

THE SIDER INSTITUTE FOR ANABAPTIST, PIETIST AND WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Schrag Lectures are sponsored by Messiah University's Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies. Named in honor of professor emeritus E. Morris Sider and his wife Leone, the Sider Institute facilitates the exploration and interpretation of Anabaptism, Pietism and Wesleyanism through a variety of educational opportunities and scholarly programs. These three theological traditions have long shaped the personality of Messiah University's founding denomination—the Brethren in Christ Church—and continue to inform the University's educational mission.

The objectives of the Sider Institute include the following:

- **To support programming** that encourages and promotes a greater understanding of Anabaptism, Pietism and Wesleyanism
- **To promote the understanding and exploration** of Brethren in Christ history and contemporary life
- **To promote peace and conflict studies** (PACS) and to oversee the PACS program at Messiah University, especially the peace and conflict studies major and minor in the Messiah University curriculum

Messiah University has created endowments to support the work of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives, the Sider Institute and the Schrag Lectures, and to provide scholarship assistance to Brethren in Christ students at Messiah University.

Persons interested in contributing to any of these endowments should contact:

Messiah University
Office of Development
One University Ave Suite 3013
Mechanicsburg PA 17055
717-691-6019

Richard T. Hughes

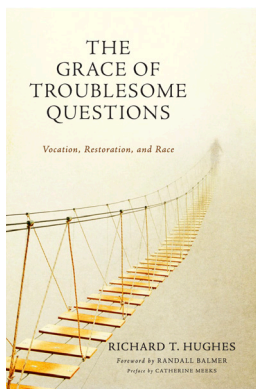
March 14, 2023



SPONSORED BY

THE 2023 ANNUAL SCHRAG LECTURE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



The Anabaptist Vision and the Grace of Troublesome Questions
Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.
High Foundation Recital Hall, High Center, Messiah University
Richard T. Hughes first encountered the Anabaptist tradition when he was a second-year graduate student at Abilene Christian

University in 1966—57 years ago. That encounter changed his life. The extent of that change, however, would not be fully evident to him until, at almost 80 years of age, he wrote “The Grace of Troublesome Questions” (ACU Press, 2022), a book he often describes as an intellectual memoir.

In the process of writing that book, it became more and more evident to Hughes that the dominant thread in his life has been the Anabaptist vision that he encountered so many years ago. That vision has transformed virtually everything he has done in his life: the way he thinks, the way he teaches his classes, the way he reads the biblical text, the way he understands American culture and the way he interacts with others.

In this lecture, Hughes will describe how his discovery of the extent to which the Anabaptist vision shaped his life has given him a whole new sense of who he is, of where he might be going and of how he hopes to get there.

This lecture is open to the Messiah University community and the general public. No tickets are required.

NOTE: *Due to budget changes, there will be no Sider Institute annual banquet this year.*

PREVIOUS SCHRAG LECTURERS

2022 Marie Mutsuki Mockett	2010 Nathan Emerson Yoder
2021 Virtual Anabaptist Book Festival	2009 June Alliman Yoder
2020 Meghan Larissa Good	2008 Martin Mittelstadt
2019 Donald B. Kraybill	2007 Barry L. Callen
2018 Duane C. S. Stoltzfus	2006 Keith A. Graber Miller
2017 Greg Boyd	2005 Ben C. Ollenburger
2016 Molly Worthen	2004 Susan L. Biesecker-Mast
2015 J. Nelson Kraybill	2003 Nancy R. Heisey
2014 David R. Swartz	2002 Tom Yoder Neufeld
2013 David W. Shenk	2001 Alan and Eleanor Kreider
2012 James Forbes	2000 Myron S. Augsburger
2011 Ronald J. Sider	1999 John D. Roth

ABOUT THE 2023 SCHRAG LECTURER



Richard T. Hughes has worked at the intersection of religion and American culture over the course of a 50-year career, specializing in religion and American identity, religion and race in America, religion and American higher education, and the role of Christian primitivism in American life. His 18 published books include “Myths America Lives By: White Supremacy and the Stories that Give Us Meaning” (University of Illinois Press, 2018); “The Vocation of the Christian Scholar: How Christian Faith can Sustain the Life of the Mind” (Eerdmans 2005); and “The Grace of Troublesome Questions: Vocation, Restoration, and Race” (ACU Press, 2022). Having taught at Pepperdine University, Southwest Missouri State University, Abilene Christian University and Messiah College, Hughes currently serves as scholar-in-residence in the Center for Christianity and Scholarship at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.



IN HONOR OF THE SCHRAGS

The Schrag Lectures are named to honor Martin Schrag (1919–2002), professor emeritus of church history at Messiah University, and his wife Dorothy Schrag (1918–2017), assistant professor emerita of music. Both were also active in the Brethren in Christ Church.

Martin was an outstanding scholar of Anabaptist history and theology. His best-known publication was “The European History (1525-1874) of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia” (1974), in which he traced his ancestors’ journey from Switzerland to Russia and then to the United States. With co-author John K. Stoner, he also wrote “The Ministry of Reconciliation” (1973). His last book, “Christian Leshar: Nineteenth-Century Brethren in Christ Bishop” (2003), was in press at the time of his passing. Martin’s biography is one of three that is featured in “Embracing Scholarship, Piety and Obedience” (2009), published by the Brethren in Christ Historical Society.