May 26-29, 2015 | Atlanta, GA

Welcome to the 2015 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability

The Summer Institute Faculty, Bethesda, and our host, the Center for Leadership in Disability, along with other sponsors who have contributed funding for the 2015 Institute, welcome you to Atlanta. We anticipate an exciting week, with many attendees who are come before but an equal number of new attendees.

We want to share with you our purpose and mission statement for the Summer Institute:

*The vision of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability is to expand the depth and breadth of theological inquiry and resources that address and include the gifts, needs, and contributions of people with disabilities and their families to theological learning and religious practice.*

*The Summer Institute works toward that vision by:*

* *Sponsoring a week long intensive institute that brings together leading scholars and writers in the areas of theology and disability with clergy, religious leaders, practitioners, laity and others who are interested and involved in inclusive ministries and faith supports.*
* *Affirming and exploring the ways that disability impacts all of the major theological disciplines as well as the many dimensions of religious life and faith community practices.*
* *Recognizing and celebrating the ways that the integration of theology and practice mutually inform and support one another.*
* *Appreciating the diversity of perspectives that come from scholars, practitioners, and people with disabilities and their families from a wide range of religious traditions and from a wide array of experiences with disability. The Institute*

*aspires to be a “big tent,” where everyone can speak from their particular background and experience while also respecting the same in others. We meet one another in an I-Thou framework that hopefully supports personal sharing, careful listening, and mutual learning.*

* *Building a national/international event that is recognized for those contributions while also making the key resources from the Summer Institutes available and accessible to everyone interested.*

This Vision could not become real without the sponsors and our hosts and without you as participants and supporters. Thank you. If you have ideas for future hosts, sponsors, and speakers, please talk with us.