

## HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND UNLESS SOMEONE HELPS ME?

In *The Theology of Hope*, Jurgen Moltmann presents two sides of a dichotomy. We live much of our lives in the public sphere of work and school, where we are expected, and expect, to be useful. The rest of our lives take place in a private sphere, where we try to define our personal relationships by something other than utility. We are allowed to act subjectively in this private sphere, admitting our likes and dislikes, and allowing our personal preferences to determine who we associate with and what we do. This, says Moltmann, is the sphere that the church has been relegated to.

There is an advantage to this. The church has become one of the last places where people feel that they are truly known. It has come to represent authentic community in a world where we feel that many of our relationships are divorced from who we really are. People need to feel that they are known and loved, rather than merely appreciated for their utility. And in most cases, the church exhibits an admirable willingness to know and love people.

But there is also a disadvantage to this. A church that has become nothing but a receptacle of individuals' subjective needs is a church that has ceased to act as an instrument for change. Surely, it can't be God's will that we spend half our days defining ourselves in terms of our usefulness in business or academic ventures. If the spheres of politics and work have come to be defined by objectivity and utility, isn't it time for the church to challenge those norms? To assert that our worth goes far beyond our function, that we are, each of us, beloved children of God in every setting and circumstance that we find ourselves?

When we meet as a church at Turkey Run in April, one of our goals will be to form an authentic community, one that accepts and honors each person for who they are. But another goal will be to help each other understand how to take that gift of authenticity and translate it into the workplace and

the classroom. How do we transform utilitarian relationships into personal relationships? How do we learn to treat colleagues and peers as full people, recognizing both the good and the bad? And once we've accepted one another as full people, how to we ask each other to help transform those systems that treat us objectively, as beings with social security numbers rather than souls?

It is our hope that you will bring your greatest passions and greatest interests to this task. We must help each other understand. And no subject is too small to aid in that understanding. Interested in food? Then help us understand how what we eat effects the earth's environment, the communities we live in, and our own bodies. Interested in music? Then help us understand how music can provoke, or soothe, or support our relationships with God and each other. Interested in politics? Then help us understand how to participate in the political system in a way that is consistent with our Christian ethic of community. Interested in sports, philosophy, medicine, travel? Then help us understand how those things, your particular passions, can aid us in our desire to live in the Kingdom of God.

Please take some time to consider your gifts. We want to learn from you, but more than that, we want to know you. It is not your utility that matters, but you. Because the church, if it is to be prophetic, must never lose its willingness to create, foster, and preserve relationships. Indeed, if the church is to be prophetic, it must learn how to carry that ethic of relationship into the public sphere.

As Moltmann says at the end of *The Theology of Hope*, "not to be conformed to this world does not mean to be transformed in oneself, but to transform in opposition and creative expectation the face of the world in the midst of which one believes, hopes, and loves."

*The Reverend Karl Stevens  
Episcopal Chaplain to Kenyon College*

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## PROVINCE V SPRING GATHERING

APRIL 4-6, 2008



### TURKEY RUN STATE PARK, INDIANA

The Ethiopian official's question to Philip speaks to each of us, as we bring our greatest gifts and greatest desires to the worship of the community. We only understand the dynamics of our own faith through each other's assistance. Bring your gifts so that we may share them, be renewed by them, and celebrate them.

## Who are you?

What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you passionate about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to share your passion with others by leading a workshop?  Yes  No

Workshop title: \_\_\_\_\_

Which are your favorite hymns? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to play in our pick-up band?

Yes  No

If so, what instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your...

e-mail address? \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address? \_\_\_\_\_

phone number? \_\_\_\_\_

gender? \_\_\_\_\_

Which college do you go to? \_\_\_\_\_

What's your favorite thing about the campus ministry you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you're interested in serving as

Chalice Bearer  Reader

Lay Chaplain for Healing Prayer

What kind of room do you want to stay in at the conference?

Quad (\$115)

Double (\$170)

Single (\$190)

Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

What size t-shirt do you wear?  S  M  L

XL  XXL

Who should we contact in case of emergency?

Please detach this form and send it with your \$60.00 deposit to:

Canterbury Kenyon

P.O. Box 377

Gambier, OH 43022

Please make checks payable to "Trustees of Province V Midwest," and write "campus ministry" on the memo line.

# BRING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

## The Schedule

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

5:00 - 10:00 PM Arrival, Registration, and *Apples to Apples* tournament

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Plenary Session  
The Liturgy of the Word  
Acts 8:26-39

10:00 AM Workshops

11:00 AM Workshops

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Plenary Session  
The Liturgy of the Word  
Luke 10:38-42

2:00 PM Workshops

3:00 - 5:00 PM Free Time

5:00 - 7:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Plenary Session  
Prayers of the People

8:00 PM Free Time

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Plenary Session  
The Liturgy of the Table

Please note that Turkey Run requires all guests to check out by 12:00 Noon.

## The Accommodations

Turkey Run State Park has eleven hiking trails through sandstone cliffs and hemlock groves. It has opportunities for horseback riding and swimming. All meals during the conference will be eaten in the dining hall.

You are invited to bring along your favorite board and party games. You might want to bring along money to rent movies, use the game rooms, or make purchases in the gift shop.

Guest rooms have two double beds, and we recommend that you plan to share your room with three other attendees. So be sure to indicate your roommate preferences on the registration form. The number of single and double rooms available are limited. If you want one of these rooms, make sure to register early. Linens and towels will be provided by the Inn.

This is an alcohol-free event. Please do not bring any alcoholic beverages with you.

