



36th Annual Rural Ministry Conference



EVENT REGISTRATION FORM | March 5-7, 2017

Crisis & Conflict

Wartburg Theological Seminary for Theology & Land | Dubuque, Iowa

Location:

All sessions at Best Western Plus Hotel in Dubuque

Accommodations:

To make hotel reservations at the \$80 group rate (plus local and state tax) contact Best Western at (800) 336-4392 and use group name Rural Ministry Conference by February 14th.

Registration:

Registration is limited to the first 200 people and includes lunches and dinners. Does not include lodging.

Early bird rate due by Feb 3rd:

1 person: \$170

2 or more: \$150/person

Standard is due by Feb 27:

1 person: \$ 185

2 or more: \$165/per person

SAVE \$50!

If you are a pastor who has been serving in a rural congregation for less than 5 years, you save \$50!

Register at

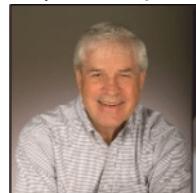
www.wartburgseminary.edu

Partially Funded by:

The Ester and Carl Merklein Foundation

2017 LEADERS AND SPEAKERS:

Keynote Speaker: Val Farmer



Dr. Val Farmer is a well-known clinical psychologist and syndicated columnist, specializing in rural mental health and family relationships. His professional background includes a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona in 1976 and thirty-one years of counseling experience in North and South Dakota. Besides his work with marital relationships and rural mental health issues, Dr. Farmer has developed mediation and conflict resolution consultation services to family businesses, particularly farm and ranch families in business together. Dr. Farmer published a syndicated weekly newspaper column from 1984 -2012 that was carried numerous newspapers in United States and Canada including Iowa Farmer Today.

Bible Study Leader: Craig Nesson



Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson is Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He teaches courses in the areas of contextual theology, pastoral theology, and theological ethics. Dr. Nesson has served eleven years as a parish pastor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cape Girardeau, Missouri. In addition to other articles, reviews, and books, Dr. Nesson is the author of *Shalom Church: The Body of Christ as Ministering Community* (2010), *Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation* (2010, Revised Edition), and *Transforming Leadership: New Vision for a Church in Mission* (2008—with Norma Cook Everist).

Plenary Speaker: Mary Swander

Mary Swander is the Poet Laureate of the State of Iowa. She has published over thirteen books of poetry and non-fiction, in addition to plays, radio and television scripts and magazine articles. She has appeared in such places as The New York Times Magazine, National Public Radio, The New Yorker, and Poetry Magazine. Swander's plays *Driving the Body Back*, *Vang*, and *Farmscape* have toured the U.S. including a performance for Secretary Tom Vilsack and his staff at the U.S.D.A. Swander lives and raises most of her own food on a small acreage in the Amish settlement near Kalona, Iowa. She has experienced three generations of land transition within her own family.

Plenary Speaker: Jean Sullivan



Jean Sullivan has served as co-pastor and teacher at the United Church (UCC/UMC) of Monticello, Iowa since 1999. Project Coordinator, Heart & Soul Monticello, community development and renewal process to enhance positive relationships and decision making in small rural communities. She has been a team member, principal investigator and presenter around the issues of adverse childhood experiences.

Our Workshops

"Going Deeper with the Speaker"

Val Farmer

"Help! I'm Buried in My Stuff"

Amy Larson

Let's get real about our stuff, both mental and physical. We will discover how to become aware of lies, limiting beliefs, and negative self-talk as well as how to capture, redirect and replace thoughts. There will also be tips for physical decluttering.

"Landscape Listening"

Martha Brunell

In our rural and small town contexts, the created world is often close at hand. Within the particular breath of creation where we are grounded, we can experience what Celtic Christians referred to as the second book of scripture, the one in which we walk. There we can discover sacred space, spiritual companionship and mentoring, openings into the sense of God with us, moments of praise and awe, patterns for liturgy, and rhythms of prayer.

"Differentiated Leadership in the Midst of Change and Conflict"

Carol Stufflebeam

The world around us is in constant change. In this workshop we will briefly look at some of the history of change in our country and how that has had an impact upon the life of the church. Cultural changes and other issues of conflict can produce tension and division in the church. We recognize that our response affects the church as a whole. Leadership is a key element in helping the church not only maneuver difficult times but to journey forward to serve Christ. One style of leading is differentiated leadership. We will address some key elements of this style of leading.

"Conflict Resolution – We Can't Get Along Without It"

A Series of 3 Workshops

Elan Hacker

Workshop I

Conflict: Who needs it!

What to do with it and how it can even be a good thing!

Conflict resolution Skills: Deep listening, helping people "speak themselves present" (facilitating self-assurance and continued involvement) Creating spaces for healthy interaction, Learning how different people perceive and respond to conflict

Workshop II

Conflict: Everybody's Got It!

Where two or more are gathered together...

Conflict Resolution Skills: Honoring the Other, Dissecting a conflict: How to, and why we need to, Avoiding avoidance

Workshop III

Conflict: Not just Fight or Flight

Fellowship is still an option!

Workshop Leaders

Amy Larson - has been an office manager, direct sales leader and life coach. Her ministry has included children's music, women's ministry and speaking on physical and mental decluttering. She and her husband Doug live in rural Appleton, MN.

Martha Brunell – Reverend Doctor Martha Brunell is an experienced pastor in the United Church of Christ, spiritual director, retreat and workshop leader, and writer. Over the course of her ministry she also co-founded a domestic violence agency, served as a hospice chaplain, wrote curriculum, and taught adjunct at Eden Seminary and Aquinas Institute of Theology in Saint Louis. She is currently the pastor of Mayfield Congregational UCC in Sycamore, IL, has an active spiritual direction practice, and leads a number of retreats and workshops across several states.

Carol Stufflebeam – Carol has served rural churches since 1997 and has special training in conflict transformation and healthy congregations. She currently serves Virginia United Methodist Church in Virginia, IL.

Elan Hacker – Elan is a transplanted southerner, swapping the city life and ocean for the joys of rural living and Minnesota sunrises, 36 years ago. She is currently serving 3 churches in Southwestern MN and 1 in South Dakota as Vicar.

Conference Schedule:

Please note: All sessions take place at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 3100 Dodge Street, Dubuque, IA. A more detailed schedule will be available to all registrants.

Sunday, March 5, 2017

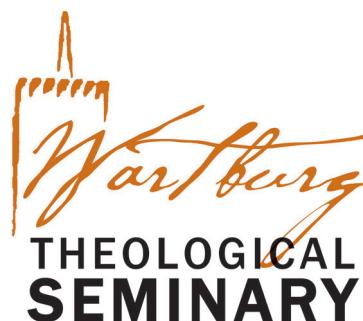
3 p.m.	Registration Begins
6:00 p.m.-8 p.m.	Dinner and Presentation by Val Farmer

Monday, March 6, 2017

9:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	General Session
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Workshops. Note a series of 3 workshops on conflict will be offered that could be a good series of adult education forums in the congregation.
6:00 p.m.	<i>Dinner</i>
7:00 p.m.	Presentation of the play, Map of My Kingdom, by Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander. Performed by Maria Vorhis.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

9 a.m.-Noon	General Session and closing worship
	Tuesday Lunches and Farewell



Register at www.wartburgseminary.edu



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Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Confirmations will be sent electronically, if email is provided.

Church Name _____ Denomination _____

I would like Continuing Education Credits YES NO *One continuing education credit is available.*

Please check here if you are traveling to Dubuque by plane and need transportation between your accommodations and the conference.

Workshops - Please choose your top three workshops:

"Help! I'm Buried in My Stuff"
 "Landscape Listening"
 "Differentiated Leadership in the Midst of Change and Conflict"

"Going Deeper with the Speaker"

"Conflict Resolution - We Can't Get Along Without It - A Series of 3 Workshops"

"Conflict: Who Needs It!"
 "Conflict: Everybody's Got It!"
 "Conflict: Not just Fight or Flight"

Registration Fees

(Conference fees include **lunches and dinners**)

Early Bird fees: (due by February 3, 2017):

1st person - \$170, 2 people or more - \$150/person

\$ _____

For group rates copy form, complete and mail together. Return forms for early bird registration by Feb. 3, 2017. Standard registration is due by Feb. 27, 2017. Cancellations made after March 1 may receive only partial refunds.

Standard fees: (due by February 27, 2017):

1st person - \$185, 2 people or more - \$165/person

\$ _____

Registration option for Monday Workshops only:

(includes worship, banquet, keynote), \$50/per person

\$ _____

Please note: In order to emphasize the importance of informal discussion and fellowship during mealtimes, the cost of registration and meals has been combined.

SAVE \$50!

Subtract \$50 from total if you have been serving in a rural congregation for less than 5 years.

\$ _____

Special meal needs: _____

Total: \$ _____

Method of payment: Check Visa MasterCard Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Cardholder Address _____

Mail registration and payment to:

Center for Theology & Land
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52003

Please make checks payable to Center for Theology & Land

or register at www.wartburgseminary.edu