

## MICHAEL LODAHL

6747 Friars Road #97  
San Diego, California 92108  
Cell Phone: (858) 405-3184  
mlodahl@ptloma.edu

Professor of Theology  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
Office Phone: (619) 849-2331

### **EDUCATION:**

**Emory University**, Atlanta, GA (1984-88). Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies, 1988. Dissertation: "Shekhinah/Spirit: A Process Pneumatology Founded in Jewish-Christian Conversation"; subsequently published by Paulist Press (1992). Specialization: Jewish-Christian dialogue with concentrated work in theodicy and pneumatology.

Held teaching fellowship, full-tuition plus \$5,000 annual stipend, 1984-87. Teacher's assistant for John Fenton in World Religions, Emory University Department of Religion; and under Brooks Holifield in Post-Reformation Christian Thought, Candler School of Theology (Emory University). Co-professor in undergraduate Holocaust course (with fellow doctoral student William Kostelec), Emory University, 1987.

**Nazarene Theological Seminary**, Kansas City, MO (1977-81). Master of Divinity, *summa cum laude*, 1981. Areas of concentration: theology, philosophy of religion.

Editor of *The Seminarian* journal, 1978-79. Teaching assistant to Albert Truesdale in philosophy of religion, 1980-81.

**Northwest Nazarene College**, Nampa, ID (1973-77). Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, 1977. Double major in philosophy and psychology.

Teacher's assistant to C.S. Cowles in Division of Philosophy and Religion, 1976-77. Received Munn Greek Award, Olive M. Winchester Religious Essay Award, and Sanner Senior Sermon Award, 1977.

### **GRANTS:**

Received grants from the Joe Glenn Memorial Fund of the Atlanta Jewish Federation and from the Dorot Foundation of New York to study the Holocaust at Yad Vashem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, July 1986.

Received full fellowship from the National Conference of Christians and Jews to participate in a theological seminar on "Christians, Jews, and the Covenant" (Paul M. van Buren, seminar director) at the Center for Contemporary Theology, Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, January 1987.

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### ***GRANTS***, cont'd.

Received full scholarship from the Executive Committee of "Remembering for the Future" to attend the International Scholars' Conference on "The Impact of the Holocaust and Genocide on Jews and Christians" at Oxford University, July 1988.

Received \$1,000.00 grant from the Northwest Nazarene College Faculty Enhancement Fund toward the writing of a theology textbook, *The Story of God: Wesleyan Theology and Biblical Narrative*, 1991-92.

Received \$1,000.00 grant from the Northwest Nazarene College Ethics in the Curriculum program for research toward a book project on the parable of the good Samaritan, 1992-93. (For the time being, that study produced an essay for the 1999 InterVarsity Press book *Holiness and Embodiment*.)

Received \$2,400.00 plus one-half travel expenses from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to participate in a three-year Consultation on Teaching about World Religions in Theological Schools and Theology Departments, scheduled for week-long sessions in August of 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Received \$3,000 Wesley Center Fellow grant from Point Loma Nazarene University's Wesley Center for Twenty-First Century Studies, Summer 2001, to further development of a book manuscript *God of Nature and of Grace*.

Received \$1,000 Wesley Center award, Summer 2002, to research and write a faculty monograph entitled '*All Things Necessary to Our Salvation*,' a study of Article IV, "The Holy Scriptures," in the Church of the Nazarene *Manual*.

Received full travel and accommodations grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the Council of Independent Colleges, and the U.S. Department of State, for CIC program in Teaching About Islam and Middle Eastern Culture, at the American Center for Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan, December 2004 – January 2005.

### ***PROFESSORIAL EXPERIENCE:***

1999- . Professor of Theology, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA.

1988-1999 . Professor of Theology, Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID. Named *Alumni Association Professor of the Year* for 1997 at NNC. Primary teaching responsibilities in systematic and philosophical theology.

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***PROFESSORIAL EXPERIENCE***, cont'd.

***GUEST OR VISITING PROFESSOR EXPERIENCES:***

August 2004. Guest Professor in Theology for Master of Arts Program in Religion, Africa Nazarene University, Nairobi, Kenya. *Contemporary Theological Trends*.

July-August 2000. Guest Professor for the Church of the Nazarene Commonwealth of Independent States Theological Instruction Team, Moscow, Russia and Astana, Kazakstan. *Introduction to Christian Theology*

Summers 1996, 1999, 2000. Guest Professor in Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO.

Courses taught:

*Contemporary Theology: Recent Wesleyan Engagements*

*Systematic Theology I, II*

September 1997. Guest Professor in Theology for Master of Arts Program in Religion, Point Loma Nazarene College, San Diego, CA. *Theology and the Ministry of the Church*.

July 1997. Guest Professor for Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Theological College, Larnaca, Cyprus. *Christian Holiness in Christian Tradition*.

January/April 1997. Guest Professor in Master of Arts Program in Religion, Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, TN. *Narrative Theology*.

Summers 1994, 1995. Guest Professor in Masters Program in Religion, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK. *Theological Method*.

1992-94. Instructor in Department of Philosophy, Boise State University. Courses taught: *Introduction to Logi Philosophy of Religion*

1990-94, 99. Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Albertson College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID.

Courses included:

*Introduction to Philosophy*

*Judaism and Islam*

*History of Modern Philosophy*

*Philosophy of Religion*

*Readings in Theology* (Religious Pluralism; Contemporary Theology)

***PASTORAL EXPERIENCE:***

2000- 2001. Interim Pastor, Spring Valley Church of the Nazarene, San Diego, CA.

1996-1999. Pastor (part-time), Franklin Community Church, Nampa, ID.

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***PASTORAL EXPERIENCE, cont'd.***

1988-89, 90-91. Interim Pastor, Overland Church of the Nazarene, Boise, ID.

1986-87. Pastor, Crest Church of the Nazarene, Thomaston, GA.

1981-84. Pastor, English-speaking congregation of the La Puente, CA, Church of the Nazarene, Los Angeles District. (Membership included Hispanic and Korean congregations.) Ordained on Los Angeles District, 1983.

1979-80. Youth pastor, Broadway United Methodist Church, Kansas City, MO.

***MEMBERSHIPS:***

American Academy of Religion

Center for Process Studies, School of Theology at Claremont

Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology

Wesleyan Theological Society

***INTERESTS:***

My primary area of teaching interest is Christian theology, with special attention to the complex relationships among Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions of faith and practice. I also have interests in the science/religion relationship, American philosophical and religious empiricism, world religions and religious pluralism.

Areas in which I anticipate doing further research and writing include:

The Bible and the Qur'an

Nature of Visionary Experiences

The Gospel of Matthew

Jewish-Christian Conversation

Gregory of Nazianzus

Christ and the Church in Johannine Writings

***PUBLICATIONS:***

**Books** (arranged chronologically):

*Shekhinah/Spirit: Divine Presence in Jewish and Christian Traditions.* Paulist Press, 1992.

*The Story of God: Wesleyan Theology and Biblical Narrative.* Beacon Hill Press, 1994.

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### ***PUBLICATIONS, cont'd.***

*Embodied Holiness: Toward a Corporate Spirituality*, co-editor and essay contributor. InterVarsity Press, 2001.

*God of Nature and of Grace: Reading the World in a Wesleyan Way*. Kingswood Books / Abingdon Press, 2003.

*'All Things Necessary to Our Salvation': The Hermeneutical and Theological Implications of the Article on the Holy Scriptures in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*. Point Loma Press, 2004.

*Relational Holiness: Responding to the Call of Love*, with Thomas Jay Oord. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2005.

### **Articles and Book Chapters** (arranged alphabetically):

"Against the Fusion of Horizons: Rupturing the 'Judeo-Christian Tradition'." In *Emory Studies in the Holocaust*, Vol. II, ed. David Blumenthal, 1988.

"All of Creation is Groaning: Is There a Distinctively Wesleyan Contribution to an Environmental Ethic?" *The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Bulletin*, Volume 18, Number 2 (Spring 1998).

"'And He Felt Compassion': Holiness Beyond the Bounds of Community." In *Embodied Holiness*, eds. Samuel M. Powell and Michael E. Lodahl (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999).

"Anti-Judaism in Christian Theology: A Critical Response to H. Ray Dunning's *Grace, Faith, and Holiness*." *The Asbury Theological Journal*, Fall 1990.

"Arguing 'According to the Scriptures': A Path toward Christian Affirmation of God's People Israel." *Quarterly Review* Volume 20, Number 3 (Fall 2000).

"Christo-Praxis: Toward a Post-Holocaust Ethical Christology," *The Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Spring 1993.

"The Cosmological Basis for John Wesley's 'Gradualism,'" *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Volume 32, Number 1 (Spring 1997).

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### Articles and Book Chapters, cont'd.

"Creation Out of Nothing? Or is *Next* to Nothing Enough?" In *Thy Nature and Thy Name is Love: Wesleyan and Process Theologies in Dialogue*, eds. Bryan P. Stone and Thomas Jay Oord (Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2001).

"Disputing over Abraham Disputing with God: An Exercise in Intertextual Reasoning." *Christian Scholar's Review*, Vol. XXXIV:4 (June 2005).

"Divine Holiness." In *Philosophy of Religion: Introductory Essays*, ed. Thomas Jay Oord (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2003).

"Jews and Christians in a Conflict of Interpretations." *Christian Scholar's Review*, Vol. XIX:4 (June 1990): 332-344.

"Kierkegaard's Contribution to Interreligious Dialogue." *Church Divinity 1985*: 68-82.

"Methodism." *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, eds. Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan (New York: Continuum, 2005).

"Sabbath Observance as a Theological Issue in Jewish-Christian Relations." In *The Sabbath in Jewish and Christian Traditions*, eds. Tamara Eskenazi, Daniel Harrington, and William Shea (New York: Crossroad, 1991).

"To Whom Belong the Covenants? Wesley, Whitehead, and Wildly Diverse Religious Traditions." In *Deep Religious Pluralism*, ed. David Griffin (Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005).

"*Una Natura Divina, Tres Nescio Quid*: What Sorts of *Personae* are Divine *Personae*?" *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Volume 36, No. 1 (Spring, 2001).

"Wesleyan Reservations about Eschatological 'Enthusiasm.'" *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Vol. 29, Nos. 1 and 2 (Spring-Fall, 1994).

"'The Witness of the Spirit': Clarifying Questions for Wesley's Doctrine of Assurance." *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring-Fall 1988).

"Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Behind Me." Presented April 15, 1986 as response to Lewis Ford's "Can Trinitarian Thought Provide a Bridge for Jewish-Christian Reflection?" at the Conference for Jewish Theology and Process Thought, Hebrew Union College, New York.

"Re-Reading Paul after van Buren." Presented January 6, 1987 as response to Paul van Buren's *A Christian Theology of the People Israel* at the Center for Contemporary Theology, Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Jerusalem.

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### ***PRESENTATIONS*** (arranged chronologically):

"Against the Fusion of Horizons: Rupturing the 'Judeo-Christian Tradition'." Presented March 19, 1987 at the Southeastern Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia. Won student paper award, \$100.00

"*Krystallnacht* and the Church." Presented November 9, 1988 at Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID, on the 50th anniversary of *Krystallnacht*.

"Frontier Apocalyptic and the Quest for New Being: A Tillichian Look at the Ghost Dance Movement, 1889-91." Presented April 19, 1989 at the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Billings, Montana.

"What in the World is God Doing?" Presented May 12, 1989 as keynote address of forum on "Honest Doubt" at Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington.

"Sabbath Observance as an Issue in Jewish-Christian Conversation." Presented May 25, 1989 at the Symposium on the Sabbath, co-sponsored by the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventists and the Center for Judaic Studies, at Denver University, Denver, Colorado.

"The Theological Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr." Presented January 15, 1990 at Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID, in observance of ML King Day.

"The Invisible Core Text in Nazarene Liturgy." Presented March 15, 1991 to the annual meeting of the Fellows of the Center for Religious Pluralism of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Berkeley, California.

"Kabbalistic Undercurrents in Buber's *I and Thou*." Presented May 4, 1991 at the Northwest Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, University of Washington, Seattle.

"Northwest Nazarene College: Christian, Wesleyan and Nazarene." Presented September 18, 1991 for the NNC Faculty Workshop, and November 8, 1991 for the NNC Board of Regents.

"To Believe in God, Maker of (a Fifteen Billion Year-Old) Heaven and (a Five Billion Year-Old) Earth." Presented October 19, 1991 at the Consultation on the Relationship Between the Wesleyan Tradition and the Natural Sciences, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.

"'The Letter Becomes a Fish': The Quest for the Eternal Maternal in Contemporary Paganism." Presented February 29, 1992 at the Nazarene Theology Conference, Kansas City, Missouri.

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### ***PRESENTATIONS***, cont'd (arranged chronologically):

"Eschatological Reserve (re/serving the future age) or Reservations about Eschatology (pre/serving the present age)? Loosely Wesleyan Reflections on Last Things." Presented November 6, 1993 at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society (theme: Wesleyan Theology and Eschatology), Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma.

"Christo-Praxis: Biblical Foundations for a Post-Holocaust Ethical Christology." Presented in March 1994 at the second "Remembering for the Future" International Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust, Berlin.

"Why We Must Remember." Presented April 8, 1994 for the Voices of Faith for Human Rights memorial service for victims of the Holocaust, Boise, Idaho.

"The Witness of the Spirit: The Role of Experience in the Life of Faith." Presented June 14-15, 1994 in plenary and workshop settings at the Convocation on Wesleyan Studies, Castro Valley, California. Also presented January 19-21, 1995 for ministerial continuing education seminar of the Northern California District Church of the Nazarene, San Ramon, California.

"Ruach, Pneuma, Shekhinah: The Divine Presence." Presented December 20, 1994 at the Institute for Theological Studies, Seattle University, Washington.

"Religious Faith and Religious Fears: An Open Letter to Our Children." Presented February 22, 1995 as part of "Anne Frank in the World 1929-1945," the Idaho Exhibit, at First Congregational Church (UCC), Boise, Idaho.

"Religious Pluralism and Religious Convictions." Presented March 17, 1995 at the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs 1995 Spring Conference on Issues of Diversity, Boise State University, Idaho.

"Eschatology and Process Theology." Presented June 20, 1995 at the Institute for Theological Studies, Seattle University, Washington.

"New Creation and (Good) Old Creation." Presented November 2, 1995 at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society (theme: The New Creation), Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho.

"Covenant Character: The Role of Scripture in Ethical Reflection and Decision." Presented February 8, 1997 at the Festival of Faith Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Albertson College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho. Also presented March 8, 1997 for the 97th Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of South Idaho, Red Rock Christian Church, Boise Idaho.

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### ***PRESENTATIONS***, cont'd (arranged chronologically):

“All of Creation is Groaning’: Does the Wesleyan Tradition Make a Contribution to an Ecological Ethic?” Presented April 24, 1997 as the Northwest Nazarene College Faculty Award Lectureship for 1996-1997.

“Science and Religion: Can We Live Them Both?” Theologian-in-residence for October-November, 1997 series of science/religion dialogues at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, CA.

“World Without End’: Might This Universe Be Resurrected?” Presented October 14, 1997 as the October 1997 Public Forum of The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.

“Beginnings, Big Innings and Big Bangs: The Biblical Doctrine of Creation and Modern Scientific Theory.” Presented November 16, 1997, as a Christian education seminar at Castro Valley United Methodist Church, Castro Valley, CA.

“Heavenly Ideals and Earthly Realities: A Covenantal Approach to Compromise.” Presented February 13, 1998 at the Wesley Center for Applied Theology conference on Ideals and Compromise, Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID.

“The Whiteheadian Wesley and the Evangelical Wesley: Can They Give Each Other Their Hands?” Presented February 24, 1998 for the Center for Process Studies, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA.

“Beginnings: God’s Activity in the Origins of the Universe.” Presented March 27, 1998 at Nazarene Theological Seminary for the Consultation on Science and Religion for Professors of Nazarene Colleges and Universities, March 26-28, 1998, Kansas City, MO.

“The Strangest Sentence in the History of Western Philosophy.” Presented May 9, 1998 at the University of Portland for the Pacific Northwest regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, May 8-10, Portland, OR.

“Giving Our Stories Some Bend: A Response to Michael Goldberg as an Exercise in Jewish-Christian Conversation.” Presented May 9, 1999 at Pacific Lutheran University for the Pacific Northwest regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion, May 7-9, Tacoma, WA.

“Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ – Spirit of Creation? (Who and What is the Holy Spirit?)” Presented March 5, 2000 at Azusa Pacific University for the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, March 5-6, Azusa, CA.

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### ***PRESENTATIONS***, cont'd (arranged chronologically):

“The Witness of the Spirit, Revisited: Is the Putatively Therapeutic Function of Wesley’s Doctrine of Assurance Actually Feasible?” Presented March 31, 2000 at Asbury Theological Seminary for the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology, Wilmore, KY.

“Perceived Evils of Evolution and Probable Problems for Providence: Why the Creation-Evolution Conversation is so Utterly Difficult.” Presented June 12, 2000 for the Science and Religion Course Program’s advanced workshop on the theme “Evolution and Providence,” Berkeley, CA.

Four-part lecture series sponsored by the Wesleyan Center for Twenty-First Century Studies, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California, during the academic year 2000-2001:

*God of Nature and of Grace: Why the World Matters to Wesleyans –*

*Lecture One:* “Making: ‘The Creatures All Thy Breath Receive.’” Presented September 7, 2000.

*Lecture Two:* “Mending: ‘The Bondage of Corruption Break.’” Presented November 2, 2000.

*Lecture Three:* “Molding: ‘Thou Art the Universal Soul.’” Presented February 8, 2001.

*Lecture Four:* “Meeting: ‘And All We Taste Be God.’” Presented April 5, 2001.

“‘God of Nature and of Grace’: John Wesley’s Vision of a Salved World.” Presented September 29, 2001 at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration conference, “Christian Scholarship – For What?” at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Creating Symbolic Space: Point Loma Nazarene University Past and Present.” Presented with faculty colleague Duane Little (History Department) February 8, 2002 at Point Loma Nazarene University’s Centennial Conference, “The Creative Imagination: Space, Time and Form,” San Diego CA.

“Reading Genesis in a Wesleyan Way.” Presented April 12, 2002 at Point Loma Nazarene University for the God of Nature and of Grace conference, co-hosted by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and PLNU, San Diego, CA.

“To Whom Belong the Covenants?: Whitehead, Wesley and Wildly Diverse Religious Traditions.” Presented March 27, 2003 at Claremont School of Theology for an international conference hosted by the Center for Process Studies, “Whitehead’s Philosophy and Genuine Religious Pluralism,” Claremont, CA.

Distinguished Lecturer for the Gould Lectures on Holiness at Eastern Nazarene College, Wollaston, MA, April 16-17, 2003:

*Lecture One:* “The Witness of the Spirit as a Sharing in the Triune Life of God”

*Lecture Two:* “The Witness of the Spirit as a Sharing in Ecclesial Koinonia”

*Lecture Three:* “The Witness of the Spirit as a Sharing in Creation’s Pains”

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### *PRESENTATIONS*, cont'd (arranged chronologically):

“Contemporary Theology and the Ministry of the Local Church.” Presented February 11, 2004 at Point Loma Nazarene University for Continuing Education Seminar Series for Pastors, “Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” San Diego, CA.

“The Bible and the Qur’an: Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.” Presented March 15, 22 and 29, 2004 at San Diego School for Christian Studies (“Living with Our Deepest Differences” series), First United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA.

“Introducing the World’s Religions.” Presented during the Sundays of March, 2004, as an Adult Sunday School elective class, First Church of the Nazarene, San Diego, CA.

“The Story of *The Story of God*.” Presented August 17, 2004, at Africa Nazarene University, Nairobi, Kenya.

“No Holiness but Social Holiness’: Implications for Institutions of Higher Learning within the Wesleyan Tradition.” Presented August 21, 2004 to the Faculty of Africa Nazarene University, Nairobi, Kenya.

“Bent Down Theology: Jesus and the Church in Johannine Writings.” Presented September 19-22, 2004, as Fall Revival speaker for Olivet Nazarene University and College Church of the Nazarene, Kankakee, IL.

“From God to Creation’: Pursuing the Trinitarian Reflections of Gregory of Nyssa as a Critique of *Creatio ex Nihilo*.” Presented November 21, 2004 in the Open and Relational Theologies Consultation of the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX.

“Response to Diane Leclerc’s ‘Holy Spirit: The Essential Characters and Parameter of a Nazarene Pneumatology.’” Presented December 4, 2004 at the North American Nazarene Theology Conference, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO.

Distinguished Lecturer for the Rothwell Lectures in Theology at Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK, February 22-24, 2005. (In celebration of the centenary of Mildred Bangs Wynkoop’s birth:)

*Lecture One*: “The New Wine of Wynkoop’s Relational Reading of Wesley: Refreshing? – or Bursting the Old Skins?”

*Lecture Two*: “www.theology.com: Wynkoop’s Debt to Wiley and Williams”

*Lecture Three*: “Wynkoop’s Whiteheadian Wesley?”

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***PRESENTATIONS***, cont'd (arranged chronologically):

“The Church as the Community of New Creation.” Presented March 5, 2005 at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA.

“Gather Up the Fragments, That Nothing Be Wasted.” Presented April 16, 2005 for conference on Lifestyles for a Sustainable World: A Gathering of Local Practices for Sustainability, Mid-City Church of the Nazarene, San Diego, CA.

“Matthew Matters: How Matthew’s Gospel Calls Forth the *Ecclesia*.” Three lectures presented August 8-11, 2005, at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA, for M.Min. course “Shaping Ministry in a Shifting Culture.”

“The Bible and the Qur’an, Side by Side.” Four lectures presented January 20, 2006, for Continuing Education for Pastors (interdenominational), Eureka Church of the Nazarene, Eureka, CA.