

November 4, 2016



Dear Partners in Ministry,

If you are receiving this letter of invitation, you are identified as an individual or representative of an institution that has interest in and a valuable contribution to make to this conversation.

At this year's gathering we will ask the questions: What can we share that will strengthen an ethos of Christian vocation for all people in our communities of faith? How is this happening on our college campuses and in our congregations? What have we already learned and how might we continue to learn from one another as seminary faculty and staff, lay school participants, colleges, campus ministries and synodical partnerships about exploring the deep questions of living faithfully that confront everyone?

Dr. Kit Kleinhans' plenary sessions will invite us to think together more deeply about what it means now to be part of a Reformation movement with a long and ongoing history of 'creative disruption.' Throughout the course of the event, we will be hearing from six speakers on a variety of topics, which will further season our conversations together. The 'TED Talk-style' presentations will elaborate on present issues of 'creative disruption' within our contexts and in society, which impact the task of theological education in the ELCA. The seven 'creative disruptions,' some of them coming from decisions adopted at the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly, are listed below.

Join us on **February 23-25, 2017 at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE**, the Covenant Cluster Network will gather for its 11th annual consultation, under the theme:

### **Reformation: Creative Disruption**

#### **Then and Now**

The Covenant Cluster Consultation is an annual gathering that provides the opportunity for coordination, cooperation and collaboration among the theological education providers in Regions 4, 5, and 6 of the ELCA. The Covenant Cluster Network bridges a variety of institutions including the formal association of our seminaries in those regions—Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Wartburg Theological Seminary—as well as a variety of colleges, lay schools and other theological education providers.

TED talk-style presenters and topics for the event will include:

**Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans**      *Topic:Reformation Movement as Creative Disruption*

The Rev. Dr. Kathryn “Kit” Kleinhans holds the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, where she has taught since 1993. Kit is a fifth-generation Lutheran pastor. She has a passion for making Lutheran theology relevant for today, describing herself as having one foot firmly planted in the sixteenth century and the other foot just as firmly planted in the twenty-first century. She is the editor and a contributing author of *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* (Augsburg Fortress, 2016).

**Francisco Herrera:** *Topic:Decolonize Lutheranism*

Before coming to Chicago Francisco Herrera studied classical music (viola and orchestra conducting) in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri and then Geneva, Switzerland. After feeling the call to ministry at his home church in Geneva, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, he returned to the US to enter seminary in 2005 He completed his M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2012 and then began Th.M./Ph.D studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Fall of 2014 – his emphasis on World Christianity and Global Mission.

**Rev. Dr. Ashley Hall** *Topic:From Conflict to Communion*

The Rev. H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Theology at Creighton University (Omaha, NE) and Associate Pastor for Faith Formation at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. He is a historical theologian who specializes in early Christianity and the Reformation (especially Philip Melanchthon). Dr. Hall is also a delegate for the ELCA in Round XII of the US Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue.

**Prairie Rose Seminole**      *Topic:Doctrine of Discovery*

Prairie Rose Seminole is a citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes of ND, descendant of the Sahnish/Arikara, Hidatsa, Northern Cheyenne and Lakota Nations and of German Russian heritage. She is currently the Program Director for American Indian Alaska Native Ministries with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Seminole has served or is serving in various capacities for the following organizations and initiatives: Sanford Health One Care Initiative, Midwest advisory council to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Fargo Human Relations Commission, Native Nations Rebuilder(a program of the Bush Foundation), Native Vote, Vote Run Lead and Wellstone Action. The ND Center for Business and Technology recognized Seminole as one of 2015 Leading Ladies. She writes for the MHA Times a weekly paper in western North Dakota. Seminole has works with national organizations such as these to foster participation of underrepresented groups in economic, education, political, social and judicial systems.

**Cherlyne Beck** *Topic: Word and Service Roster*

Rev. Cherlyne V. Beck is the ELCA program director for support of rostered leaders and schools which has included serving as the liaison to the Word and Service Task Force. Her past ministry has also included service as a Lutheran school teacher, pastor of three parishes in MI and NY, assistant to the bishop in the Metro New York Synod and the Southeast Michigan Synod and work with candidacy as part of the churchwide staff.

**Rev. Dr. Ray Pickett** *Topic: Public Church*

Raymond Pickett, professor of New Testament, has been on the faculty of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago since 2009. After his ordination in 1989, Pickett served in the parish for 7 years. He came to LSTC after teaching for twelve years at the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest.

Pickett received his Ph.D. in New Testament from the University of Sheffield. He is the author of *The Cross in Corinth: The Social Significance of the Death of Jesus* and is a contributor to the multi-volume Fortress series entitled *A Peoples' History of Christianity*, published in November of 2005. He frequently takes study groups to archeological sites in Greece, Turkey and Rome.

**Cheryl Peterson:** *Topic: Lutheran/Pentecostal Dialogue*

The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson is associate professor of systematic theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. A native Ohioan, she grew up in Worthington and attended Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio before receiving her M.Div. at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Ph.D.

at Marquette University. Before joining Trinity's faculty in 2005, she served pastorates in central Pennsylvania and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is the author of *Who is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty First Century* (Fortress Press, 2013) and numerous articles and book chapters. She served on Round XI of the U.S. Lutheran Roman Catholic Dialogue and currently serves on the Lutheran World Federation International Dialogue Commission with the Pentecostals. Her current research focuses on the person and work of the Holy Spirit in dialogue with Wesleyan, pentecostal, and charismatic theologies.

Take a look at the enclosed agenda and registration form for more details, and visit [www.covenantcluster.net](http://www.covenantcluster.net) for background information on the cluster and some cluster initiatives and resources.

We hope you will accept this invitation to participate!

Yours in Christ,

*2017 Covenant Cluster Consultation Steering Committee*

## **Registration Information**

Each institution is asked to pay the expenses for its representative(s). The cost covers program costs and 6 meals. Lodging costs will vary depending on which option participants choose (see the registration form). Travel costs and ground transportation are the responsibility of the institution or individual.

## **Financial Aid Available**

Once again this year we will offer a small amount of financial aid to make sure that those people who want to attend can attend. If your participation hinges on financial considerations, you can apply for a grant registration fee. This is a first-come, first-served offer.

Camp Carol Joy Holling is in Ashland, Nebraska, roughly 30 miles south of the Omaha airport. Shortly before the event we will work to coordinate transportation from and to the airport.

Please submit the enclosed registration form December 1st, 2016 along with your check payable to LSTC (see mailing instructions on the registration form). Direct any questions about the consultation itself to Katie Fitzkappes at [kfitzkappes@lstc.edu](mailto:kfitzkappes@lstc.edu)

Through your participation in this Consultation, the Covenant Cluster will continue to move toward the vision of a broad-based, coordinated, theological education network. We hope you will join in this exciting venture.

## Covenant Cluster Network Consultation 2017 Agenda

### ***Thursday, February 23rd***

11:00 am: Arrival and Registration begins  
12:00 pm: Lunch  
1:15 pm: Registration ends  
1:30 pm: Opening Worship  
2:00 pm: Plenary Presentation I: Creative Disruptions, Then and Now -Dr. Kit Klinehans  
4:00 pm: Break  
4:15 pm: TED I  
4:45 pm: Break  
4:50 pm: TED II  
5:20 pm: Break  
6:00 pm: Dinner  
7:00 pm: TED III  
7:30 pm: Evening Prayer  
8:00 pm: Social Hour

### ***Friday, February 24th***

7:30 am: Breakfast  
8:30 am: Morning Prayer  
9:00 am: "Open Space" Bible Study  
10:15 am: Break  
10:30 am: Plenary Presentation II: Creative Disruptions, Then and Now Dr. Kit Klinehans  
12:00 pm: Lunch  
1:00 pm: Free time  
2:30 pm: TED IV  
3:00 pm: Break  
3:05 pm: TED V  
3:35 pm: Break  
3:40 pm: TED VI  
4:10 pm: Break  
4:15 pm: "What Does This Mean?" Discussion on themes  
5:40 pm: Break for Dinner  
6:00 pm: Dinner  
7:00 pm: The Lord's Supper  
8:00 pm: Social Hour

### ***Saturday, February 25th***

7:30 am: Breakfast  
8:30 am: Panel Recap  
9:30 am: Break  
9:40 am: Large Group Discussion-"What then shall we do?" Future Outcomes, Future Plans, Places of Collaboration  
11:00 am: Litany of Sending  
12:00 pm: Box Lunches and Departures