



CHURCH AS HUMAN SPACE

Scandinavian Creation Theology for a Post-Secular Age Stockholm the 21st and 22nd of March 2019

What does the confession to God's creational creativity in the daily lives of ordinary people mean for our understanding of the church? If salvation is defined as "becoming human again," what does it mean for our understanding of the church? How is it possible to reclaim the profound presence of humanity in the church, as well as in God's own life, in a post-secular age? Do we in the present Scandinavian Lutheran Folk Churches find reminiscences or influences from creation theology? And if we do: how has this tradition been handled and what are the major challenges for the Churches in Norway, Sweden and Denmark?

This kind of ecclesiological questions stems from the discussion with Scandinavian Creation Theology (SCT), a tradition originating from N.F.Ss Grundtvig's mediation of Martin Luther, and elaborated by a constellation of founding figures: K.E. Løgstrup, Regin Prenter, and Gustaf Wingren.

In 2014, The Grundtvig Research Center in Copenhagen organized an explorative conference on "The Future of Scandinavian Creation Theology, which became the starting point of a project intending to reclaim this tradition of theological reflection. In 2017, Niels Henrik Gregersen, Bengt Kristensson Ugla, and Trygve Wyller together with a number of colleagues published the book, *Reformation Theology for a Post-Secular Age: Løgstrup, Prenter, Wingren and the Future of Scandinavian Creation Theology*, which has been widely discussed at several seminars in the US and the Scandinavian countries.

The aim of this new conference is to continue the dialogue by focusing on ecclesiological issues: what does it mean to talk about the church as a human space today? The conference will take its starting point in the international response – and the concluding session intends to open the perspectives towards the next conference at Wabash College, Indiana, 2020.

Place: Domkyrkosalen, Stockholm Old Town, Stortorget 1, Stockholm, Sweden.

The Conference is joint project with The Grundtvig Study Center at Aarhus University, Research unit at Church of Sweden, Katedralsakademin vid Stockholms Domkyrkoförsamling, and Gustaf Wingren sällskapet.

PROGRAM

Thursday the 21st of March 2019

9.00: Arrival, registration and Coffee

10:00: Opening and introduction: Professor Bengt Kristensson Uggla

10:30 **Creation as Theological Horizon - an international perspective**

Professor Catherine Keller, Drew University

11:15: **Panel:** Professor Trygve Wyller, Associate professor Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen, Research Director Cecilia Nahnfeldt

Moderator: Professor Elisabeth Gerle

12:15: Lunch

13:15: **Church as a Human Space**

Professor Svein Aage Christoffersen, UiO.

13:45: Professor Marit Trelstad, Pacific Lutheran University

14.15: **Panel:** Associate Professor Johanna Gustafsson Lundberg, Associate professor Jacob Wiren, Professor Bernice Sundkvist

15.15: Coffee

15.45: Parallel seminars / round tables

17:00: Parallel seminars / round tables – second seating.

18.30: Dinner

20.00: **Human Comes First!**

Grundtvig happening in Storkyrkan: Music, songs and texts

WÅG; Edward Broadbridge and others – followed by mingle.

Friday the 22nd of March 2019

08:15: Eucharist (Cathedral)

09.00: **Coalition, Creation, Church**

Associate professor Ulrich Schmiedel, University of Edinburgh.

09:30: **Rites, Creation, Church**

Professor Jone Salomonsen and Doctor/Rev. Anne Ortner.

Panel: Professor Jayne Svenungsson, Professor Trygve Wyller

10.30: Coffee

11.00: **Panel: Where does Creation Theology take the modern Scandinavian Folk Churches?**

Sweden: Bishop Martin Lind

Norway: Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Denmark: Bishop Marianne Gaarden

Moderator: Bengt Kristensson Uggla

12.30: Lunch

13.30: Parallel seminars /round tables

15.00: **Recontextualizing SCT in a global world. Potential and challenges.**

Professor Derek Nelson, Wabash College:

On the track of the central theme for the coming conference at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana 2020.

Coffee

16:00 Concluding remarks

Professor Bengt Kristensson Uggla & Michael Schelde, ph.d.

REGISTRATION

For researchers:

70 EURO; 500 DKR; 700 SVK or 650 NKR – this include full board. **Limited space:**

First come first served.

Registration: Until **01. February 2019** at the following link:

<https://events.au.dk/Churchasahumanspace2019/registration>

For other participants:

100 SVK including coffee and mingle Thursday evening.

Registration: Until **15. February 2019** at the following link:

<https://events.au.dk/Churchasahumanspace2019/registration>

Call for contributions: Please, send your abstracts (max. 300 words) for paper presentations (max 20 min.) or suggestions for themes for round tables before 20th of January 2019. The presentations or panels can be in English or one of the Scandinavian languages.

Use the following mail:

teoms@cas.au.dk

Documentation: A selection of contributions from the conference will be invited to a new publication on Scandinavian creation theology.