

Presbyterian Convocation

Our Freedom of Religion at Risk: A Presbyterian Crisis

February 19, 2009 from 2:00 – 5:30 pm (EST)

Convocation Outline

2:00 – 2:10 PM

Introduction

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Portz, Associate Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery

Welcome

The Rev. Cynthia Reyes-Filmore, Pastor to Beulah United Presbyterian Church

Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Don Ewing, Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery

2:10 – 2:30 PM

The Westminster Assembly

The biblical basis for Presbyterianism and rejection of Congregationalism by Dr. Joseph Small, director, Theology, Worship and Education Ministries, Presbyterian Church (USA), Louisville, KY

2:30 – 2:50 PM

Q & A for the speakers from local groups and internet host sites.

Note: remote sites may submit questions (click on tab “Ask a Question”) via the internet to see and hear the speaker answer their question.

2:50 – 3:15 PM

Covenant and Freedom of Conscience

The historic tensions between Scottish and Scots-Irish Presbyterianism by Dr. Euan Cameron, Professor of Reformation Church History and vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY

3:15 – 3:40 PM

The Adopting Act of 1729

The colonial application of freedom of conscience under the rubric of scrupling and its historical limits by Dr. Beau Weston, professor of sociology, Centre College, Danville, KY and author of “Leading From the Center, Strengthening the Pillars of the Church”

3:40 – 4:00 PM

Group discussion time

A discussion guide can be found at www.presbyterianconvocation.org.

4:00 – 4:10 PM

Q & A for the speakers from local groups and internet host sites.

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4:10 – 4:15 PM

Break

4:15 – 4:35 PM

Religious Liberty: A Legal History

Deference and neutral principle doctrines in Constitutional interpretation by attorney the Rev. Mark Tammen, J.D., director of constitutional services, Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church, (USA), Louisville, KY

4:35 – 4:55 PM

The Application of Neutral Principles Congregation-based Claims to Property

The Rev. Jeff Tindall, pastor of Carnegie (PA) Presbyterian Church and attorney of counsel on mediation and alternative dispute resolution

5:00 – 5:20 PM

Q & A for the speakers from local groups and internet host sites.

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5:20 – 5:30 PM

Summary

The Rev. Dr. John Lolla, Pastor to The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek

Closing Remarks

The Rev. Dr. Douglas Portz