CALLED TOGETHER IN AN AGE OF DISCORD
Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture
Baylor University
October 25–27, 2023

Asterisks (*) denote sessions relevant to the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative (CLMPI).

Wednesday, October 25

11:00 a.m.

Registration Opens (Bill Daniel Student Center, Second Floor Foyer)

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Panel Presentations

Christian Engagement with Diversity and the Cultivation of the Common Good: John Brown University Undergraduate Panel

- Emma Beagle, John Brown University
- Tessa Greathouse, John Brown University
- Sophia Schwarz, John Brown University
- Kyla Isaac, John Brown University
Chair—Brad Gambill, John Brown University

Colloquium Sessions

Philosophical and Theological Reflections on Discord

- Devotio Postmoderna
  — Nathaniel Kidd, Reconciliation Anglican Church
- Discord, Discipleship, and Delight: A Kierkegaardian Lesson in Joy
  — Ryan West, Grove City College
- The Wisdom of Love: An Epistemology of Love for a Skeptical and Divided Age
  — Adam Pelser, U.S. Air Force Academy
Chair—William Sterrett

Authenticity, Community, and Virtue in a Divided World

- Recovering Hospitality in an Age of Discord
  — Randy Ridenour, Oklahoma Baptist University
- The Malaise of Modernity: Authenticity and Loneliness
  — Paul Carron, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

Community Across Physical Differences

- Monstrous Dignity: Disability, Community, and the City of God
  — John Wolfe, Utah Tech University
- Rev. Carter Bearden: “The Deaf Billy Graham” on Unity and Courage
  — Lewis Lummer, Baylor University
Chair—TBD
Reflection on Discord Through Literature and Arts

- How to Love a Robot: Selfhood and Community in Ishiguro’s Klara and the Sun
  —Harrison Otis, Baylor University
- Navigating Mexico’s Scylla and Charybdis: The Liberal Democratic Dissent of Octavio Paz and Enrique Krauze
  —Mark Griffin, Oklahoma City University

Chair—TBD

Pluralism in Philosophical and Theological Perspectives

- Unity in Diversity: Critically Recovering a Neglected Political Metaphor to Forge Unity in Fractured Times
  —Donald Roth, Dordt University
- E Pluribus Unum: Illiberal Pluralism in Augustine’s Early Dialogues
  —Michael Foley, Baylor University
- Uncivil Discourse
  —Randall Smith, University of St. Thomas, Houston

Chair—TBD

1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Featured Presentation

Church Under the Bridge “No Divisions Among You”

- Jimmy Dorrell, Church Under the Bridge

Chair—TBD

Panel Presentation

Constructing Christian Identity: The Church as Nation, Polis, and Family

- Ben Peterson, Abilene Christian University
- James Rogers, Texas A&M University
- Zachary McCartney, Hillcrest Church/Abilene Christian University
- James Wood, Redeemer University

Chair—TBD

Colloquium Sessions

Biblical Wisdom for Divided Times*

- Acts 15 as a Model for Discernment Amid Sharp Disagreements
  —Andrew Arterbury, Baylor University
- “Doing” Christianity in Times of Discord
  —Susan Smith, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.
- “Welcome One Another”: A Pauline Ethic to Address Polarization in Christian Higher Education
  —Julien Smith, Valparaiso University

Chair—TBD
Leading in Tumultuous Times*

- Leadership in an Age of Discord: Fostering Hope and Flourishing in Faith Communities
  —Richard James Putnam, Baylor University
  —Leanne Howell, Baylor University
- Teaching, Learning, and Leading for Flourishing and Sustainability in an Age of Discord
  —William Sterrett, Baylor University
- The Healing Power of Disclosure: Naming the Secrets that Divide Us
  —Peggy Hinds, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Chair—Mark Bryant

Alasdair MacIntyre and Discord

- Alasdair MacIntyre and the Church as a Tradition of Enquiry
  —Thomas Pearson, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Can One Pursue a Uniting Christian Telos in a Pluralistic Society?
  —Eric Silverman, Christopher Newport University
- The Church as Unifier
  —Nate Padley, John Jay Institute

Chair—Brian Braman, Boston College

3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Featured Panel

Discerning Calling with and for Others (Barfield Drawing Room, Second Floor)

- Thomas Hibbs, Baylor University
- Mollie Moore, Baylor University
- Lauren Kuykendall, George Mason University

Chair—Brian Braman, Boston College

Panel Presentation

Called to Boise: A Conversation with the Multi-Faith Action Project*

- Kevin Starcher, Covenant Presbyterian Church (MAP)
- Amy Fife, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Dennis Williams, St. Paul Family Life and Education Center
- Shauna Williams, St. Paul Family Life and Education Center
- Michael Ross, St. Paul Baptist Church

Chairs—Kathryn House, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Meadville Lombard Theological School, & Jennifer Wilson, Windley Works, Myrtle Collaboration Coach
Colloquium Sessions

Religious Impacts on Culture
- Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy of ‘Kill the Indian, Save the Man’: From Conqueror to Loving Neighbor
  —Mariah Humphries, Baylor University
- Religious Fundamentalism and Ideological Radicalism: A Psychological, Cultural, and Spiritual Analysis
  —Naji Abi-Hashem, Baylor University Institute for Studies of Religion
- The Long-Lasting Educational Impacts of Bible Translations in Sub-Saharan Africa: Uniting Christians and Non-Christians
  —Vinicius Okada Da Silva, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  —M. Noelia Romero, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  —Abigail Stocker, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  —Rebecca Thornton, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

Overcoming Racial Discord in Our Times
- Church Racial Composition, Linked Fate, and Support for Black Lives Matter
  —Jerry Park, Baylor University
- Reconciling the Humiliated
  —Woo Joong Kang, Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America
- What Produces Sustained and Active Hope Among White Christians Interested in Racial Justice?
  —Christine Jeske, Wheaton College
Chair—TBD

5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Break

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)

7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Welcome (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)
- Darin Davis, Director of the Institute for Faith and Learning and Clinical Professor of Moral Philosophy in the Honors Program

Brian Family Lecture

The Problem of Solidarity (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)
- James Davison Hunter, University of Virginia
Chair—Thomas Hibbs, Baylor University
Thursday, October 26

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Featured Presentation

Kierkegaard and the Vices that Divide and the Virtues that Heal

- Kierkegaard’s Argument for Faith in Others and Hope for Others: How Love Works to Overcome Divides
  —C. Stephen Evans, Baylor University
- Kierkegaard, “The Public,” and the Vices of Virtue-Signaling
  —John Lippitt, University of Notre Dame Australia
Chair—Todd Buras, Baylor University

Panel Presentations

Vocations Don't Just Happen: Organizing Church Life to Hear God's Call*

- Jason Ingalls, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
  Chair—TBD

Language, the Arts, and Shared Meaning: John Brown University Student Panel

- Colin Sanders, John Brown University
- Zipporah Jones, John Brown University
- Sarah Grace Smith, John Brown University
- Kacy Highfill, John Brown University
Chair—Brad Gambill, John Brown University

Colloquium Sessions

Polarization Within Ecclesiastical and Academic Context

- A Case Study for Reducing Division and Increasing Belonging During an Age of Discord: One Religious University’s Experience
  —Jenet Erickson, Brigham Young University
  —Blake Fischer, Brigham Young University
- A Test of Endurance
  —Fred Johnson, Hope College
- Using a Hermeneutical Tool for Evaluating and Navigating Potential Ecclesial Discord
  —Jill Swisher, Northwestern College
  —Lori Doyle, Concordia University Irvine
Chair—TBD

Technology and the Quest for Unity*

- Called to Connection: Technology, Community, and Calling in the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative
  —Kathryn House, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Meadville Lombard Theological School
- Technology Toward the Common Good
  —Daniel Crouch, Baylor University
- Together Again: Identifying Enlightenment Ideals that Perpetrated Discord Within the Church
  —Finney Premkumar, University of Birmingham
Chair—TBD
10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

**Break**

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Featured Panels**

**Preaching, Teaching, and Researching in an Age of Racial Discord**
- Patricia Lynn Brown, Azusa Pacific University
- Matthew D. Kim, Baylor University
- Michael O. Emerson, Rice University
Chair—Elijah Jeong, Baylor University

**Called Together in an Age of Discord through the Essays of Zadie Smith, James Baldwin, and Derek Walcott**
- Elizabeth Corey, Baylor University
- Richard Rankin Russell, Baylor University
- William Weaver, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

**Leadership in an Age of Discord (Co-convened with Max De Pree Center for Leadership, Fuller Theological Seminary)**
- Michaela O'Donnell, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Uli Chi, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health and Fuller Theological Seminary, De Pree Center
- Jasmine Bellamy, Reebok
- Matt Snowden, First Baptist Church, Waco
Chair—TBD

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

**Lunch** (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)

1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**Panel Presentations**

**Faithfully and Fruitfully Navigating Divides in an Age of Discord**
- Richard N. Williams, Brigham Young University
- Kylie Burdge, Brigham Young University
- Kiara Burdge Aguirre, Brigham Young University
- Madeline R. Garrett, Brigham Young University
- Edwin E. Gantt, Brigham Young University
- Aaron R. Burdge, Alterity Psychological Services
Chair—TBD
Teaching Business Students the Art of Civil Conflict Resolution
- Sarah Perry, Baylor University
- Matthew Wright, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

Higher Education, Vocation, and the Common Good
- Evan Laningham, NetVUE/CIC & Loras College
- Geoffrey Bateman, Regis University
- Christine Jeske, Wheaton College
- David Timmerman, Carthage College
Chair—TBD

Teaching Philosophy in Troubled Times
- Anne-Marie Schultz, Baylor University
- Lenore Wright, Baylor University
- Skye Perryman, Democracy Forward
Chair—TBD

Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose: Calling at the Intersection of Community, Leadership, Technology, and the Pandemic*
- Roman Williams, Interfaith Photovoice
- Kathryn House, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Meadville Lombard Theological School
- Jason Burtt, Trinity Western University
- Gabriel Lotarski, Wayne State University
Chair—Roman Williams, Interfaith Photovoice

Colloquium Sessions

Callings and Congregations*
- Calling, Context, and the Church: From Belonging to Witness
  —Rhonda McEwen, Regent College
  —Gustavo H. R. Santos, Vancouver School of Theology
- Calling of the Ancestors: Bridging Racial and Ethnic Divides by Reconceptualizing Vocation with an Awareness of the Role of Our Ancestors
  —La Ronda Barnes, Boston University
- Vocational Pauses and Pivots: Spirituality and Congregations under Covid
  —Claire Wolfteich, Boston University
Chair—TBD

Pedagogical Practices for Navigating Discord
- Disputatio and Educating for Intellectual Virtues
  —Kristen Welch, Teachers College, Columbia University
  —Carl Sohmer, University of California-Irvine
- Living in a Polarizing World: Guidance from Biblical Narratives
  —Al Erisman, Seattle Pacific University
Chair—TBD
The Politics of Unity and Discord

- E Pluribus Unum: Faith, Federalism, and Unity through Factions
  —Samuel Chen, Northampton Community College & The Liddell Group
- How Religious Freedom Can Strengthen Communities: A Historical View
  —Paul Kerry, Brigham Young University
- What is Politicization?
  —Rich Eva, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

3:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Plenary Address

Reckoning and Reconciliation: Race, Memory and Moral Imagination in American Life
(Barfield Drawing Room, Second Floor)

- Angel Adams Parham, University of Virginia
Chair—TBD

5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

Vespers (Foyer of Meditation, Armstrong Browning Library)

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)

7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

William Carey Crane Scholars Lecture

Whoever.... (Blume Conference Room, Cashion Academic Center, Fifth Floor)

- G. S. “Mack” McCarter III, Community Renewal International
Chair—TBD

Friday, October 27

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Panel Presentations

How Food Brings Us Together: Literature and Theology: University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Undergraduate Panel
Chair—Brent Gibson
Sounding it Out: Calling and Caring in Abilene, Amarillo, and Waco*

- Jeff Reid, Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, Abilene
- Gary Jensen, First Baptist Church, Amarillo
- Joshua Hays, First Baptist Church, Waco

Chair—John Davis, Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, Abilene and Hardin-Simmons University

Teaching Diversity and Social Responsibility to Future Doctors: An Interdisciplinary Approach

- Zane Yi, Loma Linda University,
- Jessica ChenFeng, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Amy Hayton, Loma Linda University
- Saul Barcelo, Loma Linda University

Chair—TBD

Colloquium Sessions

Disciplinary Perspectives on Discord

- Narrative Approaches to Finding Meaning in Work in an Age of Organizational Discord
  — Timothy Ewest, Houston Christian University
- Sabbath Practices and Burnout Among Nursing Educators
  — Megan Soltwisch, Louise Herrington School of Nursing, Baylor University
- Nursing as a Healing Art in an Age of Discord
  — Jessica Peck, Louise Herrington School of Nursing, Baylor University

Chair—TBD

Life Together in an Age of Discord

- Brothers and Sisters: Rediscovering Christian Friendship in an Age of Division
  — Josiah Stephens, The Dunham School
- Doing Life Together in a Neoliberal Age: The Promise of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Political Theology
  — Frank Della Torre, Baylor University
- Exploring Civic Virtue and Behaviors Across the Christian Tradition: Emerging Findings from the National Survey of American Civic Health
  — David Weerts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
  — Alberto Cabrera, University of Maryland, College Park

Chair—John O’Callaghan, University of Notre Dame
10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Carl F.H. Henry Lecture

Christian Higher Education as Communal Means of Grace
- Alison Noble, Messiah University
- Shirley Mullen, Houghton University
- Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary
Chair—Joe Creech, Lilly Network for Church-Related Colleges and Universities

Featured Workshop

Bridging Divides, One Photo at a Time: Smartphone Cameras for the Common Good*
- Roman Williams, Interfaith Photovoice

Featured Presentation and Response

Friendship--A Call to Concord, Unity, and Peace
- Paul Wadell, St. Norbert College
- David Corey, Baylor University (response)

Panel Presentations

Untimely Teachers in an Age of Discord: Nietzsche and Wittgenstein as Educators
- Karl Aho, Tarleton State University
- Christopher Moore, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

Vulnerable to Victorious: A Journey from Anxiety to Wellness*
- Patrick O'Connor, First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica
- Ishmael Carter, First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica
Chair—TBD

Wisdom in an Age of Discord: Union University Undergraduate Panel
Chair—Scott Huelin & Justin Barnard, Union University

Colloquium Sessions

Embracing Unity and Dissonance in Modern Discourse
- Is it PC? Personal Commitment, Pragmatic Context, Political Correctness
  —Jeffrey Dueck, Alliance University
- The Heart of Civility
  —Richard Langer, Biola University
- The Value of Disagreement
  —Alexander Pruss, Baylor University
Chair—Ezra Choe
Revitalizing Christian Practices for Unity and Renewal*
- Building Creative Communities of Calling as a Path of Connection in this Age of Discord
  —Audrey Woodhams, Boston University
- A Narrative-Based Communal Framework for Individual Pastoral Development
  —Eva Bleeker, Denver Seminary
- What is Common about Common Prayer? Rethinking the Role of the Daily Office
  —Jonathan Kanary, Baylor University
Chair—TBD

Meaning in Music and Film
- J.S. Bach’s Vocation: Bringing Forth an Orderly Church Music to the Glory of God
  —Joshua Veltman, Union University
- Wes Anderson’s Asteroid City: Art and the Search for Meaning
  —Brent Gibson, University of Mary Hardin Baylor
Chair—Brian Braman, Boston College

12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

Lunch with Closing Remarks (Barfield Drawing Room, Bill Daniel Student Center, Second Floor)

12:45 to 2:00 p.m.

Title TDB (Barfield Drawing Room, Bill Daniel Student Center, Second Floor)
- Anne Snyder, Comment Magazine