

Not Conformed:

The Church, the World, and Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century

A conference for Brethren in Christ pastors and laypeople

NOV. 10-11
AT MESSIAH COLLEGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Mark Labberton is president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, where he has served since 2013. His experience includes 30 years in pastoral ministry, 16 of those as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California.

His most recent book, "Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today" (InterVarsity, 2014), describes how Christians should seek, in a broken and hurting world, to practice our shared vocation of following Jesus. He also authored "The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus" (InterVarsity, 2010) and "The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice" (InterVarsity, 2007).

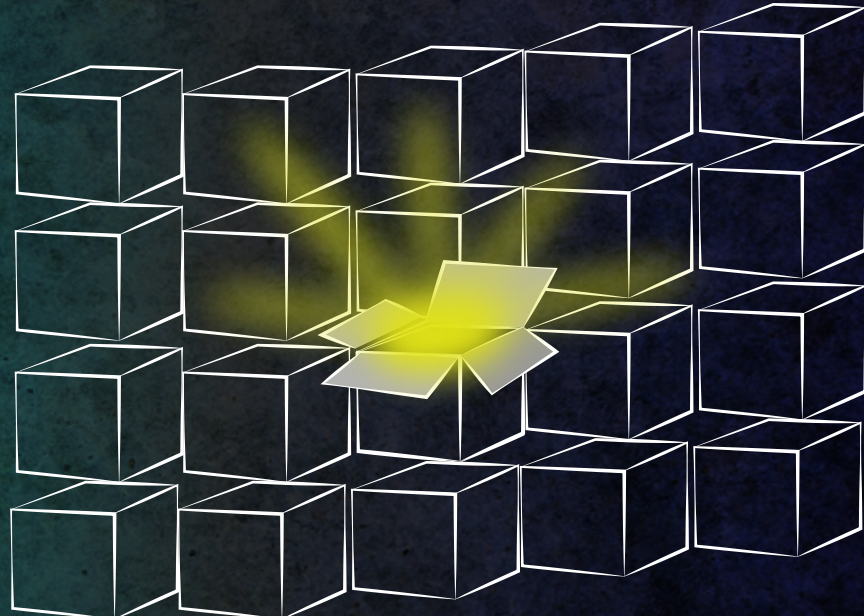
PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr. David L. Weaver-Zercher
Professor of American Religious History,
Messiah College

Dr. Gerald J. Mast
Professor of Communication, Bluffton University

Dr. Drew G. I. Hart
Assistant Professor of Theology, Messiah College

Note: Attending this conference is an opportunity to fulfill one Lifelong BIC Learning credit, an expectation for all Brethren in Christ pastors within each renewal period.



ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." (Romans 12:2)

In the past, these words from the Apostle Paul have been used by many Christians to justify separation, even isolation, from the surrounding society. Christians have pitted the church against the world, and have practiced forms of disciple-making that bred rejecters of culture rather than servants of culture.

If that pendulum swing took the church too far in one direction, some of today's Christians have arguably swung the pendulum too far in the opposite direction, to the extent that their faith is almost indistinguishable from the dominant cultures in America.

This conference seeks to explore what it might mean to be "not conformed" in the 21st century. It will address questions such as:

- How might a commitment to being "not conformed" shape our sense of Christian vocation and mission?
- How can it transform our theology of the church at a time of declining worship attendance and dwindling membership in local congregations?

- How will it empower us to speak prophetically against society's social injustices, like racism and systemic poverty?

CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference "Not Conformed: The Church, the World, and Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century" is sponsored by the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College and will provide Brethren in Christ pastors, laypeople and friends from related denominations with the opportunity to reflect on important issues in theologically informed ways.

The conference will begin Thursday, Nov. 10 with an opening keynote talk in the evening and will continue all day Friday, Nov. 11.

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 below at your earliest convenience.



For more information, contact the Sider Institute by emailing siderinstitute@messiah.edu or visit the Sider Institute website at messiah.edu/siderinstitute.



Lodging is available in area motels and hotels. Contact the Institute for a list of local hotels.

REGISTRATION CARD

This conference is open to all interested people. Registration deadline is **Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016.**

Name(s) (required) _____

Address (required) _____

Email (required) _____

Phone (optional) (_____) _____

Church affiliation (required) _____

Register 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."

Or register online at messiah.edu/siderinstitute

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER ONLINE: messiah.edu/siderinstitute



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(Subject to change)*

NOT CONFORMED: THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, AND CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP IN THE 21st CENTURY

THURSDAY, NOV. 10

Alexander Auditorium, Frey Hall

- 7 p.m. **Words of Welcome**—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas
- 7:15 p.m. **Called? (Keynote Presentation)**—Dr. Mark Labberton

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

Hostetter Chapel

- 9 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:30 a.m. **Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer**—Devin C. Manzullo-Thomas and Evie Telfer
- 9:45 a.m. **Improvising Faithfulness: A Brief History of Brethren in Christ Nonconformity**—Dr. David L. Weaver-Zercher
- 10:40 a.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 11 a.m. **The Liberty of Holiness: Anabaptist Nonconformity as Belonging**—Dr. Gerald J. Mast
- Noon **Lunch and Open-Space Conversations**
- 1:15 p.m. **Why Christian Nonconformity Matters: Church, Society, and Our Racially Organized Lives**—Dr. Drew G. I. Hart
- 2:30 p.m. **Closing Reflections**
- 3 p.m. **Dismissal**
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