

OCT. 9-10, 2014

AT THE CARLISLE BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

WHO'S IN?

WHO'S OUT?

RETHINKING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

THE PRESENTERS



Keynote Speaker

Kurt Willems

Kurt Willems (M.Div., Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary) is the founding pastor of Pangea Communities, a Brethren in Christ church plant in Seattle,

Wash. He is also a graduate student at the University of Washington focusing on early Christianity, Greco-Roman religions and classical languages.

A prolific writer, he blogs at The Pangea Blog (www.thepangeablog.com).

Dr. J. E. McDermond

Hostetter Chair in Religious Studies and Professor of Christian Ministry and Spirituality, Messiah College

Dr. Daryl Climenhaga

Associate Professor of Global Studies, Providence Theological Seminary

Dr. Valerie Rempel

Associate Dean and Associate Professor / J.B. Toews Chair of History and Theology, Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary

Hank Johnson

Pastor of Discipleship and Youth Ministries, Harrisburg (Pa.) Brethren in Christ Church

WORDS OF INVITATION

The Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies annually holds a study conference for Brethren in Christ pastors, lay people and friends from theologically related denominations. This annual conference gives attendees the opportunity to think about important cultural issues that are facing the church and to reflect upon them in theologically informed ways.

This year, the Sider Institute is thrilled to partner with Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary (California) to organize the conference. This year's theme is "Who's In? Who's Out? Rethinking Church Membership in the Twenty-First Century." The conference will begin on Thursday, Oct. 9 with an opening keynote talk in the evening, and will continue Friday, Oct. 10.

The conference will address questions such as:

Does church membership matter in the twenty-first century?

What does it mean to "belong" in a post-Christian society?

What are the connections between membership and the concepts of conversion, discipleship and accountability in the church today?

Can we revitalize church membership? Should we?

All sessions are open to the public. The Thursday evening session is free; the Friday sessions require pre-registration. The \$30 registration fee includes refreshment breaks and the luncheon on Friday. Please return the completed registration form at your earliest convenience, but no later than Friday, Oct. 3.

We look forward to seeing you at this engaging conference in October!

Attending this conference fulfills one of two Lifetime Learning requirements all Brethren in Christ pastors are expected to complete every four years, and pastors are strongly encouraged to attend if possible.



For more information, contact Shirley Groff, administrative assistant to the Sider Institute, at 717-766-2511 ext. 2025 or at groff@messiah.edu. Or visit the Sider Institute website at messiah.edu/siderinstitute.



Lodging is available in area motels and hotels. Contact Shirley Groff for a list of local hotels.

REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people. Registration deadline is Friday, October 3, 2014. Register via postal mail by detaching and sending this form, along with the \$30 registration fee, to the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies, One College Avenue Suite 4033, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg PA 17055. Make checks payable to "Messiah College."

Name(s) (required) _____

Address (required) _____

Phone (optional) (_____) _____

Email (required) _____

Church affiliation (required) _____

For Brethren in Christ pastors: Would you like Lifetime Learning credit for attending? Yes No

NEW THIS YEAR: REGISTER ONLINE!

Visit messiah.edu/siderinstitute and click on the "Register" link.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 9 and Friday, October 10, 2014

Carlisle Brethren in Christ Church

1155 Walnut Bottom Rd. Carlisle, PA 17015

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

7:00 p.m. **Words of Welcome**—*Devin Manzullo-Thomas*

7:15 p.m. **Does Church Membership Still Matter?: Reflections on “Belonging” in Twenty-First Century Christianity**—*Kurt Willems*

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Words of Welcome**—*Devin Manzullo-Thomas*

9:15 a.m. **Focused Worship**

9:30 a.m. **Conversion and Life Between the Resurrections: Belief, Belonging and Behavior**—*J. E. McDermond*

10:30 a.m. **Refreshment Break**

10:45 a.m. **A Missiological Exploration of Church Membership**—*Daryl Climenhaga*

Noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Accountability and Church Membership in the Twenty-First Century (Panel Discussion)**—*Hank Johnson (moderator)*

2:00 p.m. **Refreshment Break**

2:15 p.m. **Where Do Our Loyalties Lie?: Belonging Beyond the Local Congregation**—*Valerie Rempel*

3:15 p.m. **Closing Reflections and Dismissal**

Sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College and Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary

