



The 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability CD Suggestions and Guidelines for a Seminary Independent Study

The thirteen presentations from the 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability, featuring Hans Reinders, John Swinton, Erik Carter, Amos Yong, Peggy Johnson, Tom Reynolds, Leonard Hummel, and Bill Gaventa (recorded after the institute) are all on one CD (mp3 format) and on the Boggs Center website. (See the next page for a list of the presentations.) The CD is a unique collection with many of the authors of acclaimed recent books in theology and disability and leaders in different kinds of ministries. The Institute was collaboratively sponsored by the Faith Community Leadership Project in Pennsylvania and Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, with major funding from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.

This collection can serve as the foundation for an independent study for seminarians, particularly in seminaries where there are no current courses addressing the emerging fields of theology and disability. Our suggested guidelines for an independent study are as follows:

1. First, an interested seminarian and/or seminary would need to discuss this with his/her academic dean and a professor from the discipline closest to their interest in disability, e.g., theology, pastoral care, religious education, mission, church and society, liturgy, Biblical studies, etc. Seminary policies on independent studies vary widely.
2. The lectures on the CD provide a key resource for hearing these writers and leaders speaking to an audience interested in the arena of theology, ministry, and disability.
3. All of the speakers have writings (books and articles) that could be utilized as readings in conjunction with the audiotapes, with the quantity of reading determined by the expectations and norm for other courses in each seminary. Other resources, listed by area of ministry, can be found through a 230 pp. + resource guide called *Dimensions of Faith*, on The Boggs Center website: http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/projects/faith_based.html. A student should also check with his/her denomination's resource office for recommended readings and additional consultation.
4. There are a number of videos and/or movies that can be used as resources.
5. Experiential components for the independent study could include one or more of the following:
 - Visits to and/or participation in congregations doing inclusive ministries and/or disability service and advocacy organizations such as a local Center for Independent Living
 - A mentoring relationship by a person with a disability and/or his/her family. We have found this to be a very powerful part of a course in which a student finds or is given an opportunity where he/she, the student is not asked to "minister to" the person or family, but rather asks them if he/she can meet with them weekly to learn first hand about their lives, and ask them questions related to issues that are being raised in the lectures, readings, and other course components. In our experience, people with disabilities and/or their families have relished the opportunity to be a "teacher," someone who can aid a seminary student's learning and journey.
6. Written requirements for the course could then include book and resource reviews, responses to the audio presentations, a journal about the mentorship experience, and a final paper focusing on a topic or area determined in consultation with the faculty advisor.

A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

The 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability Presentations and Recordings

Sponsored by the Faith Community Leadership Project of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council coordinated by The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in collaboration with Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, July 12-16, 2010. These recordings (mp3 format) will be available on CD and also on The Boggs Center website early in 2011 with suggestions of how they can be used for Continuing Education and an independent study for seminarians and/or clergy. For more information, contact Bill Gaventa, 732-235-9304 or bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu, Project Coordinator.

New Voices in Theology and Disability: An Introduction. Monday, July 12.

(Presentations @ 30 -45 minutes each)

- Erik Carter, Ph.D.: **After the Benediction: Journeying with People with Disabilities in Faith and Life.**
- Peggy Johnson, M.Div. D.Min. **Strategies for Establishing a Ministry for People with Hearing Loss in a Hearing Church**
- Hans Reinders, Ph.D. **After Disability Theology: What's Next?**
- John Swinton, M.Div., Ph.D. **Moving Through the Sadness: Theological Reflections on Depression, Suicide and the Dark Night of the Soul**
- Amos Yong, Ph.D. **The Spirit Poured Out Upon All Flesh: Disability & the Renewal of the Church"**
- Tom Reynolds, Ph.D. **Beyond Normalcy.** PDF document.

The Call and Promise for Pastoral Leadership and Theological Education.

(July 13-16 Keynotes @1 hr. each.)

- Eric Carter, Ph.D. **Better Together: Inclusive Christian Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities.**
- Bill Gaventa, M.Div. **Rediscovering the Old in the New: Biblical Themes Emerging in Inclusive Ministries**
- Peggy Johnson, **The Bible and the Deaf.**
- Thomas Reynolds, Ph.D., **Educating Care: Transformation and Disability in Theological Education.**
- John Swinton, M.Div. Ph.D. **'Whose Story am I?' Spirituality, Personhood and Dementia**
- Leonard Hummel, M.Div. Ph.D. **Theology and Disabilities: Signs of Hope amidst Struggle at Gettysburg.**
- Hans Reinders, Ph.D. **Two Kinds of Communities, Two Kinds of People**
- Amos Yong, Ph.D. **Re-Enabling the Hermeneutics of Suspicion & of Charity: Disability & the Renewal of Theological Education.**

Our website will also have samples of seminary course curricula, links to other lectures available on the web, and other resource materials. If you have questions, please contact Bill Gaventa, Project Coordinator, at bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu or 732-235-9304.

Cost of the CD: \$10, check or purchase order, payable to "The Boggs Center" or downloadable individual files for free from http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/product_info.html.

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