

WESTERN

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
JOURNEY CENTER FOR LEARNING

Discipleship and Mission: Practicing Witness

Benjamin Connor, George Brown & George Hunsberger

February 15-16, 2013



Discipleship and Mission: Practicing Witness

A seminar designed for pastors, staff and lay people

Schedule

Friday, February 15

10:30 am - Missional Theology for the Missional Church w/ George Hunsberger responding as we consider some historical and theological trends in the World Christian movement that have challenged many North American congregations to view themselves as "missional" churches. Is there a theology to accompany and sustain the church that is attempting to engage our changing religious landscape?

Noon - Lunch in Garden Level

1:30 pm - Practicing Witness w/ George Brown responding. Many of us have become disillusioned with Christian disciplines because they are often disconnected from our way of living in the world. An introduction to the notion of Christian practices will suggest that Christian practices are the proper setting for traditionally understood Christian disciplines. Unfortunately, much of the recent discussion about Christian practices does not consider the congregational calling to participate in God's ongoing redemptive mission in the world. In this session we will discuss how, in a missional church, practicing our faith both shapes us for and is practicing witness.

Saturday, February 16

9 am - Amplifying Our Witness

We will discover how viewing our ministry through a missional lens uncovers possibilities for discipleship that we might otherwise overlook. We will consider ways in which all of God's people can participate in the ministry of Christian witness and will give one example of how two Christian practices, hospitality and friendship in particular, have been particularly helpful for understanding discipleship and witness with young people with disabilities and their typically developing peers.

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Panel of Practitioners:

Bryan Boersma of Rockford Reformed, Joe Graham of First Reformed Zeeland, and Deb Swanson of Trinity Reformed Grand Rapids.

Presenters

Benjamin T. Conner

has worked with adolescents for 20 years and currently runs a ministry to adolescents with developmental disabilities. *Amplifying Our Witness* discusses how to give voice to these youth.

This workshop will be based on his book, *Practicing Witness*, where he addresses the question, "How might a church infused with missional theology change the way it approaches Christian practices?"



George Brown, Jr.

will be responding to *Practicing Witness*. He is the G.W. and Eddie Haworth Professor of Christian Education at Western Theological Seminary.



George Hunsberger

will be responding to *Missional Theology for the Missional Church*. He is the Professor of Missiology at Western Theological Seminary.



\$60.00 for both days or \$15 for Saturday morning only. Registration online at westernsem.edu/journey or 616-392-8555 x133.

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