

Please mail registration forms to:
Presbyterian Church of Coventry
55 Trowbridge Road
Coventry, CT 06238

THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY
CONFERENCE ON REFORMED
THEOLOGY

Location:

Register by mail or on-line at
www.cvcrt.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Home Church _____

City _____ State _____

This year's conference will be hosted at the beautiful and historic Meetinghouse of the First Church of Christ, located in the heart of Old Wethersfield, CT. The town of Wethersfield has numerous historic attractions close by. There are also many restaurants and hotels nearby. Wethersfield is located just south of Hartford. Take exit 26 off I-91. Follow signs for Old Wethersfield. The church is a large brick building with a tall white spire. There is ample parking adjacent to the church.

Calvin at 500: His Life and His Legacy



CVCRT before April 13:

Charge	Quantity	Total
\$30/person	_____	_____
\$55/couple	_____	_____

CVCRT after April 13:

Charge	Quantity	Total
\$35/person	_____	_____

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Church of Coventry*.

The Heritage of Reformed Theology

Christians from diverse denominations and backgrounds find their common root in the theological tradition of the Reformation. This tradition, Reformed Theology, is rich with theological insight and wisdom. This heritage is a source of great strength and encouragement for contemporary Christianity.

with Dr. Carl R. Trueman
and Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

April 17-18, 2009
Wethersfield, CT

An Invitation

I was drawn to the Lord in a church tradition that did not think highly of John Calvin. The minister portrayed Calvin as a stern, severe old man who had an unhealthy fixation on predestination. It took me a few years to recover from that negative image of Calvin and what he stood for. By God's grace, a better understanding of the life and legacy of John Calvin has been a great blessing in my life.

T.H.L. Parker's biography of John Calvin was a turning point for me. Parker argued that Calvin's *Institutes* "was addressed to men suffering under the pastoral cruelty of the medieval church" (*John Calvin*. Reprint, Lion Publishing: 1987, p. 43). Did he mean that Calvin was a caring pastor who loved people? Did Calvin want to help people, not punish them? Was Calvin interested in more than predestination? The answer to these questions is a happy, hearty, "Yes!"

Parker reminds us of one of Calvin's key statements: How we possess the whole Christ crucified and become partakers of all his blessings (p. 53) is the presupposition of the whole Bible and all true Christian teaching. This statement also describes the burden of Calvin's work. How could a Christian not be interested in possessing Christ and all His benefits? Calvin was sounding better to me all the time.

Much later, the opportunity to study Calvin's *Institutes* under the direction of Dr. David Calhoun, was one of the great blessings of my life. Dr. Calhoun skillfully unlocked the structure, purpose and pastoral nature of the *Institutes*. What a spiritual treasure this great work is.

In God's providence, the influence of Calvin is too great to ignore. As John T. McNeill put it, "...all modern Western history would have been unrecognizably different without the perpetual play of Calvin's influence" (*The History and Character of Calvinism*. Oxford: 1954, p. 234).

This is why we gather to celebrate the life and legacy of John Calvin in the year when the Christian world celebrates his 500th birthday!

I sincerely hope that you will join us at this year's Connecticut Valley Conference on Reformed Theology.

Pastor Brad D. Evans

Schedule

Friday, April 17th, 2008

2:30 PM Registration Opens

3:30 PM Afternoon Session

Dr. Lucas: *Grace-Centered Leadership*

6:30 PM Registration Opens

7:30 PM Evening Session

Dr. Trueman: *Calvin As Reformer*

Dr. Lucas: *Calvin's Rhetoric of Piety*

Saturday, April 5th, 2008

8:30 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM Morning Session

Dr. Trueman: *Calvin As Theologian*

Dr. Lucas: *Calvin's Doctrine of Creation*

11:30 AM Lunch

1:00 PM Afternoon Session

Q&A Session

Dr. Lucas: *Calvin on the Means of Grace*

Dr. Trueman: *Calvin and Calvinism*

The CVCRT is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Coventry with the support of other local churches.

CVCRT

55 Trowbridge Road
Coventry, CT 06238
(860) 742-7222

email: info@cvcrt.org
www.cvcrt.org

Speakers:

Dr. Carl R. Trueman



Dr. Trueman is departmental chair of Church History at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He has an MA in Classics from Cambridge University and a Ph.D. in Church History from the University of Aberdeen.

He is the editor of the IFES journal, *Themelios*, and has taught on the faculties of the University of Nottingham and the University of Aberdeen. He has authored a number of books, and was a contributor to *The Cambridge Companion to John Calvin*. Dr. Trueman was a featured speaker at the CVCRT in 2004. He and his wife, Catriona, have two sons.

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas



Dr. Lucas is Chief Academic Officer and Associate Professor of Church History at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

He received his B.A. and M.A. from Bob Jones University, and his Ph.D. from Westminster Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. He is the author of *Robert Lewis Dabney: A Southern Presbyterian Life* (2005) and *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories* (2006). Dr. Lucas is an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, and he plays shortstop for his church's softball team. He and his wife, Sara, have four children.