

STRENGTHENING RURAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE



Rural Ministry Today

# Retooling the Toolbox

COLUMBIA  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

**SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2009**

## Keynote Speaker **Betty Grit**

*Program manager of the Worship Renewal Grants for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI.*

Drawing from 10 years experience working with nearly 600 congregations of different denominations and sizes, she will share practical examples of strategies and tools that support and encourage ministry

## Special Lecture **Rodger Nishioka**

*Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary*

Nishioka focuses on equipping pastors to be teachers and leaders in the church's educational ministry. He is particularly interested in building a congregation's youth and young adult ministries.

## Workshops

**The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship**

**Kimberly Bracken Long**

*Assistant Professor of Worship and Coordinator of Worship Resources for Congregations, Columbia Theological Seminary*

**Toolbox for the Commons**

**Trace Haythorn**

*President, The Fund for Theological Education*

**Reclaiming the Tool of Self-Care**

**Bonnie Orth**

*2009 Rural Ministry Fellow*

**Stewardship**

**Tom Tewell**

*Executive Director, Macedonian Ministries*

# REGISTER BY AUGUST 22, 2009

## Schedule

### September 22

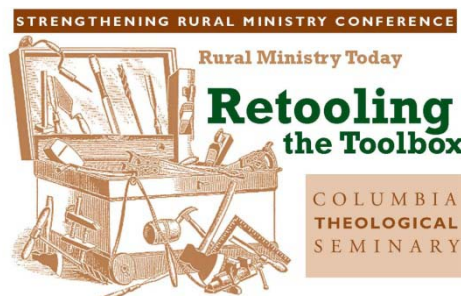
- 1:30 Welcome and orientation; introductions
- 2:00 Plenary Session with Betty Grit
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 Worship
- Free Evening

### September 23

- 8:45 Lecture by Rodger Nishioka
- 10:00 Morning Prayer
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Workshops I
- 12:30 Lunch discussion moderated by Betty Grit  
"Sharing Our Most Useful Tools"
- 2:00 Workshops II  
(repeat of morning workshops)
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 Panel Discussion
- 5:15 Evening Prayer
- Free Evening

### September 24

- 8:30 Case Study Groups
- 9:45 Case Study Reporting
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Concluding Plenary with Betty Grit
- 11:45 Closing Worship with Eucharist
- 12:30 Conference Concludes



## Cost

\$165 (includes 2 lunches; lodging not included). Generous funding by congregations and individuals supports the Rural Ministry Initiative, including the Rural Ministry Fellowship, Scholars, and conference.

*Limited housing is available on campus. You may reserve housing online or by phone.*

## Registration

<http://www.ctsnet.edu/LL/Events.aspx>  
Scroll down to September 22, 2009. Please register for the [EVENT](#) and [HOUSING](#) if you wish to stay on campus.

Register by **AUGUST 22, 2009**

[www.ctsnet.edu](http://www.ctsnet.edu) > Lifelong Learning

## Contact

404.687.4587

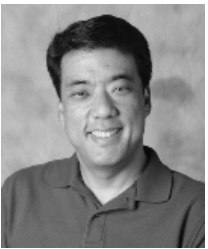
[roperp@ctsnet.edu](mailto:roperp@ctsnet.edu)

## Featured Presenters



**Betty Grit** is manager of the Worship Renewal Grants Program for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Now in its tenth year, the Worship Renewal Grants have partnered with nearly 600 congregations in North America.

She brings her experience in planning and leading worship, publication development, and teaching to play as she encourages others in the work of ministry. Her responsibilities include administering all aspects of the grants program. A graduate of Calvin College and a lifelong member of the Christian Reformed Church, Betty has served as organist, choir and worship planner in several congregations and denominations.



**Rodger Nishioka** is the Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. An elder in the PC (USA), Nishioka is a frequently-requested speaker and preacher. Nishioka focuses

on equipping pastors to be teachers and leaders in the church's educational ministry. He is particularly interested in building a congregation's youth and young adult ministries. He is working on two books which will be published by Westminster John Knox: *@ Church? Ministry with Young Adults* and *Youth in the Bible*. A revision of *The Roots of Who We Are* is also underway, to be published by Witherspoon Street Press. He received the PhD from Georgia State University in Social and Cultural Foundations of Education.

## Workshop Leaders



**Trace Haythorn** joined FTE as president from his position as director of the Vocation and Values program at Hastings College, one of the national

Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV) funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. After joining the Hastings College faculty in 2003 as

assistant professor of religion, Haythorn created the college's Center for Servant Leadership, which encourages students to serve as catalysts for change and builders of sustainable communities. Previously, Haythorn was associate pastor for adult education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. He also served as co-pastor of Toorak Uniting Church in Melbourne, Australia, and as chaplain at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y. Haythorn, who was ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1992, holds a Ph.D. in the cultural foundations of education from Syracuse University, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and psychology from Austin College.

### Toolbox from the Commons

*Once upon a time, towns were built around a square or commons. It was the place where a town could gather to hear news, debate issues, support one another, or come together around a common cause. In many ways, the internet has become our new commons. But in smaller communities, the church can and does function as such a place. How can rural pastors develop their local church as the commons for their larger community? What are some of the opportunities, challenges and tools that make such practices life-giving and nurturing to a town? We will explore these issues and look at a few cases where the church has become – or failed to become – the new commons.*



**Bonnie Orth** graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2001 with a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained by the Albany Presbytery in October of 2001. She earned a Master of

Science degree in Health Care Administration from Russell Sage College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Management, Business Administration and Accounting from Empire State College. Her pre-ministry career was in healthcare. Bonnie serves as pastor of the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church and as Pastoral Care Coordinator of Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home. She has a passion for mission and is very active in

domestic violence and sexual abuse work locally, nationally and internationally.

### **Reclaiming the Tool of Self-Care**

*"And the second commandment is like the first; you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Mt 22:39).*

*How often do pastors focus on only the first part of this scripture and completely ignore the second? How often do you feel like you have nothing left to give and yet you keep giving? Have you ever felt guilty about taking time for yourself when you know you still have a million things to do? This workshop will focus on giving some practical tools for self-care to help balance a healthy concern for others while equally prioritizing one's own self-care.*



### **Kimberly Bracken Long**

serves as Assistant Professor of Worship and Coordinator of Worship Resources for Congregations at Columbia Theological Seminary, and as editor of *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts*. She received the PhD in Liturgical Studies from Drew University, and has served in the office of Theology and Worship for the PCUSA and as pastor of churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She is a contributor to *Feasting on the Word* lectionary commentary series and the author of two books. *The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship* to be published in Sept. 2009 and *Ravished with the Love of Christ: The Eucharistic Theology of the American Holy Fairs* to be in late 2009.

### **Sustaining The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship**

*Long will draw from her experience as worship and workshop leader, teacher and preacher and from her book by the same name to lead participants to take stock of the tools in their worship leadership toolbox and consider some helpful additions to it.*



**Tom Tewell** is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned a Masters of Divinity Degree. He received a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Drew Theological School and has served as the Senior

Pastor of several churches in New Jersey, Texas and New York City. Tom has taught seminars on Preaching, Leadership and Stewardship at Princeton, San Francisco, Pittsburgh and Drew Theological Seminaries and has is an experienced conference and retreat leader. Tom currently serves as Executive Director of Macedonian Ministries, a ministry of renewal in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. This renewal ministry focuses on helping congregations with 150 or fewer people in worship to grow spiritually, numerically and in their commitment to the mission of Christ in the world.

### **Stewardship**

*Preaching on stewardship can be one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of the ministry. This seminar will examine the role of the Pastor in preaching about money and in putting together a year round stewardship emphasis that transcends one stewardship season in the fall. We will examine how to organize a stewardship campaign and look at some of the pitfalls that can actually backfire and thwart the spiritual growth that leads to financial health in a congregation.*