

Annual Conference 2010

Re-thinking "Church" . . . Renewing Christian Formation

Featuring:
Pastor Mike Erre and Dr. Scot McKnight
October 21 - 23, 2010 in Louisville, KY
Jim Dekker, Conference VP

A wise theologian once said that Christianity, unlike any other world religion, has the brilliant capacity to be culturally relevant without losing its central truths. Throughout history the Gospel has remained the same and Churches have taken the responsibility to enculturate that Gospel in the formation of the next generation. This year we have the privilege of hearing from two speakers that will help us understand the changes in the church and its impact on how we think about Christian Formation.

*Last year we said:
"We live in a time of
unprecedented
change..."*

*This year we will
consider changes taking
place in Churches across
North America, and the
challenge to renew our
approaches to Christian
Formation.*



Mike Erre comes to us from Costa Mesa CA where he is the teaching pastor among a team of pastoral staff at Rock Harbor Community. Mike is also the author of "Death By Church; Rescuing Jesus from his followers" (Harvest House 2009).



Scot McKnight is a Biblical Studies professor at North Park University; a noted speaker among new church movements and the author of: "The Blue Parakeet" (Zondervan 2008); "A Community Called Atonement" (Abingdon 2007); "Praying with the Church" (Paraclete 2006); and "Embracing Grace: A gospel for all of us" (Paraclete, 2005).

New to this year's conference is the debut of a **Research Mall**. The Research Mall will be an opportunity for participants to browse displays of current research projects and speak with researchers in a casual context. If you are interested in presenting in the Mall, please apply online through the current research project application and mention your interest in the Mall.

Visit our website www.napce.org for more information
We look forward to this year's conference and seeing you there!

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A newsletter of the
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www.napce.org



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President's Perspective

Thanksgiving Amid Change

This past year has been a trying and tumultuous ride for many of our institutions. Some have weathered the storm, while a few are suffering due to dire economic conditions. The NAPCE Board feels like we have just dodged a bullet as we reflect back on our conference in Louisville. Through the skillful negotiations of Dr. Dennis Williams, we had a great conference and managed to finish the year in the black. **We are grateful to God for getting us through** what could have been disastrous circumstances.

The 2010 conference will bring us back to The Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY for what is shaping up to be a very spirited program, led by Dr. Jim Dekker. Two dynamic communicators will address us along the theme of "Rethinking Church: Renewing Christian Formation." Scot McKnight has written several well-received books, including most recently "The Blue Parakeet." And I guarantee Pastor Mike Erre will rock your boat!

On another important note, Dr. Dennis Williams will be retiring from his post effective December 31, 2010 (see article below). I am chairing a committee tasked with finding his replacement. The qualifications include experience as a past NAPCE Board member and having served as a conference Vice President. Our goal is to have this individual selected and confirmed at our next Board meeting on October 20th. The individual will be introduced at the October 22nd Business Meeting and will begin a three-month shadowing/training experience with Dr. Williams.

I look forward to seeing you in Louisville for our next annual conference!

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2009 Conference

Highlights and Reflections

Last fall's (2009) NAPCE meeting in Louisville, Kentucky was an intimate time of learning and fellowship between familiar friends and close colleagues, along with some two dozen *first-time* NAPCE National Conference attendees. What a joy it was to gather with these choice men and women across our discipline!

The conference convened the weekend of October 15 in the historic Brown Hotel—just a stone's throw from the banks of the Ohio River, in the heart of downtown. The facilities and their appointments were outstanding, as was the hotel staff—perhaps the most attentive we have ever experienced.

Despite the challenging U.S. economic climate, this year's attendance was relatively robust and surpassed our enrollment estimates. Part of that was due to the strong commitment of our NAPCE members to this organization. There were many reported cases where members funded part or all of their trips... and that sacrifice made all of the difference. *Thank you!*

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Board Elections

Name Your Nominees!

At the NAPCE Conference this Fall, members will be electing five persons to serve on the Board of Directors for the organization. Any NAPCE member may nominate another member — or even himself or herself (self-nominations are welcome!). All nominations should be sent to Dr. Robert Drovdaahl (bdrovdaahl@spu.edu), chair of the nominating committee.

Nominees should be current and active members of NAPCE with a willingness to work, as well as a vision for the organization! Current Board members whose terms are expiring include Holly Allen, Michael Anthony, Clair Allen Budd, Freddie Cardoza, and Dennis Fledderjohann.

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Distinguished Educator Award

Zuck and Yount Receive Award

The Warren S. Benson Distinguished Educator Award was presented twice at the 2009 conference — one to Dr. Roy Zuck and one to Dr. Rick Yount. Both of these leaders were honored for their contributions to the field of Christian education.

Roy Zuck earned his undergraduate degree at Biola University, and the Th.M. and Th.D. at Dallas Theological Seminary. His dissertation was published as *The Holy Spirit in Your Teaching* and is still in print under the title *Spirit-Filled Teaching*. In presenting the award, Michael Lawson noted Roy's many writings, his 14 years at Scripture Press Publications, and his demonstration of Christian character that results from good Christian education.

[... read more ...](#)

Rick Yount began teaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981, though his ministry began at age 21 when he accepted a call to serve the deaf. He has written several volumes, including *Created to Learn* and *Called to Teach*, which many NAPCE members use as texts in their courses. For 13 years Rick has been actively contributing to the work of Christian education at seminary and local church seminars in Russia.

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Call for Papers

Have Research? Want to Present?

The NAPCE Annual Conference is a great venue for presenting current research projects. We invite proposals that address the conference theme ("Rethinking 'Church': Renewing Christian Formation") and its strands, but also other topics of general interest to NAPCE members. The research can be empirical in nature or fit more of a historical/theological model. A high quality of research workmanship is expected.

Submit your proposals via email to Jonathan.Kim@Biola.edu & CEPraxis@Gmail.com no later than **August 15th, 2010**. Proposals should be **200 words or less** and include the author's name, email address, and place of employment or college/seminary/university. Notification of acceptance will be emailed to authors by September 15th, 2010.

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Executive Administrator

Dennis Williams Announces Retirement

At the January meeting of the NAPCE Board, Dr. Dennis Williams announced his retirement as Executive Administrator of the organization, effective December 31, 2010. He had previously informed President Michael Anthony of his intentions, fulfilling the Board's request for a year's notice in order to provide for a smooth transition in this important position.

Dennis is the only person to serve in this capacity for our society, and has served now for 24 years. Nine different presidents — and many, many board members — have guided NAPCE during this time, and Dennis has been the "glue" that held things together, providing continuity and wisdom. Last year, it was largely his foresight that led the NAPCE Board to decide to re-negotiate our contract with the Brown Hotel, thus avoiding a significant loss due to economic issues affecting members' ability to attend last year's conference.

In his resignation, Dennis noted: "Needless to say I have enjoyed this role and it has been exciting to see our association grow and develop over the years.... The association is in good shape with a strong membership, a quality board of directors and adequate financial resources." Undoubtedly, much of what he affirms is due to his leadership and guidance.

The Board of Directors, under the leadership of President Michael Anthony, currently is working on the plan for identifying a successor.

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