



CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY RESTORING THE BROKEN TABLE

3rd Annual Leadership Conference
October 4-5, 2013 at Church of All Nations
4301 Benjamin St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
www.brokentable.org

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” ~ Jesus in Matthew 25:35

“Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” ~ Paul in Romans 15:7

Why this conference?

Offering hospitality to strangers is foundational to Christian life. Jesus’ life and ministry were marked by radical welcome and inclusion of those considered outsiders (“sinners”) by both the Roman imperial system and the Jewish Temple system. He lived, as one with “no place to lay his head,” completely dependent on the hospitality of others. As a result, the early church understood that welcoming strangers into one’s home and breaking bread together was a central practice that made Christ present as both host and guest. Christian hospitality broke through barriers of fear, competition and scapegoating, common in an imperial society marked by the logic of scarcity.

The co-opting of the Western church by imperial power served to institutionalize the practice of hospitality, distancing it from day-to-day life. The church slowly learned to dehumanize those considered “aliens,” “strangers,” or “sinners.” This is especially evident in the last five hundred years of European Christian history, which led to the genocide of native peoples around the globe as Europeans competed for land, bodies, and resources. The white American church exists today in the ruins of this broken table, now largely acclimated to an imperial form of Christianity that seeks security, success, and comfort, while captive to an individualism that is numb to the suffering around and within.

We invite pastors, theologians, seminarians, community activists, congregational leaders and young adults to join us and other leading practitioners from North America as we explore how the church might rediscover the practice of Christian hospitality. In a society where individuals have been conditioned to fear their neighbor, both locally and globally, how do we face our history and hateful divisions honestly, name and confess our fears, and pray for the historical, collective, and personal healing that is possible only in Jesus Christ? This conference aims to challenge our conventional notions of imperial “hospitality,” instead, equipping for an uncalculating hospitality that welcomes all as God’s very own

About the Hosts

We are both communities that were founded with visions to restore this broken table. The Mennonite Worker is an intentional community that challenges empire through the Catholic Worker model of welcoming the Stranger. Church of All Nations is a multicultural Presbyterian congregation that intentionally confronts white supremacy and pursues racial reconciliation within a local church context.



Speakers/Leaders

- **Richard Beck** is Professor and Department Chair of Psychology at Abilene Christian University. Richard's area of interest is on the interface of Christian theology and psychology, with a particular focus on how existential issues affect Christian belief and practice. He is the author of *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality, and Mortality* and *The Authenticity of Faith: The Varieties and Illusions of Religious Experience*, while he also maintains his popular blog, "Experimental Theology."
- **Jim Bear Jacobs** is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served various churches. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is a convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a committee dedicated to creating events of dialogue and education particularly within faith communities.
- **Mary Jo Leddy** is a Canadian writer, speaker, theologian and social activist. Leddy is widely recognized for her work with refugees as the director of Toronto's Romero House. In 1973, she was the founding editor of the *Catholic New Times*. She is author of a number of books, including: *At the Border Called Hope: Where Refugees are Neighbors*, *Radical Gratitude*, and *The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home*.
- **Jin S. Kim** is founding pastor & head of staff of Church of All Nations, Minneapolis, MN, a congregation with many nations and cultures represented in the membership. He also serves as field staff for Korean English Ministry in the PCUSA, coaching and advising pastors/seminarians; is an adjunct professor of homiletics at Dubuque Seminary; is on the MN Council of Churches board; and formerly served as PCUSA delegate to the National Council of Churches. He preaches and speaks widely on the ministry of reconciliation.
- **Mark Van Steenwyk** is the spokesperson and co-founder of the Mennonite Worker (an intentional community in Minneapolis, MN); one of the organizers of JesusRadicals.com and co-host/producer of the Iconocast podcast. He is the author of *That Holy Anarchist: Reflections on Christianity and Anarchism* and *The unKingdom of God: Embracing the Subversive Power of Repentance*.

Schedule

Friday Oct 4

- 1:00 Registration opens
- 1:30 Plenary I: "Sacred Sites Tour" with Jim Bear Jacobs (This event involves carpooling to a location in Minneapolis).
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 Welcome & introductions by **Jin S. Kim**.
- 7:30 Plenary I: "The Revolutionary Table" by **Mark Van Steenwyk** (followed by Q&A).
- 9:00 Fellowship

Saturday Oct 5

- 8:30 Coffee and light breakfast
- 9:00 Workshops I
- 10:30 Plenary II: "The Politics and Spirituality of Hospitality" by **Mary Jo Leddy** (followed by Q&A).
- 12:00pm Lunch at CAN
- 2:00 Workshops II
- 3:30 Plenary III: "The Will to Embrace: Hospitality as Emotional Capacity" by **Richard Beck** (followed by Q&A).
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Plenary IV: Panel discussion with plenary speakers moderated by **Jin S. Kim**.
- 8:00 End of conference. *Karaoke after party for those interested.*

(Optional) Sunday Oct 6

- 10:00am Worship at Church of All Nations
- 11:45 Lunch