How to minister in a congregation without selling out your ideals

We began our ministry with such lofty ideals. We would listen to God, not the whims of our world. We would be frontline crusaders for truth and peace and justice. We would stand firm in our belief that the gospel impacts society, not just the individual soul.

Then we went to church, where more effort was spent in choosing the carpet color for the fellowship hall than in creating a plan for ministry with migrant workers. Board meetings weren't the strategy sessions for social action we imagined. Rather, they were efforts to keep the largest number of congregants happy. Somewhere between the leaky roof and the ham & bean supper, we lost our ideals.

This year’s ESR Pastors Conference will focus on pastoral ministry with a social conscience. Speaker Wrightson S. Tongue will share his thoughts from more than 40 years of ministry as both pastor and activist. In the process we will discover how we can do pastoral ministry without selling out our ideals.

About this year’s conference leader

ESR welcomes Wrightson S. Tongue as the keynote speaker for this year’s conference. Wrightson is pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Herkimer, New York, having previously served parishes in North Carolina, Virginia, and the New York Area West starting in 1961. Wrightson also has had a parallel career in music, centered in New York and London, and music has been a large part of his ministry as well. In 1969, Wrightson began serving a prison term for refusing to be drafted. During the 1990’s, he was active in the pro-democracy movement for Burma. These two life-themes, ministry and activism, will be the centerpiece of his lectures.

Schedule of Events

Monday, September 25th

8:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00-10:45 a.m. Session One: Wrightson Tongue
The Path of Becoming
10:45-11:15 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon Worship
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch and free time
1:00 - 2:45 p.m. Session Two: Wrightson Tongue
The Subversive Christian
2:45 - 3:15 p.m. Break
3:15 - 5:30 p.m. Workshops (Each workshop will be offered twice, with a fifteen minute break in between)
Congregational Conflict Resolution
Barbara Kinsler
Kohlberg, Fowler, and Old First Church: Moral and Faith Development in a Congregation
Lonnie Valentine
Preaching and Living Friends’ Testimonies
TBA
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Tuesday, September 26th

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 -10:45 a.m. Session Three: Wrightson Tongue
Ministry to the Other
10:45 - 11:20 a.m. Break
11:20 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Common Meal
1:00 p.m. Adjourn

9th Annual Pastors Conference
September 25 & 26, 2006
REGISTRATION FORM
(one registration per form please)

Name________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________
City _________________________________________________
State/Zip_____________________________________________
Phone _______________________________________________
E-mail _______________________________________________
Meeting/Church ______________________________________

Registration fee $40.00
☐ Please indicate vegetarian preference
Indicate meals you will attend.
Mon.–B___L___D___; Tue.–B___ L___

Send registration and payment to:
EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION
228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374
Questions? Call 1-800-432-1377 or 765-983-1423
cummiri@earlham.edu

Questions?
Call 1-800-432-1377 or 765-983-1423
cummiri@earlham.edu
Pastors Conference
9th Annual ESR
Earlham School of Religion
228 College Avenue
Richmond, IN 47374
765-983-1423 or 1-800-432-1377
esr.earlham.edu

Keynote Speaker: Wrightson S. Tongue

Pastoral Activism
Sponsored by Earlham School of Religion
September 25-26, 2006

Lodging

We offer the following suggestions for lodging while attending the conference.

Quaker Hill
Conference Center
10 Quaker Hill Drive
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-5741

Lees Inn & Suites
6030 National Road East
Richmond, IN 47374
765-966-6559 or 800-733-5337

Philip W. Smith
Bed & Breakfast
2039 East Main Street
Richmond, IN 47374
765-966-8972 or 800-966-8972

Or visit:
www.waynet.org/lodging

Directions to reach Earlham School of Religion:

Approach Richmond via Interstate 70, exiting at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after about a mile into Northwest 5th Street. Follow Northwest 5th Street to U. S. 40 (National Road West). Turn right and prepare to turn left one block later, at College Avenue. Turn left (south) on College Avenue. The ESR Center (stone building) sits on the southwest corner. To reach the parking lot, continue south on College Avenue to the first stop sign, turn right. Turn right again at the next stop sign and take the next right into the large parking lot.