



Theological Research Seminar



Tuesday, Mar 21, 2017

12:30—1:20pm

Hurlburt Hall

Jeremy McClung

“A Relational Paradigm of
Conversion: Evangelism as Spiritual
Direction in a Post-Christian World”

Abstract

In today's world, traditional forms of evangelism are losing their effectiveness. New approaches are being touted, but these must be built on a solid biblical and theological understanding of conversion. Framing conversion as the formation of a relationship with God offers a powerful guiding paradigm that incorporates the volitional, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects without placing undue focus on any one area. Furthermore, an understanding of how human relationships are formed sheds light on how this divine relationship may develop over time, and offers identifiable stages in the process of “becoming Christian.” This relational paradigm of conversion offers practical implications for those who wish to share their faith in the 21st century, generating a style of evangelism that has much in common with the ancient art of spiritual direction.

Biography

Jeremy McClung lives in Huntsville, ON, with his wife, April and three children aged 7–15. He is founding pastor of Muskoka Community Church, a thriving, medium-sized congregation with Anabaptist roots and a missional focus. He is wrapping up his M.A. this spring, having focused on conversion, evangelism, and spiritual direction as primary research topics.



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