

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

January 10-31, 2012

Registration deadline: December 19, 2011

Registrations will be accepted after
the deadline, space permitting.

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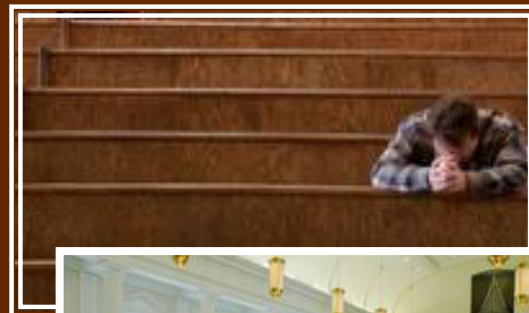
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THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH



EDWIN CHR. VAN DRIEL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF THEOLOGY, PTS

TUESDAYS
7:30 - 9:00 P.M. EASTERN
JANUARY 10-31, 2012



PITTSBURGH
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY | Continuing Education Office
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is the nature and purpose of the church? These questions are key as the church faces the future. Currently, we are a church exhausted by unresolved conflicts, anxious about declining membership, and nervously eyeing our competitors in the religious marketplace. Rather than offering quick fixes and techniques, this course will delve deeply into our biblical and theological resources to help pastors and their congregations re-think what it means to be “church.” In short, how can we live faithfully and joyfully as a community rooted in God’s future?

In addition to the four weekly presentations, there will be an opportunity to take part in online interaction between classes with Dr. van Driel and other course participants. This will help the class engage more deeply with the vision presented in the class sessions.

AUDIENCE

For clergy, ministers, and laypersons from congregations of any denomination.



The Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel joined the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2009. Previously, he taught for two years at Fordham University. A native of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, he holds master’s degrees in theology and philosophy from Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and an M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Yale University. Edwin’s current interests are in Christology, eschatology, and ecclesiology. In his book *Incarnation Anyway* (Oxford, 2008), he asks the basic question, “Why did God become incarnate in Jesus Christ?” arguing that the purpose is not just to deal with human sin. Rather, God’s goal from the beginning of creation was to become tangibly present in human form in the midst of God’s people. Edwin has recently completed a book on the unity and future of the American mainline church. An ordained minister in the PC(USA), he is also a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, which is preparing the new hymnbook for the PC(USA). Edwin is married to the Rev. Kimberly Miller van Driel, a pastor in the ELCA. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

- January 10:** Church and Covenant: A Thought Experiment
- January 17:** Outside the (United) Church Is No Salvation: An Argument
- January 24:** Bearing with One Another in Love: Engaging Objections
- January 31:** The Household of God: Rooted in the Future
- (February 7: Snow Date** should one of the classes be cancelled due to weather. Check www.pts.edu for notice of class cancellation.)

RECOMMENDED READING

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (HarperOne, 2008).

Bryan Stone, *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness* (Brazos Press, 2007).

LOCATIONS / DETAILS / COST

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary \$60

412-924-1345

Wheeling, W.Va. \$45

Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery at
Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church
304-232-3490

New Wilmington, Pa. \$45

Westminster College and Shenango
Presbytery at Westminster College
724-946-7117

NOTE: This course will be broadcast live from PTS to the off-site locations. Attendees at the off-site locales will see and be seen by all participants. Discussion will involve participants at all locations.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Monday, December 19, 2011

Registrations will be accepted after this date, space permitting.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Course fees minus a \$25 administrative fee will be refunded for cancellations made up to one week prior to the course start date. No refunds for cancellations after that date.

CREDITS

0.6 Continuing Education Units. Attendance is taken; certificates available upon request.

