

LIFE BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



NOV. 12-13
AT MESSIAH COLLEGE

ONE COLLEGE AVENUE
MECHANICSBURG PA 17055

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Roger E. Olson is the Foy Valentine Professor of Christian Theology of Ethics at George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University. A self-described “evangelical Arminian,” Olson is a recognized expert

in historical theology. He holds degrees from the North American Baptist Seminary (M.A.,1978) and Rice University (M.A.,1982; Ph.D., 1984). He is the author of numerous books, including “Reclaiming Pietism: Retrieving an Evangelical Tradition” (2014) with Christian Collins-Winn, and “The Journey of Modern Theology: From Reconstruction to Deconstruction” (2013). He blogs regularly at patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Dr. Chris Baeckert
Executive Director, Ecclesia Network

Dr. Emerson Leshner
President, Brethren in Christ Historical Society

Dr. John R. Yeatts
Senior Pastor, Grantham Brethren in Christ Church, and Professor Emeritus of the Psychology of Religion, Messiah College

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.

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 conference will focus on the theme, “Life Beyond the Congregation: The Future of Denominations in the 21st Century.” The conference will begin Thursday, Nov. 12 with an opening keynote talk in the evening, and will continue all day Friday, Nov. 13.

The conference will address questions such as:

- *What happened to denominations in North America? Why are they on the decline?*
- *Are denominations still relevant in the 21st century?*
- *What is the future of denominations in a postmodern, post-Christian context?*
- *Do Christians need to belong to something bigger than the local congregation?*

The Thursday evening session is free and open to the public. 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. We look forward to seeing you at this engaging conference!

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Does the Future Have a Denomination? New Means and Models of Denominationalism

In recent years, affinity networks and other informal groups have offered vital fellowship and resources for churches outside the traditional denominational structure. This session will explore these new means and models of congregational connection, assessing how they differ from traditional denominationalism and what they might mean for the future of the church. Facilitator: Dr. Chris Baeckert

Can a Congregation Be the Church?: The Brethren in Christ in the Post-Modern Church

This session will focus on the question, “How might a BIC theology of the church help to shape our thinking about the role of the denomination in the life of God’s people?” Facilitator: Dr. John R. Yeatts

Q&A with Roger Olson: How Denominations Can Survive in the 21st Century

This session will offer an opportunity for participants to engage in follow-up conversation with our keynote speaker, Dr. Roger E. Olson about his plenary presentations.

On your registration form below or online, please indicate your first, second and third preferences. You will be assigned to a session on a first-come, first-served basis.



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, Nov. 6, 2015**. Register online at messiah.edu/siderinstitute or 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) _____

Email (required) _____

Phone (optional) (_____) _____

Church affiliation (required) _____

REGISTER ONLINE at messiah.edu/siderinstitute



Afternoon Breakout Session:

Please indicate your first, second and third preferences. You will be assigned to a session on a first-come, first-served basis.

___ Does the Denomination Have a Future? New Means and Models of Denominationalism

___ Can a Congregation Be the Church?: The Brethren in Christ in the Post-Modern Church

___ Q&A with Roger Olson: How Denominations Can Survive in the 21st Century

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(Subject to change)*

LIFE BEYOND THE CONGREGATION: THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONS IN THE 21st CENTURY

THURSDAY, NOV. 12

Alexander Auditorium, Frey Hall

- 7 p.m. **Words of Welcome**—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas
7:15 p.m. **In Defense of Denominations (Keynote Presentation)**—Dr. Roger E. Olson

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

Hostetter Chapel

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
9 a.m. **Words of Welcome**—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas
9:15 a.m. **Focused Worship**
9:30 a.m. **How Denominations Can Survive in the 21st Century**—Dr. Roger E. Olson
10:30 a.m. **Refreshment Break**
10:45 a.m. **Why I Serve at the Denominational Level (Panel Discussion)** —Dr. Emerson Leshar (moderator)
Noon **Lunch**
1 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**
 - *Does the Future Have a Denomination? New Means and Models of Denominationalism*
Facilitator: Dr. Chris Baeckert
 - *Can a Congregation Be the Church?: The Brethren in Christ in the Post-Modern Church*
Facilitator: Dr. John R. Yeatts
 - *Q&A with Roger Olson: How Denominations Can Survive in the 21st Century*

2 p.m. **Refreshment Break**
2:15 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion: The Future of Denominations in the 21st Century**
3:30 p.m. **Closing Reflections and Dismissal**



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

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A conference for pastors and lay people