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
ABOUT THE 2022 SCHRAG LECTURERS

Marie Mutsuki Mockett, a writer of fiction and nonfiction, was born to an American father and Japanese mother. Her most recent book, “American Harvest: God, Country and Farming in the Heartland” (Graywolf), follows Mockett’s journey through seven heartland states in the company of evangelical Christian harvesters, some with ties to the Brethren in Christ Church. The book examines the role of GMOs, God, agriculture and race in society, and won the 2021 Northern Californian Book Award for General Nonfiction. Mockett’s memoir, “Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye” (W.W. Norton & Co., 2015), examines grief against the backdrop of the 2011 Great East Earthquake in Japan and was a finalist for the 2016 PEN Open Book Award, the Indies Choice Best Book for Nonfiction and the Northern California Book Award for Creative Nonfiction. Mockett lives in San Francisco with her family.

PREVIOUS SCHRAG LECTURERS

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

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 Lesher: 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.