

# 2017 SIDER INSTITUTE STUDY CONFERENCE

# PROPHETIC MISSION

## BEING THE CHURCH IN A POST-CHURCH AGE

NOV. 10 // MESSIAH COLLEGE

A conference for Brethren in Christ pastors and laypeople

Sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Rev. Hank Johnson** serves as pastor of discipleship and youth ministries at Harrisburg (Pa.) Brethren in Christ Church, where he has been on staff since 2008. He recently accepted an invitation from that congregation

to serve as its senior pastor, beginning in 2019. Hank's ministry experience has been gleaned through serving at camps, community and youth centers, in the social work field and most recently in a congregational setting. A 2004 graduate of Messiah College, Hank also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Evangelical Theological Seminary, which he received in 2014.

### PLENARY SPEAKERS

**Rev. Jeff Wright**  
Pastor, Madison Street Church (Riverside, California)  
President, viaShalom

**Prof. Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas**  
Director, The Sider Institute at Messiah College

Attending this conference is an opportunity to fulfill one Lifelong BIC Learning credit, an expectation for all Brethren in Christ pastors within each renewal period.

### ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

*American Christians are living in a post-church age.*

The 21st century has witnessed major transformations in the way people engage the Christian faith and participate in local congregations. Evangelical and mainline churches have experienced noticeable drops in membership. Numerous congregations have witnessed a growing divide between the religiously active and those resistant to churchgoing. In particular, millennials—people age 30 and under—stand out as the least likely to see value in church attendance. In addition, Christian and non-Christian media alike have observed the rise of the Nones—those who claim no affiliation with any organized religion.

*These developments should concern those of us who care about the ministry of the local congregation and who value belonging to the community of faith.*

This study conference seeks to explore what it might mean to be the church in a post-church age. It will address such questions as:

- What challenges and opportunities do pastors and other church leaders face as they minister in a post-church age?

- How can Christians continue to communicate the message of the gospel at a time of declining membership, shifting patterns of church attendance and the rise of the religiously unaffiliated?
- How does this difficult context offer Christians a much-needed opportunity to recover and reclaim the true mission and meaning of the church?

### CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference "Prophetic Mission: Being the Church in a Post-Church Age" is sponsored by the E. Morris and D. Leone Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College. It will provide Brethren in Christ pastors, laypeople and friends from related denominations with the opportunity to reflect on important issues in theologically informed ways.

The conference will be held on Friday, Nov. 10 in Hostetter Chapel on the campus of Messiah College.

The conference requires a pre-registration fee of \$30, which includes registration materials, refreshment breaks and a catered luncheon. Please return the completed registration form at your earliest convenience.



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at [siderinstitute@messiah.edu](mailto:siderinstitute@messiah.edu), or visit the Sider Institute website at [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute).



Lodging is available in area motels and hotels. Contact the Institute for a list of local hotels.

### REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people. Registration deadline is **Friday, Nov. 3, 2017**.

Name(s) (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation (required) \_\_\_\_\_

**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."

**For Brethren in Christ pastors:** Would you like Lifelong BIC Learning credit for attending?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

**REGISTER ONLINE!** Visit [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute) and click on the "Register" link.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(Subject to change)*

PROPHETIC MISSION: BEING THE CHURCH IN A POST-CHURCH AGE

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

Hostetter Chapel

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. Words of welcome and centering worship—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas and Doug Curry
- 9:15 a.m. Rationale for a study conference on “Being the Church in a Post-Church Age”—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas
- 9:45 a.m. Stories from a “Post-Church Age” (panel discussion)
- 10:45 a.m. Refreshment break
- 11 a.m. “Post-Church America as a Mission Field”—Rev. Hank Johnson
- Noon Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. “Constructing the Casa de Cristo: Post-Christendom America and the Jesus Call to Love Our Neighbors”—Rev. Jeff Wright
- 2 p.m. Closing reflections
- 2:30 p.m. Dismissal



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