

February 2 – 16

Fifty Years as a Covenant Historian: Reflections on What I Have Learned and Taught

Speaker:
Dr. Philip J. Anderson

Professor Emeritus of Church History
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago

Introduction:



This series explores themes of interest: Covenant historians amid continuity and change; recent anniversaries (Northwest Conference, the first Covenant

congregations in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Salem's place in the story); and the foundational Covenant value of harmony and liberty in congregational life. Some key historical turning points will be identified—what David Nyvall, first president of North Park, called “convictions too strong to be silenced.”

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Anderson taught church history and theology at North Park from 1979-2013. Raised at First Covenant, Minneapolis, he and his wife Karna (First Covenant, St. Paul) divide their time between homes in Marine on St. Croix and Hovland on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

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**SUNDAY
LECTURE SERIES
Winter 2024-2025**



salem
COVENANT CHURCH



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's good will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.
Romans 12:2

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November 17–December 1

***Dominance and Dissent:
Christians, Culture, and Power from
the Early Church to the Reformation***

Speakers:

Dr. Andrea Sterk & Dr. Howard Louthan
Professors of History,
University of MN, Minneapolis, MN

Introduction:



Throughout history, Christians have faced dilemmas over relationship to culture and power. Jesus urges believers to be “not of the world,” what does

this actually mean? How should Christians relate to the imperfect world, and engage with a dominant non-Christian culture? How should we respond to the power and authority of the state? What happens when Christians hold positions of political power? We will examine how Christians have responded to these questions in remarkably different ways.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Louthan and Dr. Sterk teach courses in the History of Christianity. Their concern: how contemporary US Christians thoughtfully respond to our divided society and live with integrity in an increasingly polarized political world.

December 8–15 & January 5

***Christ through Four Gospel
Portraits: John***

Speaker:

Dr. Juan Hernandez, Jr.
Professor of New Testament and Early
Christianity,
Bethel University, St. Paul, MN

Introduction:



This particular class will explore the distinct historical, literary, and theological contributions of John’s Gospel to the question of the identity and

mission of Jesus for its earliest Christian readership. Detailed and extensive comparisons will be made with the other Gospels to cast John’s contribution into bold relief.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Hernandez’ expertise is New Testament and early Christianity, with a special interest in New Testament Textual Criticism. He is an author and editor for the Society of Biblical Literature’s *Text-Critical Studies* series and serves on the Editorial Boards of three journals.

January 12–26

***Bible Translations and
Translating***

Speaker:

Dr. Kristofer Phan Coffman
Assistant Professor of New Testament,
Luther Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota

Introduction:



In this series, we will explore the great variety of Biblical translations available in English to answer questions such as: Where do they come from? What goes into producing a biblical translation? We will dig into the history of translation and contemporary translation efforts around the world.

Speaker Bio:

BA in Religion and Nordic Studies, St. Olaf College. MDiv from Luther Seminary & PhD in Classical and Near Eastern Religion and Cultures, University of Minnesota. He is the first Cambodian to receive a doctorate in biblical studies. His first book, *Harrowing the Field: Towards a Postagrarian Analysis of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark* is forthcoming in Brill’s Biblical Interpretation series.