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
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.

PREVIOUS SCHRAG LECTURERS

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 2021 Annual Schrag Lectures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on large, in-person gatherings, the Schrag Lectures are looking a bit different this year!

The Virtual Anabaptist Book Festival will highlight recently published books by Anabaptist authors on a variety of topics: biblical pacifism, antiracist activism, Christian hope and more. Each webinar will feature a conversation with the author about their work and a virtual Q&A session with the audience. The event is free, but pre-registration is required.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**“Who Will Be a Witness?”**
A conversation with Drew G. I. Hart

*Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m. EST*

Hart will discuss his work as a public theologian and social activist, and will discuss his latest book, “Who Will Be a Witness?: Igniting Activism for God’s Justice, Love, and Deliverance” (Herald Press, 2020).

**“Echoing Hope”**
A conversation with Kurt Willems

*Thursday, April 8 at 7 p.m. EST*

Willems will discuss his new book “Echoing Hope: How the Humanity of Jesus Redeems Our Pain” (WaterBrook, 2021).

**“If Jesus is Lord”**
A conversation with Ronald J. Sider

*Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m. EST*

Sider will discuss his recent book, “If Jesus is Lord: Loving Our Enemies in an Age of Violence” (Baker, 2019), and reflect on his long career as a prolific writer, teacher, speaker and founding president of Christians for Social Action.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL SPEAKERS

**Drew G. I. Hart** is assistant professor of theology at Messiah University. He is also an activist, speaker, and writer with experience in pastoral ministry. He holds a master of divinity degree from Biblical Theological Seminary and a PhD from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

**Kurt Willems** is a pastor, BIC church planter and writer. He is also the host of the “Theology Curator” podcast. He has a master of divinity degree from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and a master of arts in comparative religion from the University of Washington. He and his wife, Lauren, have two daughters and reside in Seattle, Washington.

**Ronald J. Sider** is distinguished professor emeritus of theology, holistic ministry and public policy at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University (St. Davids, Pa.) and the founder and president emeritus of Evangelicals for Social Action (now Christians for Social Action). Born and raised in the Brethren in Christ Church, Sider is a widely known evangelical speaker and writer who has spoken on six continents and published more than 40 books and scores of articles.

REGISTER ONLINE

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