

“In the funerals of the departed, accompany them with singing, if they were faithful in Christ, for precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Apostolic Constitutions, c. 385 A.D.

Saturday, November 16

- 8:30 a.m. Registration**
- 9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Plenary Session:**
**“Accompany Them with Singing:
Re-claiming the Christian Funeral”**
Dr. Thomas Long
- Break**
- 11 a.m.-noon Plenary Session:**
A Conversation
Long and Ferguson will converse for a few minutes about Long’s plenary address, then open it up for questions from the audience.
Dr. Thomas Long and Dr. John Ferguson
- Lunch**
- 1-1:45 p.m. Hymn Sing**
- 2-2:45 p.m. Concurrent Workshops**
“An Anabaptist Response: A Panel Discussion”
Consider how Anabaptist history, theology, ethics and biblical interpretation shape a response to the plenary presentations. Where is there agreement, and where is there tension between these perspectives?
- “Bedside Liturgy: Rituals of Healing and Dying”**
Explore rituals at the time of death, such as the use of music and scripture, anointing and care of the body.

- 3-3:45 p.m. Concurrent Workshops**
**“Telling Our Funeral Stories:
Panel Discussion of Pastors and an Undertaker”**
An interdenominational group of pastors and a funeral director discuss both positive and difficult funeral experiences. What questions do they wrestle with, and what hope do they experience?
- “Medical Ethics and End-of-Life Planning”**
How do our decisions while we are living reflect our theology of death and dying? What tensions or challenges do we face? How do we integrate a life-affirming ethic, an acceptance of death, and faith in the resurrection?
- “The Church Musician at Weddings and Funerals”**
Building on concepts explored in our morning sessions, **Ferguson** discusses the responsibilities of the church musician at what can be difficult times for the people most directly involved. How do we assist them and honor our fundamental Christian precepts? How do we interact with our clergy colleagues at these challenging times for the people involved? Are there ways we can help people be better prepared for planning these services?
- 4-4:30 p.m. Artist Presentation**
“Inconsolable”
Ann Resnick
Resnick’s recent art explores the transitory nature of life and our connections to others. **“Inconsolable,”** her November exhibition in the Bethel College Fine Arts Center Gallery, includes work that focuses on themes of commemoration and renewal.
- 4:30 p.m. Refreshments and Meet the Artist**
- 6-7 p.m. Supper**
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Service**
“A Thousand Ages”
John Ferguson
Ponder the paradox we call time through a service of word and song, featuring a sermon **“Learning How to Tell Time”** by **Long**, organ music, the Bethel College Concert Choir and singers from area churches.



Thomas G. Long is Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta. A Presbyterian minister, Dr. Long has served churches in Georgia and New Jersey. He has taught preaching for more than 30 years – at Erskine Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and, since 2000, at Candler. Dr. Long is the author of textbooks on preaching and worship, collections of sermons and biblical commentaries on Matthew and Hebrews. His most recent books are *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral* (2009) and *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith* (2011).



John Ferguson is Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Professor of Organ and Church Music and Cantor to the Student Congregation at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. His responsibilities include directing the church music-organ program, teaching organ and conducting the St. Olaf Cantorei. Each year, he prepares and leads many festivals across the country, both for local congregations and professional gatherings. Dr. Ferguson is the author of numerous books and articles on church music and organ building. He has been invited to design and present hymn festivals for national and regional conventions of both the American Guild of Organists and the American Choral Directors Association as well as many national gatherings of church musicians.



Ann Resnick is an artist and arts advocate who for 10 years operated the Project Gallery out of a warehouse in Wichita, showcasing the work of local artists as well as artists from around the country. Working as a printmaker and installation artist, Resnick has a long history of exhibitions stretching from Maine to New Mexico to Japan. She draws on the human impulse to mark the passing of family and friends but goes a step further, incorporating fragments of newspaper obituaries in her work as a way to mark the lives of strangers as well.

“Reading the obituary pages of the local newspaper,” she says, “reminds me that although most people never achieve the proverbial 15 minutes of fame, most do have passionate interests and loving families, most do charitable work, support and build communities, work too hard and die too young. This should be commemorated.”



The Fine Arts Center Gallery will be open Saturday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

or complete this form and mail to:

Mary Regier
Development Office
Bethel College
300 E. 27th St.
North Newton, KS 67117-1716

**For more information,
call 316-284-5250 or
e-mail mary@bethelks.edu**

\$50

For all or part of the symposium. Includes lunch and supper. Event is free for all Bethel faculty and staff, as well as Hesston and Bethel students. Lunch and dinner are available in the cafeteria for the regular faculty/staff and student prices. **Use one form per registrant.** Photocopy as needed or fill out online.

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