

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN A CULTURE (AND A CHURCH) THAT THINKS IT KNOWS IT ALREADY

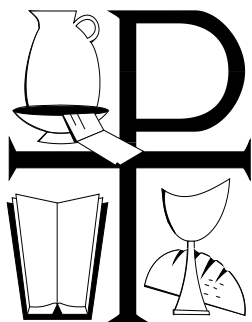
We live in a culture that is undergoing an accelerating process of secularization. We live in a church that has been culturally shaped and is now culturally disestablished. How, then, do we proclaim the gospel to people outside the church who think they already know what Christianity is about? How do we proclaim the gospel inside the church to people who imagine they have heard it all before? How do we live and what do we say that bears witness to *news* that is *good*?

We will spend time with key biblical texts and creedal affirmations in the context of social analysis as we imagine and practice new possibilities for preaching, teaching, and living the Faith.

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Suggested Reading:

- Kevin Ward, *Losing Our Religion? Changing Patterns of Believing and Belonging in Secular Western Societies*. Eugene OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.
- Richard B. Hays, *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness*. Waco TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.
- Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters*. New York NY: Doubleday, 2003.



Joseph D. Small

Joseph D. Small served as director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Theology and Worship from 1989-2011. He is now adjunct faculty at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, and church relations consultant to the Presbyterian Foundation. He serves on the board of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, and is co-chair of the international Reformed-Pentecostal Dialogue. He participates in international ecumenical consultations sponsored by the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the Centre International Reformé.

Dr. Small holds degrees from Brown University, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Louisville Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Pittsburgh Seminary, and as pastor of churches in Towson Maryland, Westerville Ohio, and Rochester New York.

Dr. Small is the author of *To Be Reformed: Living the Tradition* (2010), *Let Us Reason Together: Christians and Jews in Conversation* (2010), *Proclaiming the Great Ends of the Church* (2010), *Conversations With the Confessions* (2005), *Preservation of the Truth* (2005), *Fire and Wind: The Holy Spirit in the Church Today* (2002), *Committed Conversation* (2000), and *God and Ourselves: A Brief Exercise in Reformed Theology* (1997), and has written numerous monographs, book chapters, journal articles, study series, and theological papers.

Dr. Small is married to Valerie Kiriishi Small, a Presbyterian ruling elder who serves as an Assistant Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. She manages the General Assembly nominations process. They are the parents of four children – Kalen, Doug, Jennifer, and Carly.

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