

COVENANT
NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS



2515 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

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Registration free for college students and seminarians!

*Join us for the 2011 Covenant Conference,
November 3-5, First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC*



The Presbyterian Church (USA) is moving through a period of deep discernment. The literal language of G-6.0106b is now a thing of the past, while the conflicted history associated with this issue of inclusivity is still very much with us. Many people are celebrating the passage of Amendment 10-A, while others are grieving the direction in which the church is moving. All are pausing and wondering what the future holds.

The change in ordination policy, as well as the approval of the New Form of Government, means Presbyterian congregations and governing bodies need to rely more than ever on skills of mutual respect, civility, and spiritual forbearance. We have tremendous resources from our history to draw upon. And scripture is quite clear that God has "entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Can we seek together a spiritual maturity that is more proactive than reactive? Can we learn how to let our light shine in the midst of difficult conversations? Can the practice of reconciliation become a condition of our daily lives, rather than simply an ideal end toward which we strive?

Join us at the 2011 Covenant Network Conference as we ask these important questions. Guest speakers, preachers, and workshop presenters will help us seek answers faithfully and respectfully. In this season of the church's life, it is clear that our present calling and future aspirations depend upon the ability to live into true reconciliation with our sisters and brothers in Christ. Come see what the grace and spirit of God is leading us to be and do as people of faith!



First Presbyterian Church

305 E. Main Street ♦ Durham, NC 27701
919.682.5511 www.firstpres-durham.org

Transportation

Durham is served by the Raleigh-Durham Airport, (RDU). Transportation to the hotel can be arranged with SuperShuttle (www.supershuttle.com) or 800.258.3826. (average cost: \$40.00 round trip)

Or

A Chartered Bus will leave from the church to go directly to the airport at the end of the conference. The cost per seat is **\$16.00.**

For **\$25** total, the charter service will make this a round trip offer.

(Name, arrival flight information and cell phone number must be provided.)

Conference Hotel: Durham Marriott City Center, 201 Foster Street, Durham, NC

♦ special rate of \$115 per night is good until October 18 ♦

♦ within walking distance of the church ♦ free wifi ♦ complimentary parking ♦ \$10 coupon for \$10 breakfast buffet per day

For Hotel Reservations: 800.909.8375 or CovNet rates can be accessed from our website: www.covnetpres.org

If you will have access to a car during the conference and would like information about other hotel options, please contact Lou East: loueast@covnetpres.org.

Conference Registration

Please use one form per person and mail to: Covenant Network
Or register online: www.covnetpres.org
2515 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA 94115



Full Name: _____ Name for Badge: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____ Email: _____

Minister Elder Deacon Educator Seminarian Other _____

Congregation/Ministry Affiliation _____

Clergy position: _____ Presbytery: _____

Seminary/College/University: _____ Seminarian Congregation of Care: _____

Emergency contact and phone: _____

Vegetarian Other special needs: _____

Early Bird Rate _____ \$150
(until September 15)
Regular Rate _____ \$180
(Sept 16—Oct. 31)
Last Minute Rate _____ \$200
(from Nov. 1)

Support for
Student Attendance
_____ \$50
_____ \$100
_____ other

TOTAL: \$ _____

Round Trip Transportation: _____ \$25
(Airport to Marriott, Church to Airport
Flight arrival info needed by Oct. 28)

-or-

Please reserve a seat for me: _____ \$16
(Bus from Church to Airport at the end of the
conference)

Check enclosed -or- Visa MC AmEx Signature: _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

preliminary Conference Schedule

(subject to change)

Thursday, November 3

Registration at the church: 12:00 noon—8:00 pm

- pm 2:00 Orientation for First Timers
3:00 Opening: "Reconciling Visions"
4:00 Plenary – James C. Davis
 "Reforming the Ties that Bind: Theological Virtues for Living Together with Difference"
5:15 Workshops
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Scott Anderson, preaching
 "The Gracious Guest" Psalm 32, II Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 10:1-12
9:00 - Reception/Celebration

Friday, November 4

Registration at the church: 8:00 am—11:00 am

- am 8:00 Young Adult Breakfast
9:00 Morning Worship
9:45 Greetings and Announcements
10:00 Covenant Network Presentation
 "Moving Forward Together and Preparing for General Assembly"
11:00 nFOG presentation, led by Moderator Cindy Bolbach:
 "Out of the FOG: What the new Form of Government Means for the Church"
pm 12:00 Lunch on your own/Free Time/Exhibits, Bookstore, Booksignings
2:00 Plenary – Frances Taylor Gench
 "Wrestling with Scripture: progressive presbyterians, Biblical Authority, and the Ministry of Reconciliation"
3:30 Plenary: "Reconciling Voices"
4:45 Workshops
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Worship – Mary McClintock Fulkerson, preaching
 "Surprised by Grace: The Paradox of Christian Boundaries" Exodus 20:1-6, Luke 10:25-37
9:00 Young Adult Reception

Saturday, November 5

- am 9:00 Announcements
9:15 Plenary – led by James C. Davis
 "Reconciling Vocations"
10:45 Worship – Mary Lynn Tobin, preaching
 "Now What?" John 21:1-19
pm 12:00 Conference Adjourns

Workshops will explore the theme of *'Reconciliation'* and its complexities throughout many arenas of faithful living. Standard favorites such as *'What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say about Homosexuality'*, *'Marriage Rites and Rights'*, and *'The Legal Landscape in the PC(USA)'* will be offered as well. There will be opportunities to engage with conference leaders and one another, expanding upon themes presented in the plenaries and sermons. Participants will receive practical resources to help address issues at the congregational as well as presbytery level. Now more than ever, the Covenant Network recognizes the importance of our founding commitment to support the mission and unity of the PC(USA). How we live into this new reality, the tone and spirit of our work, is critically important in these tender days.

Conference Speakers and Preachers



Scott Anderson has served as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches since 2003. He was a member of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church, whose recommendations to the 2006 GA resulted in the authoritative interpretation which enabled Scott to pursue ordination after having set aside the office in 1990. The GAPJC heard the case on July 29, 2011 and dismissed challenges to his ordination as moot, now that G-2.0104b is in effect. His ordination by John Knox Presbytery is planned for October 8. Scott is currently Chair of the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, and his most recent publication is as a contributing author to: *That All May Be One: Essays Celebrating the World Communion of Reformed Churches* (WJKP, 2010).

"God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ is fundamentally not about church. It's about the reign of God in the world into which we have been sent."

"Our ability to articulate and honor our relationship with Scripture, and the integrity of our engagement with it, have central roles to play in the ministry of reconciliation before us."



Frances Taylor Gench is Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. She was a member of the General Assembly's Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. Her most recent publication is *Faithful Disagreement: Wrestling with Scripture in the Midst of Church Conflict* (WJKP, 2009). Frances is a Parish Associate at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

James Calvin Davis is an ordained Presbyterian minister and teaches ethics and American religious history at Middlebury College in Vermont. He is the author of *In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us*. (WJKP, 2010)



"Embedded in the Reformed tradition are theological virtues that can help shape a life lived in reconciled community. The Reformed tradition has something to teach us about living with difference, co-existing with deep conviction and genuine civility, and if we heed those lessons and apply them in our churches, we just might have a template to offer to the rest of our culture, too."



Mary McClintock Fulkerson is Professor of Theology at Duke Divinity School. Her most recent book, *Places of Redemption: Theology for a Worldly Church* (Oxford University Press, 2010), is about ecclesial practices that resist racism and other contemporary forms of social brokenness. An ordained minister in the PC (USA), Mary chaired the New Hope Presbytery's Task Force on Human Sexuality. And she is the faculty sponsor of *Sacred Worth*, a Divinity School student organization committed to full inclusion of lgbt people and their straight allies.

"God's radical grace is never containable. When we identify it with fixed boundaries, we risk subtle forms of idolatry."



"Jesus' work of reconciliation is, to me, far more shocking than the resurrection."

Mary Lynn Tobin has served the congregation of Davis Community Presbyterian Church in Davis, CA since 1989, after having begun her ordained ministry in Atlanta, GA. Currently Mary Lynn is Co-Moderator of the Covenant Network Board of Directors.

...In their own words...