



## “Being Formed by the Gospel in a Post-Christian Age”

Friday and Saturday,  
December 4-5, 2020

This year coming from all over the  
Commonwealth by Zoom

**Dr. Phillip Cary**  
Presenter

**Imagine what it might have been like if the best things Luther had to say—about the centrality of the Gospel and its power to give us Christ—could have been heard as a proposal for the church catholic rather than an attack on the pope that split the church (for which Luther bears plenty of responsibility). How might the church catholic hear that proposal today, when most of us do not have quite the same anxieties as the 16th century—the vivid fear of hell and “terror of conscience,” as Luther called it? How might such a hearing of Luther’s proposal about the Gospel help us think about being church in a post-Christian and post-modern context?**

for more information, contact  
Mr. Rick Caporali, Registrar  
State LARCUM Committee  
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VIRGINIA  
LARCUM  
CONFERENCE

# welcome

## VIRGINIA LARCUM BISHOPS in COVENANT

**Rt. Reverend Mark A. Bourlakas**  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

**Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge**  
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington

**Rt. Reverend Susan E. Goff**  
Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

**The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes**  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

**The Reverend Robert F. Humphrey**  
Bishop of the Virginia Synod, ELCA

**Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout**  
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond

**Bishop Sharma Lewis**  
Bishop of the Virginia Conference, United Methodist Church

**Reverend Leila Ortiz**  
Bishop of the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA

# register

**Please register as soon as possible with the registrar.**

**Regular conference fee: \$25.**  
**Student rate no charge**

**AGAIN THIS YEAR:**  
**You can register online at**  
**[www.virginialarcum.org](http://www.virginialarcum.org)**

*Invite your friends to the virtual conference on behalf of the Virginia LARCUM Committee! Thanks.*

**Please send all correspondence to Registrar before November 8, 2020:**

Mr. Rick Caporali  
7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield VA 22152  
[rcaporali@stbernpar.org](mailto:rcaporali@stbernpar.org)

# speaker

## **Dr. Phillip Cary**

Phillip Cary (PhD, Yale University), an internationally acclaimed expert on Augustine and Augustine's thought, is



scholar-in-residence at the Templeton Honors College and professor of philosophy at Eastern University. He serves as editor-in-chief of *Pro Ecclesia* and is the author of *Good News for Anxious Christians*, *Jonah in the Brazos* Theological Commentary of the Bible series, and three critically acclaimed books

on the life and thought of Augustine. His most recent book is *The Meaning of Protestant Theology: Luther, Augustine, and the Gospel that Gives us Christ*. He is also a Teaching Company lecturer for four of their Great Courses: *Philosophy and Religion in the West*; *History of Christian Thought*; *Augustine: Philosopher and Saint*; and *Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation*.

In the Introduction to *The Meaning of Protestant Theology*, Dr Cary writes: "I am not urging everyone to become Lutheran . . . nor even to become Protestant. I think the church, the one Body of Christ, needs Catholics and Orthodox as well as Protestants of various kinds, and that when the day comes that we properly understand the oneness of the church, we will be able to honor our differences without creating division between ourselves."

# schedule

**December 4, 2020**  
**FRIDAY Evening**

**6:00pm**

**Welcome and Orientation for new attendees**

**6:35pm**

**Opening Devotions**

**7:00–8:00pm**

**Session One**  
**“Luther’s Anxiety”**

*Dr. Phillip Cary*

*Introduction, Rev. Nicholas Forti*

*As a 16th century monk in an Augustinian order of the Catholic Church, Martin Luther experienced in a particularly intense way the religious and existential anxieties that beset Christians of his day. He was crippled by a vivid fear of hell and “terror of conscience”—anfechtung.*

*In this talk, Dr Cary will explore Luther’s anxiety in a way that may help us diagnose the anxieties of our own secular and postmodern age.*

**8:05pm**

**WORSHIP OF THE GREAT ASSEMBLY**

*An ecumenical prayer service for the community of Scripture, prayer, song and common intercession for the unity of all Christians.*

**December 5, 2020**  
**SATURDAY Morning**

**9:00am**

**Morning Prayer**

**9:30am**

**Session Two**

**“Luther’s Gospel as Catholic Sacrament”**

*Luther was driven to despair by the anxieties that assailed his conscience until he heard the Word of Scripture as the Gospel for him. He understood the Gospel as a saving word of promise that gives us Christ. This is very much like the Catholic view of a sacrament. What if Luther’s theology of the Gospel had been heard as a proposal for the Church Catholic?*

**10:40am Mid-morning Devotions**

**11am**

**Session Three**

**“Being Formed by the Gospel”**

*In this talk, Dr Cary will explore the anxieties of our own secular and postmodern age. Just because we no longer have the terrified conscience of the 16th century, that does not mean that we have no need or desire for the Gospel that sacramentally gives us Christ. The centrality of the Gospel and its power to give us Christ is for the whole Church in all times. Perhaps in this time that Gospel can be a source of unity rather than division*

**12:15pm Closing Devotions**

# covenant

The unity of the church is the gift of the Spirit and a task of the church. We hereby CALL INTO COVENANT our respective Synods, Dioceses and Conferences and COMMIT OURSELVES to the following actions.

In behalf of the unity of the church, WE WILL:

1. pray for each other, particularly at the principal Sunday celebration;
2. sponsor seasonal prayer services, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
3. encourage shared lectionary studies;
4. promote pulpit exchanges in accord with the respective guidelines of each tradition;
5. encourage cooperation among member churches in providing premarital preparation for ecumenical marriages;
6. encourage shared religious formational and educational events, e.g. youth ministry, vacation Bible school, living room dialogue;
7. develop joint efforts in evangelism and social justice;
8. develop covenants among our congregations, institutions and chaplaincies;
9. support statewide, regional and local LARCUM Conferences, and establish annually a joint meeting of our ecumenical bodies;
10. encourage each diocese and synod to develop supportive prayer services and covenanting models for its congregations through their respective ecumenical and liturgical committees;
11. urge congregations to study the existing dialogues among our churches;
12. develop covenants among schools and academies for shared programs;
13. ask congregations to develop and reflect on their cooperative ministries to discover areas of convergence among our four churches;
14. sponsor shared retreats and formational events for clergy and parish leadership;
15. develop campus ministry covenants among Catholic Campus Ministry, Canterbury Association, Lutheran Student Union, and Wesley Foundation, and support covenants at existing ecumenical ministries and with college chaplains;
16. seek ways to coordinate program and planning at the district/synodical/diocesan/conference level;
17. collaborate at the judicatory level on justice issues and social concerns;
18. review and evaluate this Covenant annually at a meeting of the state LARCUM Committee representatives with Bishops;
19. establish goals annually which advance this Covenant;
20. celebrate the renewal of this Covenant annually at the statewide LARCUM conference.

May the Holy Spirit, who has brought us to this moment of covenanting, bring us to ever deepening levels of unity. To this end we affix our names and recommend it to our respective judicatories, this 1st day of December, 2006.

*(The original covenant was amended in 2006 with the addition of the United Methodist Conference.)*