SUMMER INSTITUTE ON THEOLOGY & DISABILITY
2019
MAY 20-23 / HOLLAND, MI

PROGRAM
Welcome (1)
Community Day (2-3)
Schedule (4-9)

BOOKLET
Posters & Roundtables (10)
Mission & Vision (11)
Maps (12-14)

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres
Welcome to the 2019 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability!

We are glad you are here. We are particularly appreciative of the hospitality of both Western Theological Seminary and Hope College on our return to their campuses after our 2016 Institute was held here. Did you know that this is the 10th year of the Summer Institute? Many of you who are here are new to the Summer Institute. You have received information about what to expect, but the delight and magic of the Summer Institute is that the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts.

Whether new or alums who have come back, know that all questions are welcome. We trust that you will help everyone feel at home. A special thanks to Lynn Swedberg who helps coordinate the accommodations and supports that individuals need, along with the help of our scholarship recipients. But we count on community to help one another! Put the dots on your badges so we can easily know who has been here before, and who is here for the first time.

We have incorporated many suggestions from last year, but the Institute is truly what the community present makes of it. Every location we have been at has its strengths and weaknesses. There will be both here. We keep on learning. So, welcome!

“Thank You!” to the Team that is Responsible for the 2019 Institute...

It truly takes a village to help this ten-year-old grow!

- Ben Conner, Luke Soderstrom, Cherri Westhouse and Theresa Hamm who have helped prepare for our arrival and handled lots of the logistics. Courtney Kust at Hope College has helped many of us with the registration process.
- Summer Institute Faculty and Administrative Team: Bill Gaventa, Erik Carter, John Swinton, Devan Stahl, Tom Reynolds, Hans Reinders, Julia Watts Belser, Ben Conner, Darla Schumm, Neil Cudney and David Morstad
- Supports and Accommodations Coordinator: Lynn Swedberg
- Cooperative Resource Exhibit: David Morstad
- Chaplains: Stephen Weisser and Lisa McKee
- Leadership Team for Program and Publicity: Kirsty Jones, Kathy Dickson, Keith Dow, Sarah Jean Barton, Cathy Webb, Michael Walker, David Gayes, Bethany McKinney Fox, Topher Endress, Sarah Jean Barton, Phil Letizia, Rabbi Ruti Regan, Zach Holler, Devan Stahl, Justin Hancock, Lisa Hancock
- And all presenters, attendees, and others praying for a successful Institute!

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
## Monday - Community Day Schedule

*From Longing to Belonging: Practices and Pathways for Inclusion*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>Exhibit Room Open for Set Up</td>
<td>Maas Hall*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BREAKFAST OPEN</strong></td>
<td>Phelps Dining Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
<td>Maas Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td><strong>Morning Meditation:</strong> Carlos Thompson &amp; Shelly Christensen</td>
<td>Maas Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome:</strong> Bill Gaventa, Ben Conner, and President Tim Brown WTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*From Longing to Belonging: Practices and Pathways for Inclusion*

Shelly Christensen and Barbara Newman

“Everyone is welcome.” “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” “Join our family.” Our congregations issue these warm statements of welcome and offer places of belonging. How can our congregational good intentions in these words on our doors and on our websites turn into actions that support all people to belong? Join us for a discussion that introduces the key elements in a community of belonging and discover some very practical strategies and tools to turn those welcome statements into a reality in your congregation. You’ll learn from faith communities we have visited and worked with as we highlight the perspectives and practices that allow each of us to move from longing to belonging within the heart of a congregation.

10:20  **BREAK & BROWSE**  Maas Hall

10:45  Longing and Belonging in the Holland Area: A Panel featuring Local Ministries and Initiatives

Moderator: Benjamin Conner, Western Theological Seminary

- **Renew Therapeutic Riding Center:** Melissa Conner, Executive Director. *A Christian organization that empowers people with disabilities through horseback riding and serves many local organizations.*
- **The Church of Benjamin’s Hope:** Eric Peterson, Pastor, and a resident/congregant. *A Christian church with a particular way of addressing inclusion and a vision for “Connecting people of all abilities with Jesus and with each other.”*
- **Calvin Institute of Christian Worship:** John D. Witvliet, Director and Professor of Worship. *How is engagement with the lived experience of disability transforming and enriching CICW?*
- **Benjamin’s House:** Krista Mason, Executive Director, *A “live, work, play, worship” intentional community in which people of all abilities are transformed by the love of Christ.*

12:00 PM  **LUNCH** *(Poster Sessions, Roundtable Discussions, Networking, Exhibit Room)*

1:45-3:00  **From Longing to Belonging Breakout Sessions at WTS** *(PAGE 2)*  WTS

3:30  Closing Worship in Mulder Chapel at WTS led by Prof. Sue Rozeboom, Nouwen Fellows, and Friendship House  Mulder Chapel (WTS)

6:00  **Opening Dinner**  Maas Hall

*Please see maps at the end of this program for building/room locations.*
Monday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

1:45-3:00  From Longing to Belonging Breakout Sessions

- **Shelly Christensen, From Longing to Belonging: Continuing the Conversation**
  Room 155
  Continuing the conversation from the morning plenary and engaging the practical suggestions from Shelly’s new book on how to include people with disabilities and mental health conditions in your faith community.

- **Sarah Barton, Ben Conner, and Carlos Thompson, From Longing to Belonging: Theological Education**
  Room 106
  This session explores ways that theological institutions can move beyond ableist biases.

- **Erik Carter, Incomplete without You: The Church and People with Disabilities**
  Room 159
  What does it really mean to belong? This presentation will spur deeper reflection about the ways in which churches might welcome and weave people with developmental disabilities and their families more fully into the life of the community. In moving from barriers to belonging, we discover the power of life lived together and how those at the margins are indispensable to the flourishing of everyone.

- **Jill Harshaw, From Longing to Belonging: Intellectual Disability**
  Room 104
  When we think about people with intellectual disabilities and their faith communities, is inclusion still a useful concept? This workshop explores what it might mean to belong in ways that surpass our images of inclusion.

- **Barb Newman, From Longing to Belonging: Enjoying the Shared Language of Worship with Persons Experiencing Dementia**
  Room 105
  How does the language of worship provide common place to plant our feet with persons experiencing dementia? This session will explore some practical ideas for worshipping together with people with dementia.

- **John Swinton, From Longing to Belonging: Mental Health Challenges**
  Room 019
  The session will explore the spiritual dimensions of mental health challenges with a view to examining what kinds of community we need to be to enable the body of Christ to live life in all of its fullness even in the midst of enduring mental health challenges.

- **Alex Kimmel, “The Self Determinator”, From Longing to Belonging: Neuro-diversity**
  Room 166
  This interactive session features applications of the Serenity Prayer and an introduction to COG. The Culture of Gentleness (COG) has four supporting pillars: Safe, Loved, Loving and Engaged. At its core is the philosophy that everything is based off establishing a relationship. This philosophy has potential for positive outcomes in all connections. This is especially true when approached with the understanding of neurodiversity, or the acceptance and celebration of those that operate other than what most of the world considers to be normal. Alex Kimmel will lead attendees, through PowerPoint, video clips and small group discussion opportunities, to an understanding of individualized supports including sensory and communication needs as well as the importance of acceptance and faith. Be ready for laughter and an opportunity to update your thoughts on neurodiversity!

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres
Tuesday-Thursday Schedule

A note about the schedule for Tuesday through Thursday:

Our general flow is Meditation in Maas Hall, Plenary, Morning Breakout Sessions, Lunch, Plenary after Lunch, Afternoon Breakout Sessions, and Closing Meditation in the Western Seminary Chapel. The PhD Symposium runs in both the morning and afternoon breakout session times, starting on Tuesday. We have tried to organize the workshops so that those connected to a similar theme are on separate days and times, so participants can make their own workshop track depending on a particular interest (e.g. inclusive worship, theology, families, etc.) but we want to note that workshop subject matter will overlap. Thus, we are not designating strands. Our breakout sessions don’t fit easily in one box, as they should not. We do not have a mental health strand this year because there were not enough proposals in that area.

If you want to see the complete descriptions on the plenary and breakout session speakers and their presentations, see the copies at the Registration Desk or go to:

faithanddisability.org/2019-summer-institute/

All will be held at Western Theological Seminary’s Main Building. (See the map at the end of the program.)

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 Dining Hall Opens

8:00 Registration Open, Resource Room Open

8:30 MORNING MEDITATION: Led by Kirsty Jones

9:00 MORNING PLENARY

Healing the Wounds of Privilege - Amy Julia Becker

Becoming More Effective Agents of Change: Looking beyond Inclusion to all Intersections of One’s Disability - Andy Arias

10:30 BREAK, Resource Room, Posters.

11:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS (60 minutes this morning)

- Incorporating Persons with Special Needs into the Worship Ministry of the Church C. Trent Broussard, D. Ed. Min.

- The Appropriateness of “The Body of Christ” Imagery for Disability Ministry. Louise Gosbell, PhD.

- Sam the Sinner? Cognitive Impairment and Prevenient Grace: Coralie Bridle


- Empowering Leaders from the inside Out: Daniel Aaron Harris

- Ph.D. Symposium: Devan Stahl (Approval needed)

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
12:00  **LUNCH** Exhibits, Networking Discussions, Posters  
Phelps Dining Hall

1:00  **This Ability Orchestra. Los Angeles**  
Maas Hall

1:45  **Afternoon Plenary: SITD TED Talks**  
Maas Hall

  * Practicing the Virtues of Discovery, Together - Keith Dow  
  * Becoming the Baptized Body - Sarah Jean Barton  
  * The Disarmed Community: L’Arche as “Parable” for the Peace Church - Jason Grieg

3:00  **Break**  
WTS Atrium, Graves Hall for PhD Seminar

3:30-4:30  **Breakout Sessions**  
Western Theological Seminary

  * Practical Applications to the Sacraments: Robert Furtado, M Ed.  
    Room 155
  * Transgender, Disability, and Biomedicine in the Image of God: Max Thornton  
    Room 104
  * You Can Be BRAVE - Part 2.  
    Dr. Jennifer Camota Luebke & Christopher Luebke Antonio E. Contreras  
    Room 159
    Rev. Dr. Robert Slocum  
    Room 106
    Room 105
  * Ph.D. Symposium (continued)  
    President’s Room, Graves Hall

4:45  **Afternoon Meditations:**  
Mulder Chapel

Sue Rozeboom and members of the Western Theological Seminary Community

5:15  **Dinner**  
Phelps Dining Hall

7:00  **Community Coffee House**  
Atrium, Western Theological Seminary

Sharing Reflections on Jean Vanier, Informal Conversation and Artistic Expression

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
Wednesday, May 22

7:00  Dining Hall Opens  

8:00  Registration Open, Resource Room Open  

8:30  **MORNING MEDITATION:** Led by Michael Walker   

9:00  **MORNING PLENARY**  

*Ay Bendito! Theologizing latinamente on Dis-Ability Hyphens*  
Carmen Nanko-Fernandez Ph.D.  


10:45  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** (75 minutes)  

- **Including Nonverbal/Limited Verbal Members at Church** Lenae Crandall  
  and  
  Spirituality in the Context of Nonverbal Autism: Methodological Considerations  
  when Working with People who are Nonverbal. Ms. Karrinne Hills  

- "My child is a part of me": Embodied interconnection among maternal caregivers.  
  Laura MacGregor, PhD (Cand.)  
  and  
  Embodied Faith and Intellectual and Psychiatric Disability Kate Finley  

- Reimagining Healing: Ideas from Christian Theology and Disability Studies  
  David Gayes, Sarah Jean Barton, Bethany McKinney Fox  

- Theology and Practice - Building Inclusive Faith Communities from the Inside  
  (reflections from a recent qualitative study) Justin Radstake  
  and  
  "Special Needs," and Service: Faith Community Leader Perceptions on  

- What If the Blind Want to be Ministers and Theology Professors?  
  Ray W. McAllister, PhD  

- Ph.D. Symposium: Devan Stahl  

12:00  **LUNCH.** Phelps Dining Hall, Exhibits, Networking Discussions, Posters  

1:45  **AFTERNOON PLENARY:**  

*The Summer Institute: A Community Conversation*  
Erik Carter and Bill Gaventa  

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
2019 SUMMER INSTITUTE ON THEOLOGY AND DISABILITY

3:00  BREAK

3:30-4:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Interactive Worship Service Planning  Lida Merrill, M.Th. and Lynn Swedberg, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA  Room 159

- A Theology of Autism & Disabilities through the Lens of St. Augustine  Professor Ron Sandison, M. Div.  Room 155

- Using Video Modeling and a System of Least Prompts to Teach People with Intellectual Disability to Participate in Faith Communities  Victoria Slocum, PhD  Room 106

- How The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Is Supporting Members with Disabilities  Dr. Cade Charlton, Mary Woodruff and Katie E. Steed, M.S.  Room 104

- Understanding and Responding to Ableist Oppression: Allyships and Belonging in Faith Communities  Thomas N. Murphy  Room 105

- Ph.D. Symposium continues. Devan Stahl  President’s Room, Graves Hall

4:30  AFTERNOON MEDITATIONS:
Sue Rozeboom and members of the Western Theological Seminary Community

5:15 – 6:00  DINNER
Phelps Dining Hall

7:00  LEADERSHIP TEAM PLANNING MEETING
Room 159

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
Thursday, May 23

7:00  Dining Hall Opens  

8:00  Registration Open, Resource Room Open: Maas Conference Center

8:30  MORNING MEDITATION:  Led by Stephen Weisser

9:00  MORNING PLENARY

Disability, Theology, and Ministry: Perspectives from India and Zambia
Rev. Christopher Rajkumar and Bishop Patrick Lusanga


10:45  BREAKOUT SESSIONS

• The Interface of African Culture, Traditional Religion, and Disability: Implications for Pastoral Care Ministry in West Africa.
  Reverend Olutayo Stephen Shodipo
  and Ministries with People with Disabilities in Zimbabwe
  Munorwei Chiromavami and Colleagues

• Twenty-Five Years after “The Disabled God”: Confronting Ableism,
  Transforming Religious Symbols  Dr. Rebecca F. Spurrier
  and Expanding our Imagination: Disability in Heaven. Kevin Timpe

• Advanced Illness Care and Persons with Disabilities -Margaret Peterson, PhD

• Faith & Vulnerability: Principles of Care Joe Landis
  and From Workers to Witnesses: Accompanying People with Impairments
  as Christian Vocation
  Jason Grieg and friends

• Holding Space: Disability Culture and Identity in Faith Communities
  Catherine Webb

• Ph.D. Symposium. Devan Stahl

12:00  LUNCH. Phelps Dining Hall, Exhibits, Networking Discussions, Posters

1:45  AFTERNOON PLENARY: JEAN VANIER EMERGING SCHOLAR LECTURE

Cognitive Impairment, Friendship, and Spirituality:
A Reading of Lazarus from a Dementia Perspective
Talitha Cooreman, Ph.D.

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres  Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
3:00 BREAK

3:30-4:30 WORKSHOPS

- **Disability, Theology, and Ministry in India and Zambia: Continuing the Conversation**
  Rev. Christopher Rajkumar and Bishop Patrick Lusanga  
  Room 155

- **Theology and Disability: Affirmation Undermined by Shadow Narrative**
  Anne Masters, MA, FAAIDD  
  Room 159

- **Sunday School Teacher Training** - Cade Charlton & Mary Woodruff  
  Room 106

- **Aberdeen's Friendship House: The Challenges of Starting an Equitable Community**
  Topher Endress  
  Room 104

- **Ph.D. Symposium. Devan Stahl**  
  President’s Room, Graves Hall

4:30 AFTERNOON MEDITATION:

- Sue Rozeboom and members of the Western Theological Seminary Community  
  Mulder Chapel, WTS

6:00 CLOSING DINNER AND CELEBRATION

Thank you for coming. All registrants will receive an email with a link to an online evaluation of the 2019 Summer Institute. Please use that to give feedback, share ideas, suggest issues that need to be covered and to suggest speakers.

The 2020 Summer Institute will return to Western Theological Seminary, May 18-21, 2020.

The Call for Workshops will go out after Labor Day, with a Submission Deadline moved up this year to December 1, 2019.

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu
# Poster Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Co-constructing stories and re-negotiating identity with stroke survivors</td>
<td>Natasha Kwik, Calvin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An Investigation of Spirituality in Person Centered Planning for Adults with Disabilities</td>
<td>Holly Pedersen and Jolynn Webster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Roundtable Luncheon Discussions

(Room for more. See Registration Table to organize one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Congregation Ahavas Israel-Grand Rapids</td>
<td>Rabbi David J.B. Krishef (Note: Rabbi Krishef was to be on the morning panel but his plans changed due to an award presented to his son.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A synagogue that has thought through matters of inclusion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Networking for Attendees who work for Organizations that Provide Direct Support Services</td>
<td>Lida Merrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>“Jesus Club”: Making Jesus Christ known to people with intellectual disabilities through preaching the Gospel and loving friendship.</td>
<td>Louise Gosbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>I Come from a Land Down Under - New Zealand perspectives of disability</td>
<td>Fiona Sherwin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summer Institute on Theology and Disability: Mission and Vision

Our Mission is to foster diverse and authentic interfaith conversations at the intersection of theology and disability.

Our Vision is that international theological learning and religious practices embrace the gifts, needs, and contributions of people with disabilities and their families.

We work to achieve our vision through collaboratively hosting an accessible and inclusive four-day institute that gathers together leading scholars, writers, faith leaders, advocates, and others committed to advancing inclusive ministries and faith supports.

The Institute celebrates, explores, and investigates the ways that:

- Disability impacts all major theological disciplines as well as the many dimensions of religious life and faith community practices.
- Theology and practice mutually inform and support one another.
- Diverse perspectives enrich and inform theological formation and religious practice.

***

As the Institute develops, we have become more aware of the ways we seek to live out this Mission and Vision. Hence our frequent statement that we invite ‘each person present to speak out of the particularity of their own faith tradition while also respecting the traditions of all other attendees.” We also invite you to share any concerns with the Coordinating Team.

In this day and time, we are also moving toward more specific guidelines and policies. To this end, we have decided to be explicit about issues of harassment and discrimination, as well as to respect the policies of each of our institutional hosts. Thus:

- The Summer Institute for Theology and Disability encourages a community that is a welcoming place for all without harassment and/or discrimination.
- Housed at two institutions of higher education, the Institute follows the policies of each institution regarding reports of discrimination within their jurisdiction. See those policies here:

  Hope College Policy: [hope.edu/offices/title-ix/index.html](http://hope.edu/offices/title-ix/index.html) and WTS, Title IX policy: [www.westernsem.edu/title-ix-resources/](http://www.westernsem.edu/title-ix-resources/)

Reports may be made on these campuses to the following professionals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Brogan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Title IX Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>616.392.8555 x192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sara Dorer
*Equal Opportunity and Compliance Coordinator*
President’s Office
Hope College
DeWitt Center, Room 220
PO Box 9000, Holland, MI 49422-9000
office 616.395.6816
dorer@hope.edu | hope.edu
Primary Residences: Haworth Inn and Cook. Parking in lot on the north side of 9th St.
Breakout sessions, and optional evening worship: Graves and WTS
Breakfast, Lunch: Tuesday/Wednesday Dinners Phelps
Plenary Sessions, Lunch, Opening Banquets: Maas Center
A big “Thank you” to all of our sponsors!

See you again in 2020...

#SITD19 Twitter: @TheologyDis Downloads: bit.ly/19SITDPres Hope Map: maps.hope.edu