

Meet the Leaders

Seminar to Greece: Pauline Theology and Eastern Orthodox Spirituality

October 2-12, 2012



Bruce Rigdon

As a professor of church history for nearly a quarter of a century at McCormick Theological Seminary and later at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Bruce Rigdon helped to establish this new experimental seminary in Detroit and served for several years as its president. Bruce is an ordained Presbyterian minister who received his education at the College of Wooster, Yale Divinity School and the Graduate School of Yale University. He has served as minister/head of staff of a large Presbyterian congregation in Michigan for 16 years and currently serves as a summer pastor in an ecumenical congregation in Massachusetts. Dr. Rigdon has a passion for fostering dialogue between Eastern and Western expressions of Christianity and is a specialist in the theology and history of Eastern Orthodoxy. For more than 30 years he has led seminars in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Russia, the historic homelands of Eastern Orthodox churches. Bruce is especially interested in the interconnectedness of prayer, liturgy and theology and the ways in which these elements shape the spirituality of the Christian life.

Deedra Rich is the Interim Associate Director of Spirituality and Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary. She is ordained in the Baptist tradition and has served 10 plus years in both Baptist and Presbyterian congregations. She holds an M.Div. and Th.M. from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary. Rev. Rich has led numerous retreats, seminars, classes, and pilgrimages within the United States and to Ghana, Puerto Rico, and the Holy Land. She is a trained and experienced Spiritual Director. In the Spirituality Program at CTS, Deedra has developed and facilitated programs such as *Retreat Leadership*, *Growing in Discernment*, *Teaching Spiritual Formation in the Congregation*, *Introduction to Spiritual Direction*, and *Knowing Our Neighbors: Interfaith Conversations*.



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