

A Note from M. Douglas Meeks:

In a very short time we will be gathering at Somerville College, Oxford, singing, "Are We Yet Alive." I do believe a lively experience awaits us. Here are a few notes on the programme.

As in 1992 there will be a Pre-Institute Conference of Two-Thirds World Members. The conference is designed to give participants an opportunity to get to know each another on a deeper level and to discuss the Institute themes from the various contexts of the Two-Thirds World. The conference will be convened by George Mulrain. We look forward to their report on Wednesday evening.

A new feature at this Institute will be Interdisciplinary Group sessions in which on six occasions two Working Groups will be paired to discuss the themes of the Institute across the disciplines. These sessions will begin with a consideration of one paper from each Working Group. Each paper will have been discussed in the Working Group of which the author is a member. Prior to the

Interdisciplinary session a one- or two-page précis of both papers will be shared with the members of both Groups. The objective in the Interdisciplinary sessions is not so much to give further scholarly analysis of the papers as to deal at the interface of the disciplines with the general questions facing the church and its mission as raised by the papers and emerge in the respective disciplines. The Working Group conveners and paper writers will provide questions and guidance for the discussion.

Most days at the Institute will follow this agenda: Morning worship will be at 7:15 to 8:00 in the Chapel (see the worship schedule on pp. 3-4 of this issue of *OXFORDnotes*); there will be a plenary lecture at 9:00 in Wicks auditorium; coffee will be at 10:45; Working Groups or Interdisciplinary Sessions will meet at 11:15 to 1:00 PM; there will be free time from 2:00 to 4:00; tea at 4:00; Working Groups or Interdisciplinary Sessions at 4:30 to 6:30; dinner at 7:00; at 8:15 on several evenings there will be a variety of events, including ecumenical dialogues, a celebration of various cultural expressions from

across the world (come prepared!), and an opportunity for various academic and church societies or individuals to share what they are doing. Evening Prayers will be in the Chapel at 9:30.

On Sunday the Institute worship service will be held at Wesley Memorial Church. Bishop Kenneth Carder will be the preacher and members of the Institute will be liturgists. We hope that all Institute members will take part in this service, so please make your plans accordingly. On Friday evening, August 15th, we will have a celebration to inaugurate the Dow and Marjorie Kirkpatrick lectureship. The Institute banquet will be held on Thursday evening, August 21, at 7:00. There will also be several excursions about which members have already been informed.

The conveners of the Working Groups are: **Biblical Studies**: Bruce Birch and Katheryn Darr; **Contextual Theology**: Mary Elizabeth Moore and Rui Josgrilberg; **Ecclesiology and Oikoumene**: Theodore Runyon and Norman Young; **Evangelism**: Steve Gunter and Raquel Caceres; **Global Mission and Political Economy**: David Deeks and Philip Wogaman; **History of Wesleyan Traditions (19th and 20th**

Centuries): Russell Richey and Jean Miller Schmidt; **Practical Theology**: Pamela Couture and Manfred Marquardt; **Spirituality and Discipleship**: David Lowes Watson and Roberta Bondi; **Systematic Theology**: Randy Maddox and Josiah Young; **Wesley Studies**: Ted Campbell and Hoo-Jung Lee. Lecturers are: Roberta Bondi, José Miguez Bonino, Jürgen Moltmann, Gabriel Setiloane, Philip Wogaman, and Frances Young. Lorna Khoo and Karen Westerfield Tucker are planning worship.

Until we meet in Oxford, God's peace be upon you and travel well!

M. Douglas Meeks
Wesley Theological Seminary

A Note from Timothy Macquiban:

Could members of the Institute please note that there is no accommodation available at Somerville after the close of the conference. You may wish to book further accommodation elsewhere when in residence.

The telephone/fax number at Somerville for incoming messages during the Institute is Oxford (1865-270689). Otherwise, during the week, messages could be left on 1865-253359 or 247644 Ext. 5366 at the

Wesley and Methodist Studies Centre.

Those arriving by coach or train from airports or London will arrive at Gloucester Green Coach Station or Oxford Rail Station. You should get a taxi to Somerville which is on Woodstock Road and a ten minute walk from these.

Please ensure that the balance of your fees can be paid in sterling by check or cash. We cannot accept credit cards.

We look forward to your arrival. Any late minute changes in accommodation requirements should be notified to Jenny Impey (Tel/Fax. 181-672-8387)

Tim Macquiban,
Westminster College Oxford

Work: Tel: 01865-247644 Ext. 5359 (study) or Ext. 5291 (Theology Office where message can be left) or Ext. 4253 (home). Home: Tel: 01865-242665; best between 6 PM and 7 PM or after 10 PM.

INSTITUTE
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday 12 August

Night Devotions: The Methodist Church, UK and Ireland: Rev. Dr. John Newton.

Wednesday 13 August

Morning Eucharist: United Methodist Church: Rev. Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker; *Night Devotions:* Methodist from Africa: Rev. Grace Imathiu.

Thursday 14 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists from Latin America: (to be confirmed); *Night Devotions:* Methodists from Europe: Bishop Walter Klaiber.

Friday 15 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists from Asia: Rev. Gah-Hing Ting; *Night Devotions:* Methodists from the Uniting and United Churches (Australia and Canada): Rev. Dr. Norman Young.

Saturday 16 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists representing the sacramental tradition (Order of St. Luke and Methodist Sacramental Fellowship): Rev. Dr. Ron Anderson.

Sunday 17 August

WORSHIP AT WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford.

Monday 18 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists from Africa: Rev Grace Imathiu; *Night Devotions:* United Methodist Church: Rev. Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker.

Tuesday 19 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists from Europe: Bishop Walter Klaiber; *Night Devotions:* Methodists from Asia: Rev. Navreen Rao.

Wednesday 20 August

Morning Eucharist: Methodists representing the evangelical and charismatic traditions: Rev. Dr. Bob Tuttle; *Night Devotions:* Methodists from Latin America: (to be confirmed).

Thursday 21 August

Morning Eucharist: The Methodist Church in UK and Ireland: Rev. Dr. John Newton.

Friday 22 August

Morning Prayer: Methodists from the South Pacific, New Zealand and Tonga: Rev. Tevita Sinhengalu. CLOSING SERVICE: Rev. Dr. Karen Westerfield-Tucker.

OXFORD INSTITUTE WORSHIP COORDINATORS: Rev. Dr. Karen

Westerfield Tucker; Rev. Lorna Khoo.

working groups**Practical Theology**

The new working section on practical theology will feature papers on liturgy, pastoral care, ministerial formation, literature and art, religious education, and evangelism. These papers all have in view the theology of contemporary praxis and draw on a range of historical and contemporary materials. The working group will engage in special conversations centered on two published documents: the Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty: Biblical and Theological Foundations (found at <http://www.umc.org/bishops/>) and the new accrediting standards of the Association of Theological Schools (found at <http://www.ats.edu>).

- Pamela Couture

Biblical Studies Working Group

The Biblical Studies Working Group has generated considerable interest for this summer's Oxford Institute. An unusually large number of papers

have been proposed, and their diverse topics and perspectives promise lively sessions for our days together.

The topics in the area of Hebrew Bible include:

- *God, Community, and Power in the Psalms*
- *God and Wisdom: The Power of Relationship*
- *Divine Power and Human Politics: Saul's Rejection as King of Israel*
- *Doctrine of God in Exodus 6:1-5 (Religious Pluralism)*
- *Power, Otherness, and Gender in the Biblical Short Stories*
- *God's Role in the World: The Informing but Disturbing Description in Job*

In New Testament the topics include:

- *Faith as Historical Challenge*
- *The Character of God and Community in the New Testament*
- *Paul and Power, Revisited*
- *Spirit, Community and Power According to the Acts of the Apostles*
- *Trinity, Community and Power in 1 Cor. 15*

- *Unity in Diversity: Accepting Those Who Are Wrong, Romans 14:1-15:13*

Some topics may relate to both testaments:

- *Narrative as Power: The Dialogue Between the Biblical Stories and Our Own Stories*
- *Salvation as a Central Message of the Bible*

Papers to be Offered in the Wesley Studies Group

Tom **Albin**, paper on Trinity in Charles Wesley's Hymns

Ted A. **Campbell**, "Classical Trinity and Evangelical Personality: Towards a Wesleyan Doctrine of God"

Kenneth J. **Collins**, "The Reconfiguration of Power: The Basic Trajectory in Wesleyan Theology"

Ann M. **Dallenbach**, paper on John Wesley and the ordination of women in Wesleyan communities

R. Bruce **Johnson**, "The 'Whole Economy of Grace': Trinity and Perfection in the Wesleyan Trinitarian Hymns"

Hong Ki **Kim**, "John Wesley and the Jubilee Movement"

Hoo-Jung **Lee**, "Jubilee and Spirituality in John Wesley"

W. Thomas **Madron**, "Eucharistic Practices in Wesley's Societies"

K. Steven **McCormick**, "Transcripts of the Trinity: The Mystery and Meaning of Persons"

Tore **Meistad**, "Towards a Textbook in Systematic Theology and Ethics in the Wesleyan Tradition: A Methodological Discussion"

W. Douglas **Mills**, paper on Robert Cushman on Predestination and Divine Grace

Victor A. **Shepherd**, paper on Wesley's Doctrine of Christian Perfection

Patrick **Streiff**, "Trinitarian Teaching in Fletcher of Madeley"

John L. **Topolewski**, "Mr. Wesley's Trust Clause: Methodism in the Vernacular"

Emmanuel **Vargas Alavez**, "Empowering Community through Trinitarian Worship"

Oxford in the History of Christianity

Oxford University has been the scene of many events and movements in the history of Christianity. The

University grew from a collection of monastic houses near the site of the old St. Frideswide's Abbey (the old abbey grounds are now part of Christ Church college). In the fourteenth century, John Wycliffe was warden of a now-defunct Oxford "Hall" until he was ejected by the Bishop of Oxford and began his crusade for the reform of medieval Catholicism.

During the Protestant Reformation, Oxford was the scene of the public execution of Protestant bishops Ridley, Latimer, and Cranmer. A cross in Broad Street marks the site where they were burned at the stake, and the nearby Martyrs' Memorial commemorates them.

In the seventeenth-century struggles between "Cavaliers" and "Roundheads," Oxford sided with the Crown against Parliament. One of the windows of Lincoln College has an image of Christ crucified, and a charge brought against Archbishop William Laud for his execution was that he had "erected a crucifix" in Lincoln College, possibly a reference to this window. The lead around Christ's head, in this image, is very heavy, giving rise to the local legend (undocumented) that it was poked out by a pikestaff wielded by one of Cromwell's soldiers.

In the eighteenth century, of course, Oxford is known as the place where Methodism “first arose.” John Wesley’s father, Samuel, had been a scholar at New Inn Hall, no longer in existence but on the street where Oxford’s Wesley Memorial Church is now located. John and Charles were both scholars at Christ Church, and John later became Fellow of Lincoln College.

In the nineteenth century, the University was the center of the “Oxford” or “Tractarian” movement, and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, where John and Wesley had preached, provided the venue for sermons by Keble, Newman, Pusey and others.

- Ted Campbell

Gutenberg’s Gift: The Case for Distributing Papers in Advance

The editor of *Oxford Notes* in a previous issue ventured his stimulating opinion that papers ought not be read in advance but presented for the first time orally in the sessions. Although our choice does not grow out of a carefully considered pedagogy, we have consciously chosen to go a different route and have papers distributed in advance and read beforehand as much as this proves possible. Considering the

large number of papers and the limited time for many working group sessions (some only 1 hour and 15 minutes) we would be severely hampered by having papers read in their entirety in our sessions. We would either be forced to limit what promises to be a very diverse and lively discussion or to reject some of the proposals for papers. We have chosen to use our time in brief highlighting of papers that most, we believe, will have read, followed by interaction in the group. This format proved very successful in the last Oxford Institute Biblical Studies working group largely because the backgrounds and experience of the group members was so richly diverse. We believe from our list of members this will be the case again. Although we are grateful for the stimulus provided by thoughtful papers, we believe that the maximized opportunity for exchange between the discussants may be the real goal of the Oxford Institute enterprise.

Katheryn Pfisterer Darr,
Bruce C. Birch,
Co-Convenors, Biblical Studies
Group



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