The 2nd Annual Institute on Theology and Disability

Theology and Disability

Exploring the Intersection of Personal Experience, Ministry, and Theological Education

July 18-22, 2011 • Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA

For Theological Educators, Faith Leaders, Clergy, Religious Educators, Seminary Faculty, Seminary Students, Laity in Ministry, and Others

Monday - Friday - Full Institute
with priority to Seminary Faculty and Faith Leadership in PA

Monday, July 18, 2011 • *One day public event for Clergy, Laity in Ministry, Seminary Students, and the General Public*

This 2nd Annual Institute on Theology and Disability is made possible with major funding from the Faith Community Leadership Project of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council in collaboration with The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Department of Pediatrics

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Monday, July 18 • 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. One Day Public Event
Personal, Biblical, and Theological Reflections on Disability

Registration is required. (See Registration Form.) This first day is included in the costs for the full Institute. Lunch included. *Registration is limited to 60, not including week long participants.*

Morning: Short presentations by the Institute Faculty and brief discussion after each.
Debbie Creamer, *Encountering God in Disability;* Tom Graves, *A Personal Discussion of the Advantages of Disadvantage;* Sam Kabue, *Implications of Blindness on Participation in Church Life from the Perspective of a Personal Experience*; Jeremy Schipper, *Healing in the Hebrew Bible;* Candida Moss, *Christ (and) the Disabled: Reconsidering the Divine Physician in the Gospel; and* Tom Reynolds, *Caring Differently: Toward a Spirituality of Attentiveness*

Afternoon: Extended Discussion Groups with both Institute Faculty and Mentors.
Tentative discussion groups focused on: Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Global Perspectives on Disability, Pastoral Care, Systematic Theology, Religious Education, Mental Illness and Dementia, and Family Perspectives.

Closing Reflections by Leaders and Participants.

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- Morning worship/meditation followed by two presentations with discussion.
- Afternoon discussion groups led by faculty and mentors, free time,
- Tuesday and Wednesday evening opportunities for presentations by participants and discussion, Thursday evening reflection by the mentors.
- End with lunch on Friday.

Presentations:

Monday: Institute Welcome and Orientation: Opening: Presentation: Leonard Hummel, *Gettysburg Seminary and Disability: Pastoral and Theological Reflections in Context.*

Tuesday: Biblical Perspectives: Candida Moss, *Heavenly Eugenics: Eschatological Cleansing in Early Christianity* and Jeremy Schipper, *From the Disabled Servant to the Suffering Servant.*

Wednesday: Theological Perspectives: Deborah Creamer, *Disability, Feminism, and Theologies of Difference* and Tom Reynolds, *Between Anguish and Hope: Theological Movements in the Life of a Parent Caring for a Child with Disabilities.*

Thursday: Infusing Disability in Theological Education: Sam Kabue, *Introducing Disabilities Studies in Theological Seminaries: an EDAN (Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network) Case Study* and Tom Graves, *Disability and Theological Education: Reflections on the ATS Disability Policy and Its Implementation*

Friday: Worship and Disability: Bill Gaventa, *Preaching Disability: Implications for Liturgy and Homiletics.* Concluding Reflections by Everyone and Outlining Directions for the Future

Afternoon Discussions: (tentative) Hans Reinders (Ethics, Philosophy, Theological Anthropology), John Swinton (Pastoral Theology, Dementia and Mental Illness), Tom Reynolds and Debbie Creamer (Systematic Theology) Debbie Creamer, Sam Kabue and Tom Graves, (Theological Education Globally and Nationally), Erik Carter (Religious Education) and Bill Gaventa (Congregational Ministries and Outreach). *Participants may move between groups and/or groups may combine for a given afternoon.*

Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their own writing, program descriptions, and/or resources for ministry.

Information or Questions on the Conference content:
Bill Gaventa - 732-235-9304, bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu
or Michelle Carlson

Information or Questions on Registration and Housing:
Wendy Mizenko
717-334-6286 x 3004, wmizenko@Ltsg.edu

Faculty and Mentors

Erik Carter is Associate Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University and Investigator at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. His research and teaching focuses on strategies for supporting meaningful inclusion for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has written four books, among them *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, and Congregations*. Erik and his family have been parts of several different Protestant congregations.

Debbie Creamer is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Director of Distributed Learning, and Director of Library and Information Services for the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. In addition to teaching courses on disability and religion, her interests also include contextual theologies, feminist theory, leadership development, and pedagogy. She is author of *Disability and Christian Theology: Embodied Limits and Constructive Possibilities* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and past chair of the Religion and Disability Studies Group of the AAR. Debbie is United Methodist.

Bill Gaventa serves as Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Associate Professor, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Bill works on community supports, training for community services staff, supervision of a Clinical Pastoral Education Program, and the Faith Community Leadership Program of the PA Council on Developmental Disabilities. Bill is American Baptist.

Tom Graves is President Emeritus of Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond. With degrees from Vanderbilt, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Yale, he served as a church pastor for almost twenty years before moving into seminary teaching and administration. He was Chair of the Task Force on Disability and Seminary Education, Association of Theological Schools, 2007-2008 which led to the first ATS policy on disability. He lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Leonard M. Hummel is Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care and Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at Gettysburg Seminary. He studied a Haverford College, Yale Divinity School, Luther Seminary, and has his Ph.D. from Boston University. Among his writings is the Fortress Press book: *Clothed in Nothingness: Consolation for Suffering*. Leonard is Lutheran.

Samuel Kabue is the Executive Secretary of Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) of the World Council of Churches. He holds Masters degrees in Education and in Special Education, is undertaking a Master of Theology at St. Paul's University of Kenya, and was honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree by Serampore University in India. He was first a teacher, then Director of the Program for Persons with Disabilities of the National Council of Churches of Kenya before helping to found EDAN. EDAN has been engaged in working with theological institutions and associations around the world to introduce disability studies and discourse. Sam is Presbyterian.

Candida Moss, originally from the United Kingdom, is Assistant Professor of Theology and Assistant Director of the Disability Studies Forum at the University of Notre Dame. She holds an undergraduate degree in Theology from Oxford University and an MA and PH.D. from Yale University. Her work concerns understanding suffering in the New Testament and early church, including published articles on the construction of disability, disease, and "deformity." Candida is Roman Catholic.

Professor **Hans S. Reinders** has taught ethics at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam since 1995. He has published widely on disability issues in both secular and theological circles. Among his books are *The Future of the Disabled in Liberal Society* (The University of Notre Dame Press, 2000) and *Receiving the Gift of Friendship* (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008). He is currently serving as the Editor of the Journal of Religion, Disability and Health. Hans is from the Reformed Church tradition.

Thomas E. Reynolds is Associate Professor of Theology at Emmanuel College, of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. Committed to an interdisciplinary and relational vision of theology, Reynolds' teaching and research explore a range of topics related to Christian engagements with diversity in a global context. Among his writings are *The Broken Whole: Philosophical Steps Toward a Theology of Global Solidarity* (SUNY Press, 2005); and *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality*. He is member of a United Church in Toronto.

Jeremy Schipper (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is an Assistant Professor of Religion (Hebrew Bible) and an affiliated faculty member of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. His research focuses on the Former Prophets (Joshua – 2 Kings) and disability in the Hebrew Bible and other ancient Near Eastern texts. Among his writings are *This Abled Body: Rethinking Disability and Biblical Studies*, co-edited with Hector Avalos and Sarah Melcher, *Semeia Studies 55* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007).

John Swinton holds the chair in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom. He worked for over a decade as a registered nurse in psychiatric and intellectual disability settings before becoming an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and then a Ph.D and professor. Writings include R*esurrecting the Person: Friendship and the Care of People with Mental Health Problems*, *and Critical Reflections on Stanley Hauerwas' Essays on Disability: Disabling Society, Enabling Theology* New York: Haworth Press (2005). In 2004 he founded the *Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability* at the University of Aberdeen. www.abdn.ac.uk/cshad.

Registration Information

Attendance Options and Rates:

Option A:	Option B:	Option C:	Option D:	Option E:
Monday, July 18 Only. Includes Lunch.	Resident Full Program, including Monday, housing beginning Sunday night and board, July 17 through noon, July 22.	Tuesday through Friday only, with room and board beginning Monday evening through Friday noon.	Commuter (no housing) for the full Institute. Lunches included.	One day only, Tuesday through Friday. Lunch included
Regular: $50 **Student: $25**	**$585**	**$525**	**$350**	**$100**
Payment in full with your mailed registration form.	$50 non-refundable deposit required. Payment in full MUST be received by July 1 to secure your place. If registration is filled, all funds will be returned.			

Registration for the full Institute, including housing and board, (Options B+C) is limited to 60.
Registration for Monday only (Option A) is limited to 60 in addition to the week long participants.

Scholarships: A limited number available for seminary faculty from Pennsylvania seminaries. Contact Bill Gaventa directly. bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu, 732-235-9304

Registration Deadlines:

- May 15 for priority registrations for seminary faculty and religious leaders in Pennsylvania.
- After May 15, registrations will be confirmed in the order received either before or after that date.
- Final Deadline: July 1, 2011

Refunds and Cancellations:

- Registrations over the maximum number of participants will be returned with payment.
- Cancellations for Option A before July 8 will have all monies returned; cancellations after July 9 will return registration fee minus $10.
- Cancellations before July 8 will have all monies returned except for the $50 non-refundable deposit.
- Cancellations for Options B, C, and D after July 9 will return all funds minus $200. (Food for you will have already been ordered and planned)
- *Questions about registration or housing? Please call Wendy Mizenko, Events Office, 717-334-6286 x 3004. email:wmizenko@Ltsg.edu* and note that your call is about the Institute on Theology and Disability.

Registration Timeline:

First priority is given to Pennsylvania residents until May 15. Out of state registrations mailed in before May 15 with a $50 deposit will be confirmed in the order of the date received. After May 15, all registrations will be confirmed on a first come/ first served basis. **If the registration is filled, your registration and payment will be refunded but your name will be kept on a waiting list to be contacted in case of cancellations. Final registration deadline, Friday, July 1.**

Registration Form

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Title (if applicable) _____

Organization (seminary, congregation, faith network, CPE program, etc.) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number and extension _____ Fax Number _____

Email address _____

Choose Attendance Option: (please circle one) A B C D E Amount enclosed: $ _____

- Area of particular interest _____
- Discussion Group of Interest (See the afternoon schedules for July 18 and the Institute) _____

For Week Long Institute Participants Only:

Interested in presenting your own work on Tuesday or Wednesday evening? Email Bill.Gaventa@umdnj.edu

Make Checks Payable to "Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg"
Mail with the Registration Form to: Events Office, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg,
61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325