Formerly, he served as Senior Minister of the Johns Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an Open and Affirming congregation in metro Atlanta, Georgia. He has over a decade of ministry experience in various contexts.*



A graduate of Vanderbilt University's Graduate Department of Religion with the PhD in Homiletics and Liturgics, Dr. Voelz brings expertise and scholarly interest in contextual homiletics, contemporary homiletic theory, preaching and youth, pastoral identity, preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement, and contemporary liturgical theology.

As a NC native, he is a huge college basketball fan. Growing up, he went to church on the edge of the campus of NC State, so he is a longtime and eternally optimistic fan of the Wolfpack. As an alum, he is also loyal to the Vanderbilt Commodores.



Afternoon Workshops – L

To **register** for Seminary for a Day, [click here](#).