



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Report of the Dean of North Park Theological Seminary

AGENDA ITEM #33b

NPTS Report

Rev. Dennis R. Edwards, PhD
Dean of the Seminary &
Vice President for Church Relations



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



SEMINARY HIGHLIGHTS

MAY COMMENCEMENT

- We celebrated with 58 graduates receiving their degree
 - 24 of these graduates were at Stateville Correctional Center
- Rev. Mark Novak received an honorary doctorate of theology
- Rev. Willie Peterson gave the commencement address at our on-campus ceremony
- Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton gave the commencement address at our Stateville ceremony



NPTS Endowed Chairs Installation



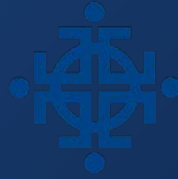
Reading Scripture, Being Church, and Telling Our Story as Intercultural Communities: A Faculty Colloquy



Be Loud and Brace for Impact: Anti-Asian Violence, the Model Minority Myth, and the Martyrs of Revelation 7:9-17

Max Lee, Paul W. Brandel Chair of Biblical Studies

The rise in anti-Asian violence since COVID-19 demonstrates that Asian Americans have a shared history of persecution with other ethnic Americans, even as far back as The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The Model Minority Myth threatens to silence their prophetic voice and re-write their story. Reading Revelation 7:9-17 interculturally, Max Lee calls for a rejection of the Model Minority Myth, a solidarity with ethnic histories of resistance against injustice, and presents *sLambing* as the way for God's people to bear witness to Christ.



Reading Scripture, Being Church, and Telling Our Story as Intercultural Communities: A Faculty Colloquy



Multiracial Churches: Transformative or Status Quo?

Michelle Dodson, Milton B. Engbretson Chair in Evangelism and Justice

Dr. Dodson seeks to better understand the impact of multiracial churches beyond the four walls of the church. This lecture will explore the relationship between a multiracial church's representation of race through talk, text, and imagery (its racial discourse) and how that church engages with the larger community in which it is situated (its social engagement). It will also explore the efficacy of pastors and other key leaders of multiracial churches in inculcating the stated values of their churches in those who

attend.



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Purposeful Narrative? Covenant History Past, Present, and Future

Hauna Ondrey, Wilma E. Peterson Chair in Church History

For a small, immigrant-founded denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church has an enormously rich historiography, within which ethnic identity has functioned variously across stages of demographic change. This lecture will trace the evolution of Covenant historiography itself, contextualizing our present discourse regarding purposeful narrative. It will secondly identify corollary priorities that must attend a commitment to purposeful narrative, outlining practical commitments required for an

adequate genealogy of the Covenant to be a possibility.

Humility as a Prophetic Practice

A public theology series from North Park Theological Seminary

How can Christians embody Jesus' humility in our current cultural, political, religious, and institutional climates? Our 2023–24 public theology series focuses on Christian humility in conversation with Dean Dennis Edwards' forthcoming book, *Humility Illuminated*, and in response to the Christ hymn of Philippians 2.

Shepherding, Reconciling, and Ministering: Humility in Pastoral Practice

October 25 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. CT

What is humility, and why is it necessary for pastoral practice? Leaders in congregational ministry, conflict transformation, and accessibility advocacy will discuss this misunderstood virtue, in concept and in concrete ministry practice.

This event is free and open to the public but requires registration [here](#).



Pastor Peter Ahn serves as the founder and lead pastor of Metro Community Church in Englewood, NJ. He holds an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary and a DMin in Global Leadership from Alliance Theological Seminary. Peter co-hosts the weekly podcast “Weak Pastor,” where he explores the Christian faith from the perspective of vulnerability.



Dr. Mary Adams Trujillo is a conflict transformation strategist who offers consultation and coaching for individual, organizational, and community transformation. As a researcher, mediator, and spiritual director, she has provided more than 40 years of service to her clients.



Dr. Mike Walker is a Canadian theologian and advocate for people with disabilities, who has worked in Ontario and Chicago. He is currently working on an accessibility project through Carleton University in Ottawa.

For future event topics and dates, please visit
www.northpark.edu/seminary/calendar-and-events



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I Could Be Wrong: Cultural and Intellectual Humility in a Polarized World

March 6 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. CT

How can we hold strong convictions with openness and grace in an increasingly polarized world? In this discussion, a philosopher and intercultural practitioner examine how intellectual and cultural humility can help us recognize our own finitude and bridge seemingly insurmountable divides.

This event is free and open to the public but requires registration [here](#).



Ismael Ruiz-Millán moved to North Carolina from his hometown in Mexico in 2003, where he has served as a Methodist pastor, director of the Hispanic House of Studies at Duke Divinity School, and district superintendent. He has developed classes, seminars, workshops, and learning opportunities on Cultural Humility and Leadership. Ismael is currently a PhD student at Eastern University in Pennsylvania.



Eleonore Stump is the Robert J. Henle Professor of Philosophy at Saint Louis University. She has published and lectured extensively in philosophy of religion, contemporary metaphysics, and medieval philosophy. Her latest book, *The Image of God: The Problem of Evil and the Problem of Mourning*, was published in 2022. She is past president of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Philosophers in Jesuit Education, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and the American Philosophical Association, Central Division.

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Midwinter 2024

Friday message from:

Dr. David Bjorlin

Dr. Michelle Dodson

Dean Dennis Edwards





Ignite and Equip Cohorts

- Master of Arts in Christian Formation in four years at North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS).
- Cohorts open to Covenanters of any location—you can study through the Equip cohort (hosted by the Midwest Conference) or the Ignite cohort (hosted by the Pacific Southwest Conference).
- These collaborative, cohort-based pathways enable staff pastors and lay leaders serving at local Covenant churches to complete an affordable seminary degree with a consistent community of learners and develop friendships to sustain lifelong ministry.



Ignite & Equip cohorts leading to development of all-Covenant cohort