



Faculty Development Opportunities Spring 2023

Dialogue Groups

"Beyond Professing Alone: Becoming an Academic Citizen" chapter from *Joining the Mission*, by Susan VanZanten (led by Jeannette Russ)

"If Americans increasingly are bowling alone, American faculty members increasingly are professing alone.... Many aspects of the academic life encourage individualism over community." Dr. Susan VanZanten, who now serves as Dean and Professor of Humanities and Literature at Valparaiso, walks through committee work, curriculum, and collegiality with an eye toward building academic community. This dialogue group will meet once to discuss the answers she provides as well as the questions those answers raise for us.

Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life by John Townsend and Henry Cloud (led by Jill Wells)

This *New York Times Bestseller* has become a standard for developing the ability to evaluate and honor commitments. The dialogue group will explore how healthy boundaries can help us serve our students better and care for one another as well. As our strategic plan puts it, we need to enhance our culture of shared life and commitment to one another's flourishing. Books like this one are a small step toward that theme.

The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory by Abigail Favale (led by Phil Davignon)

What is a woman? We live in an age when leading politicians (and sometimes even scientists) struggle to answer the question. Abigail Favale weaves personal testimony with academic critique as she unpacks the foundational assumptions of modern gender theory—revealing why she came to find it lacking despite her graduate training in the subject. Readers may not agree with all of Favale's perspectives, but her book aims to address difficult and nuanced questions from a thoroughly Christian perspective.

Selected Poems by Christina Rossetti (led by Janna Chance)

Known for her Anglo-Catholic piety, musical verse, and centering of women's experiences, Christina Rossetti was one of the greatest Victorian poets and devotional poets of all time. Literary scholars widely admire her, but most rank-and-file Christians remain unfamiliar with her and her work. This dialogue group will help fill in this gap by introducing participants to some of Rossetti's greatest poems. Readings will include the Christmas hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter"; the allegorical fairy tale "Goblin Market"; and "Monna Innominata," a sonnet sequence written from the perspective of Dante's and Petrarch's muses, Beatrice and Laura.

Teaching for Spiritual Formation by Kyle Hughes (led by Mandy Cates and Jacob Shatzer)

As we imagine ways to incorporate mentorship and discipleship across the university, this dialogue group provides a starting point to imagine what that might look like, informed by the church fathers but directed toward today's classroom challenges. As Hughes boils his work down: "This book is an attempt to advance a fresh vision of Christian teaching and learning by drawing upon the riches of the Christian tradition, synthesizing the wisdom of the church fathers with contemporary efforts to cultivate a distinctively Christian approach to education."

**Please notify Suzanne Barham of your interest in a dialogue group by Friday, January 20 so we can order books and schedule meetings.*

Events

ChatGPT and the Academy, Feb 3, 3:30 – 4:30 pm (Harvey Hall)

Luncheon w/ Francis Su (Scholar in Residence), Mar 15, 11:15 am – 12:45 pm (RSVP to Suzanne Barham; space limited)

Luncheon w/ Rebekah Naylor (medical missionary), Apr 20, 12:15 pm (RSVP to Suzanne Barham; space limited)

Lilly Grant Writing Workshop, March or April

Faculty Development Committee Grant Writing Event, April