

# SEMINARY AND CHURCH: IN THIS TOGETHER

## THE 2012 SPRUNT LECTURES

**Date:** May 7-9, 2012

**Leaders:** John Kuykendall  
Katie Geneva Cannon  
Craig Dykstra  
Mindy Douglas Adams  
Laura Mendenhall

**Event Location:** Ginter Park Presbyterian Church; Lake Chapel and Watts Chapel on the Union Presbyterian Seminary Campus in Richmond

**Registration:** These lectures are free and open to all. Please register so we know you are coming!

**For:** Alumni/ae, church leaders, church educators, clergy, seminary students, faculty, and staff, members of the local community

**The Sprunt Lectures** were begun in 1911 through a generous gift by James Sprunt of Wilmington, North Carolina, to bring speakers of outstanding quality to the seminary to discuss aspects of Christian thought and work. One object of the Sprunt Lectures from the very beginning was to add to the body of Christian literature. The breadth and depth of past lectures and subsequent publications hint at the benefits which have accrued from the wisdom and vision of the individuals who have spoken at the Sprunt Lectures throughout its 101 years. The lectures are offered without charge and are open to all.

To register for *Seminary and Church: In This Together* online, [click here](#).

## Leaders and their topics



**The Rev. Dr. John W. Kuykendall** most recently served as Interim President of Davidson College in North Carolina. He has deep ties to Davidson, where he was an undergraduate student in English, and working in various capacities, including serving as President and Professor of Religion, for 13 years, and then Samuel E. and Mary West Thatcher Professor of Philosophy. Kuykendall is a alumnus of Union Presbyterian Seminary (then Union Theological Seminary), earning a B.D. in 1964, and then studied at Yale Divinity School (S.T.M., 1965) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.A. in American Religion in 1972 and Ph.D. in American Religion in 1975). He has also served as Interim President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

During his tenure as president, Davidson College completed a \$160 million capital campaign, the largest financial campaign ever mounted by a liberal arts college at the time. Davidson also witnessed the construction of Baker Sports Complex and the Visual Arts Center, and six upperclassmen apartment buildings. Two programs receiving national attention were, also, added to the college curriculum: the Dean Rusk Program in International Studies and the medical humanities program.

Kuykendall's publications include *Presbyterians: Their History and Beliefs* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1978), co-authored with Walter L. Lingle, and *Southern Enterprise: The Work of the Evangelical Societies in the Antebellum South* (Greenwood Publishing Group, 1982).

**Dr. Kuykendall's lecture is entitled:**

### **The Courtship of Faith and Education in the Reformed Tradition: Believing How to Learn, Learning How to Believe**

#### **Theme Description:**

The lecture will present the Reformation roots of the penchant we (Reformed/Presbyterian Christians) have had for the educational enterprise, and more particularly about our singular effort to establish and support educational institutions (colleges and seminaries) in the United States. The effort has not been without challenges and complications, sometimes to the point that the church and some of its educational institutions wonder about the viability and/or propriety of the undertaking. On the other hand, the benefits and virtues on the enterprise have been considerable, both in service to the church and the larger society. "Faithfulness," it seems, has been at the bottom of all this; yet it expresses itself in different ways in different seasons of the life of both church and educational institution. It is worth taking time to wonder—and perhaps to scheme—about what the future may hold for this long-standing "courtship."

**The Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon** is the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Previously Dr. Cannon served as Associate Professor of Religion at Temple University from 1992 until 2001; as Associate Professor of Christian Social Ethics at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA from 1984-1992; and as Administrative Faculty at New York Theological Seminary, 1977-1980. In March 2003, she was elected to serve a four-year term as President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Cannon is the recipient of the 2011 American Academy of Religion Excellence in Teaching Award.



A native of Kannapolis, North Carolina, Cannon is the first African American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1974; and the first African American woman to earn the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary (NYC) in 1983. Dr. Cannon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Barber-Scotia College, magna cum laude (1971) and a Master of Divinity degree (with honors) from Johnson C. Smith Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center (1974). In 2010, Cannon spent the spring semester as a Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York teaching *Womanist Theological Ethics and Codes of Ethics in Freedom Narratives*. In 2005 she spent the spring semester as the Distinguished Visiting Lilly Professor of Religion at Davidson College and the fall semester as the Sterling Brown Visiting Professor in Religion and African American Studies at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. She has traveled extensively in Africa.

Cannon is the author or co-editor of six books including *Teaching Preaching: Isaac R. Clark and Black Sacred Rhetoric* (2002), *Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community* (1995); *Black Womanist Ethics* (1988); and the forthcoming anthology, *The Womanist Theological Reader* (2011). She is currently working on a new manuscript, *The Pounding of Soundless Heartbeats: A Womanist Critique of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*.

**The title of Dr. Cannon's lecture is:**

## **Calling for the Order of the Day: Lessons of Liberation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **Theme Description:**

In this lecture I use three ethical motifs as a conceptual framework to elaborate lessons of liberation: unlearning calibrated oppression, measuring moral health by how we treat the most vulnerable in our ecclesial-social sphere, and resisting socially constructed oppression as a moral act. Being as clear as possible between complex historical facts and mythological deceptions is essential to living responsibly. Pretending naiveté is futile. Next, doers of justice-making do not separate virtue from behavior. As the body of Christ, the gospel's internal criterion requires us to participate responsibly in the world. We must take ourselves seriously as custodians of the common good, especially in relations to structures of power that organize daily life. And, third, as both the sign and instrument of the commonwealth of God, both the seminary and church place miniscule distance between the only two coordinates that matter, the nexus of being-and-doing, the only ones that hold free will and divine grace as indivisible entities in the providential unfolding of God's purpose for humankind.



**Dr. Craig Dykstra** is Senior Vice President for Religion at Lilly Endowment, where he oversees the Endowment's religion program. He previously served as Thomas W. Synnott Professor of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary, editor of *Theology Today*, professor of Christian Education at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and assistant minister of Westminster Church of Detroit.

Dykstra's most recent scholarly work has focused on "pastoral and ecclesial imagination" as well as "Christian practices" as key concepts for thinking about what it means to live the Christian life, to organize the discipline of practical theology, and to rethink how we might envision the dynamics and character of pastoral ministry and the life of Christian faith. A book on these themes, co-edited by Dykstra and Dorothy Bass, *For Life Abundant: Practical Theology, Theological Education, and Christian Ministry* (Eerdmans), was published in 2008. His book, *Growing the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices* (Westminster/John Knox Press) was published in a second edition in 2005. He also contributed to *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People* (Jossey-Bass), edited by Dorothy Bass. Previously, Dykstra wrote a book on moral and religious education entitled *Vision and Character* (currently published by Wipf and Stock) and was co-editor of a book of essays on contemporary faith development theory.

**Dr. Dykstra's lecture is entitled:**

### **Shaping Communities in Wise, Shared Practice of Christian Faith and Life**

**Theme Description:**

What is the work of pastoral ministry in congregations and of Christian religious leadership in various other organizations really all about? What is the purpose and character of the practical, on-the-ground work of such leadership? Building on some of his previous work on Christian practices and on Christian faith as "a way of life abundant," Dykstra will explore what the work of shared community's means for pastoral and lay leadership in congregations, church-related organizations, and other institutions in our society in which Christians have leadership responsibilities. The emergence and strengthening of leadership that can do this work effectively and collaboratively demands that seminary and church be "in this together."

**The Rev. Mindy Douglas Adams** was called as Organizing Pastor of Chapel in the Pines in February 2006 and was installed as the first Pastor of the newly-chartered church on May 4, 2008. She came to Chapel in the Pines after having served as Associate Pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill for almost five years. Prior to that she served as Interim Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry at University Presbyterian Church, and as the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson, North Carolina.



Mindy has a biology degree from Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina and a Master of Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) in Richmond, Virginia. She also studied at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. She currently serves on the PC(USA) Committee on Theological Education and on the board of the Presbyterian Outlook.

Mindy lives with her son, Tyler, and their numerous animal friends in southern Chapel Hill. She enjoys running, reading, gardening, playing, music, being with friends, and learning.

**Ms. Adams' Lecture is:**

### **The Gospel in Our Time: Why Our Seminaries Have to Keep Doing What They've Always Done and Why They Have to Change**

**Theme Description:**

Today's theological seminary graduates enter into ministry in a vastly different religious and cultural landscape than the one their parents and grandparents knew. Technology, globalization, immigration, communication, ease of travel, and increased cultural diversity have changed the way people experience the world. Over the last twenty years, while the world has changed exponentially, the church has, for the most part, remained the same. Why is this? And what can be done about it? What role do our institutions of theological education play in helping the church catch up with the world? What new models for ministry and education might allow church leaders to share the message of the gospel and care for God's children in ways that aren't just new and different, but are also culturally and theologically relevant and responsive to the yearnings of young and old alike for community, service, ritual, integrity and authenticity?



**The Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall** is Senior Philanthropy Advisor for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. She is perhaps best known to Presbyterians as the immediate past President of Columbia Theological Seminary. Prior to that she served congregations in Texas and Florida as pastor, she has served on the staff of San Gabriel Presbytery, and was a missionary to Zaire. Laura is a frequent keynote speaker and conference preacher around the country, and until recently served on the executive council of the Association of Theological Schools.

Laura is married to the Rev. Dr. Charles M. Mendenhall, III. They have two grown children.

**Dr. Mendenhall is the Worship Leader for the Sprunt Lectures.**

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### Schedule of Events

#### Monday, May 7, 2012

5:30-7:00 p.m.	Registration and Welcome Reception	<i>Ginter Park Fellowship Hall</i>
7:30 p.m.	Lecture (John Kuykendall)	<i>Ginter Park Sanctuary</i>

#### Tuesday, May 8, 2012

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	<i>Ginter Park Fellowship Hall</i>
9:00 a.m.	Lecture (Katie Geneva Cannon)	<i>Ginter Park Sanctuary</i>
10:00 a.m.	Reception to honor <i>Distinguished Alumnus/a of the Year</i>	<i>Ginter Park Fellowship Hall</i>
11:00 a.m.	Worship (Laura Mendenhall)	<i>Ginter Park Sanctuary</i>
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Alumni/ae Luncheon	<i>Lake Chapel</i>
2:30-7:30 p.m.	Free time for class reunions and dinner on your own	<i>Various Locations</i>
7:30 p.m.	Lecture (Craig Dykstra)	<i>Watts Chapel</i>

#### Wednesday, May 9, 2012

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	<i>Early Center, Room 118</i>
9:00 a.m.	Lecture (Mindy Douglas Adams)	<i>Watts Chapel</i>
10:00 a.m.	Time Capsule Ceremony and Reception	<i>In front of Watts Hall/Belk Center</i>
11:00 a.m.	Worship (Laura Mendenhall)	<i>Watts Chapel</i>