

SACRED RHETORIC  
May 31-June 2, 2017  
Winebrenner Theological Seminary

DAY ONE: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Registration Noon – 5:00 p.m. [Lobby outside 154]

Welcome and Introduction 1:15 – 1:30 p.m. – Room 154  
Brent C. Sleasman and David M. Barbee

**Cultural Rhetoric and the Sacred (1:30 – 3:00 p.m.) – Room 154**

Aaron K. Kerr, Gannon University, "Dead Serious: The Grateful Dead Phenomena as a Way into Creative Encounter in a Digital Culture"

Susan L. Trollinger and William Vance Trollinger, University of Dayton, "Sacred Rhetoric Turned into Culture War at the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter"

Addison Shockley, University of Southern California, "(Re)Placing Christianity: An Analysis of Local Rhetoric about the Future of Christian Congregations and Church Buildings in Los Angeles"

Break 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**Sacred Rhetoric and Social Controversy in Media (3:15 – 4:45 p.m.) – Room 154**

Christopher A. House, Ithaca College, "Weeping for Her Black Children and She Will Not Be Comforted: The #BlackLivesMatter Rhetoric of T. D. Jakes"

Steven Tramel Gaines, University of Memphis, "From Radio to Facebook: White Engagement with African American Rhetoric"

Break 4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 1 5:00 – Room 254**

**Dr. Ronald C. Arnett**

The Patricia Doherty Yoder and Ronald Wolfe Endowed Chair in Communication Ethics  
Duquesne University

**"Temporal Light and Shadows: The Rhetoric of the Sacred"**

**Film Viewing 7:00 – Room 254** *The Rule*, a film by Bongiorno Productions. Followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno

DAY TWO: Thursday, June 1, 2017

8:00 - 10:15 a.m. Coffee will be available at the conference site.

**Incarnational Andragogy in Incarcerated Context: Perspectives on Instructing Pastoral Leaders within the Context of a Medium Security Correctional Institution. (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.) – Room 154**

A Roundtable discussion featuring:

Joel W. Cocklin, Winebrenner Theological Seminary,  
Martin D. Johnson, Winebrenner Theological Seminary,  
Kathryn L. Helleman, Winebrenner Theological Seminary,  
Linda M. Draper, Winebrenner Theological Seminary,  
James M. Wilder, II, Gomer Congregational Church

Break 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**Sacred Rhetoric and the Theological Virtues (10:15 – 11:45 a.m.) – Room 154**

Michael Kearney, Geneva College, "Communion with Babylon: Globalization, Idolatry, and Hope in Ellul's Technological Society"

Dung Q. Tran, Seattle University, "Joy and Mercy: The Heart of Pope Francis' Rhetoric of Restoration and Reform"

Michael E. DeSanctis, Gannon University, "An Architecture of Pardon and Consolation: Embodying the Meaning of Pope Francis's Recent 'Year of Mercy' in the Language of Brick and Mortar"

Lunch

**Sacred Rhetoric in American Culture (1:30 – 3:00 p.m.) – Room 154**

Kelly Lynch, Wake Forest University, "'A Pantheon of Heroes':  
Ascended Bodies in American Civil Religion"

Martin D. Johnson, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, "How Shall  
We Proceed? The Church and Same-Sex Marriage"

John Parrett, University of Dayton, "God in Secular Media:  
Reconciling the Decline of Religion and the Growth of  
Spirituality in America"

Break 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**Silent Bodies: The Role of Women in the Contemporary Christian  
Church (3:15 – 4:45 p.m.) – Room 154**

Darlene Johnston, Bowling Green State University, "Whispers from  
the Nave: How Women in History Regained Their Voices in  
the Church"

Kristin LaFollette, Bowling Green State University, "'Make the World  
Better': Women's Rights Activism in the Protestant Church"

Kelly Moreland, Bowling Green State University, "Wearing  
Christianity: Gendered Dress Practices in the Church."

Break 4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

**Plenary Session 2 5:00 – Room 254**

**Dr. Tom Beaudoin**

Associate Professor of Theology  
Fordham University

**"Faith in Music: Creating a 'Sacred' Rhetoric from a 'Secular'  
Playlist"**

DAY THREE: Friday, June 2, 2017

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Coffee will be available at the conference site.

**Prayer as Sacred Rhetoric (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.) – Room 154**

M. John Nissley, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, "Reflections  
on Prayer from Colossae"

Linda M. Draper, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, "To  
Experience the Love of God"

Thomas R. Gardener, Restored Life Ministries, "Prayer From a Quiet  
Heart"

Break 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

**Sacred Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of Race (10:15 – 11:45 a.m.) –  
Room 154**

Dianna N. Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis, "'You Are  
Somebody': The Influence of King's Sacred Rhetoric in the  
Religious Oratory of Rev. Henry Logan Starks"

Steven Tramel Gaines, University of Memphis, "An Unavoidable  
Sermon: John A. Scott's Response to Martin Luther King  
Jr.'s Assassination."

Andrew Draper, Taylor University, "The End of 'Mission': Christian  
Witness and the Decentering of Whiteness"

*A list of local restaurants will be provided for your convenience*