

CENTRAL PLAINS MENNONITE CONFERENCE

## Congregational Leaders Seminar



## Come Let us Reason Together:

Developing Common  
Understandings for Discernment

January 8-9, 2010

First Christian Church  
2500 University Ave.  
Des Moines, IA

Snow Date:  
January 15-16, 2010

## Focus of the Seminar:

Common understandings for discerning  
issues of faith and life

### Friday Evening:

Kent McDougal, pastor of Christ Community Church, Des Moines, IA will focus on "The Rule of Christ in His Church: Binding and Loosing as Ethical Discernment in Matthew's Gospel". The classic texts on practicing "the rule of Christ" come to us in Matthew's Gospel in chapters 16 and 18. We want to revisit these texts in the broader context of Matthew's Gospel and explore how they might inform our own ethical discernment regarding matters of faith and life that we as a conference currently face.

### Saturday Morning:

With Christ as the authoritative center for our faith and life, Mathew Swora, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Minneapolis, MN, and Cynthia Lapp, pastor of Hyattsville Mennonite Church, Hyattsville, MD, will build on Kent's presentation from Friday evening and help us reflect on the current position of MC USA on human sexuality and on the position that gives affirmation for welcoming committed same sex relationships. They will help us reflect on how our common understandings for discerning issues of faith and life are applied to issues of variance.

"Confession of Faith, Biblical Roots, Interpretive Connections" - Mathew Swora  
"Living Side by Side with Difference" - Cynthia Lapp

### Saturday Afternoon:

Discussion and discernment in small and large groups. Our goal is to engage pastors and congregational leaders in healthy conversation and discernment as we reflect theologically around issues of variance.

# Come Let us Reason Together: Developing Common Understandings for Discernment

## Friday Evening

- 7:00 – 7:20 Opening Worship - led by staff  
7:20 – 8:00 “The Rule of Christ in His Church: Binding and Loosing as Ethical Discernment in Matthew’s Gospel”  
- Kent McDougal  
8:00 – 8:45 Questions/Affirmations/Responses  
8:45 – 9:00 Wrap-up / Prayer

## Saturday Morning

- 8:30 – 8:50 Worship - led by staff  
8:50 – 9:35 “Confession of Faith, Biblical Roots, Interpretive Connections” - Mathew Swora  
9:35 – 10:00 Questions/Affirmations/Responses  
10:00 – 10:30 Break  
10:30 – 11:15 “Living Side by Side with Difference” - Cynthia Lapp  
11:15 – 12:00 Questions/Affirmations/Responses  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

## Saturday Afternoon

- 1:00 – 2:00 Small Group Conversations and Discernment  
- led by Dave Boshart & Tim Detweiler  
2:00 - 3:00 Large Group Conversations and Discernment  
3:00 – 3:20 Closing Worship - led by staff  
3:20 Dismissal

## General Information:

Lunch on Saturday noon is included in the Registration Fee.

Please bring a Bible & writing materials for note-taking with you to the Seminar.

### Planning Committee:

Tim Detweiler, David Boshart, Kent McDougal, Mathew Swora

### Please read before the seminar:

A Mission-Focused Approach To Congregations at Variance with Conference  
(CPMC Document)

Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love (MC USA Document)

Being a Faithful Church: Testing the Spirits in the Midst of Hermeneutical Ferment  
by Robert Suderman

These documents are posted at [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org) Click on the Events tab.

### Also recommended:

Reasoning Together: A Conversation on Homosexuality  
by Ted Grimsud and Mark Thiessen Nation  
Scottsdale, PA Herald Press

This seminar is hosted by Christ Community Church

*The seminar will take place at:  
First Christian Church*

2500 University Ave., Des Moines, IA  
on the corner of 25th and University Ave.  
(SE corner of Drake University Campus)

For further information on the location of the seminar,  
please contact Chris McDougal (515) 991-6644  
[chrispaulmcdougal@yahoo.com](mailto:chrispaulmcdougal@yahoo.com)

**Lodging:** *You are responsible to make your own lodging arrangements*

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express (Des Moines at Drake University) across the street from First Christian Church for \$64/night + tax. Phone 515-255-4000 for reservations (mention you are with CPMC seminar). *Make reservations by December 18, 2009.*

Or, make reservations at your choice of hotel.

Or, there are a few in-home stays available. Contact Chris McDougal (515) 991-6644.

## Registration Form

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Names of persons attending:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee:** \$25/person OR  
\$100 for 4+ from one congregation

Make checks payable to:

*Central Plains Mennonite Conference*

And note Congregational Leaders Seminar in the memo line

Send registration form and payment to:

*Central Plains Mennonite Conference*

*PO Box 101*

*Freeman, SD 57029*

*Registrations due December 30, 2009!*