Introduction to the Resources from the 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability on The Boggs Center Website

The 2010 Summer Institute was sponsored by the Faith Community Leadership Project of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council coordinated by The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in collaboration with Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, July 12-16, 2010. All of the audio recordings and other resources are on a CD available for $10 (see CD information) as well as individually downloadable from the Boggs Center website. Other documents include suggestions on how to use the presentations in a seminary independent study or for clergy continuing educations. For more information, contact Bill Gaventa, 732-235-9304 or bill.gaventa@umdnj.edu, Project Coordinator.

The 2010 Institute began with a one-day event on Monday that was focused on congregational leadership, seminary students in area Clinical Pastoral Education programs and anyone else able to come for one day. Participants who registered for the full week were also involved, with Tuesday through Friday featuring longer presentations by the Institute faculty and discussions in two tracks, one on pastoral and congregational ministries and the second on theological education.

To help orient you to the files on the website and CD, note:

• The Audio Files are listed below in the order of the presentations during the week and the order on the CD. There are two exceptions.
  • Tom Reynolds was not able to come due to visa problems. His Monday presentation is a Word document file. His Thursday presentation was read by one of the participants in the Institute.
  • Bill Gaventa was also not able to come due to a medical leave. The audiofiles of his Overview of the Institute and presentation were recorded after the institute in the production process of the CD.

• Each speaker and file does not have a verbal introduction.

• If you are interested in the PowerPoint’s used by Erik Carter, Peggy Johnson, John Swinton, Amos Yong and Leonard Hummel, please contact them directly. Short bios of all the speakers are listed below the titles of the presentations as well as contact information.
Thus, the files listed in order are:

**Introduction to the CD and Overview of the Summer Institute**: Bill Gaventa, M.Div. Recorded in the process of production of the CD.

**New Voices in Theology and Disability: An Introduction. Monday, July 12.**
(Presentations @ 30 -45 minutes each)
- Hans Reinders, Ph.D. *After Disability Theology: What’s Next?*
- John Swinton, M.Div., Ph.D. *Moving Through the Sadness: Theological Reflections on Depression, Suicide and the Dark Night of the Soul*
- Peggy Johnson. M.Div. D.Min. *Strategies for Establishing a Ministry for People with Hearing Loss in a Hearing Church*
- Erik Carter, Ph.D.: *After the Benediction: Journeying with People with Disabilities in Faith and Life.*
- Amos Yong, Ph.D. *The Spirit Poured Out Upon All Flesh: Disability & the Renewal of the Church"
- Tom Reynolds, Ph.D. *Beyond “Normalcy”: Reconsidering Disability and Theology* (pdf document)

**The Call and Promise for Pastoral Leadership and Theological Education.**
(July 13-16 Keynotes @1 hr. each.)
- Peggy Johnson, D.Min. *The Bible and the Deaf.*
- Amos Yong, Ph.D. *Re-Enabling the Hermeneutics of Suspicion & of Charity: Disability & the Renewal of Theological Education.*
- John Swinton, Ph.D. *‘Whose Story am I?’ Spirituality, Personhood and Dementia*
- Hans Reinders, Ph.D. *Two Kinds of Communities, Two Kinds of People*
- Thomas Reynolds, Ph.D., *Educating Care: Transformation and Disability in Theological Education.* (Read by a conference participant)
- Leonard Hummel, Ph.D. *Theology and Disabilities: Signs of Hope amidst Struggle at Gettysburg.*
- Bill Gaventa, M.Div. *Rediscovering the Old in the New: Biblical Themes Emerging in Inclusive Ministries* (Recorded after the Summer Institute)

**Word Files in PDF Format**
- *The 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability CD: Suggestions and Guidelines for Continuing Education and CEU’s*
- *The 2010 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability CD:Suggestions and Guidelines for a Seminary Independent Study*
Institute Faculty Bios

Erik Carter is Associate Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University and Member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. His research and teaching focuses on strategies for supporting meaningful inclusion and promoting valued roles in school, work, and community settings for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has written four books, among them *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, and Congregations.*

Bill Gaventa serves as Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Associate Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, UMDNJ. In his role at The Boggs Center, Bill works on community supports, training for community services staff, supervision of a Clinical Pastoral Education Program, and the Faith Community Leadership Program of the PA Council on Developmental Disabilities. Bill has served in a variety of professional and volunteer roles, including Coordinator of Family Support for the Georgia Developmental Disabilities Council and Chaplain and Coordinator of Religious Services for the Monroe Developmental Center. As writer and author, he served as *Editor of the Journal of Religion Disability, and Health* for 14 years, and has edited a number of books coming out of the JRDH as well as books on The Boggs Center website.

Professor Hans S. Reinders teaches ethics at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam since 1995. He has published widely on disability issues. Among his well known books are *The Future of the Disabled in Liberal Society* (The University of Notre Dame Press, 2000) and *Receiving the Gift of Friendship* (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008). Hans Reinders and John Swinton are the founders of the European Society for the Study of Theology and Disability.

Thomas E. Reynolds is Associate Professor of Theology at Emmanuel College, of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. He did his graduate work at Vanderbilt University and holds a Ph.D. in Theology and the History of Christian Thought. Committed to an interdisciplinary and relational vision of theology, Reynolds’ teaching and research explore a range of topics related to Christian engagements with diversity in a global context. He is especially interested in interfaith peacemaking and disability studies, both of which in different ways involve promoting reconciliation and right relation among peoples. Tom Reynolds has published numerous articles and authored two books: *The Broken Whole: Philosophical Steps toward a Theology of Global Solidarity* (SUNY Press, 2005) and *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality* (Brazos Press, 2008). Currently, he is working on a book entitled, *Remembering ‘Ourselves’ Differently: Theology and Christian Identity in a Global Era.* When he is not teaching or writing, Reynolds spends time with his family, plays jazz piano, listens to music of all kinds, and enjoys nature in whatever way possible. His musical side runs deep: while finishing his graduate degree he played music professionally in Nashville, TN. He now is Music Coordinator at St. Andrews United Church in Toronto.
**John Swinton** holds the chair in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom. He is also an honorary Professor at Aberdeen’s Centre for Advanced Studies in Nursing. John is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland who for more than a decade worked as a registered nurse specializing in psychiatry and laterally intellectual disabilities. He also worked for a number of years as a community mental health chaplain. John’s areas of research include the relationship between spirituality and health and the theology of disability. In 2004 he founded the *Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability* at the University of Aberdeen. ([www.abdn.ac.uk/cshad](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cshad)) His books include *Resurrecting the Person: Friendship and the Care of People with Mental Health Problems* Nashville: Abingdon (2000), *Spirituality in Mental Health Care: Rediscovering a “Forgotten” Dimension* London: Jessica Kingsley (2001), *Raging With Compassion: Pastoral Responses to the Problem of Evil* (2007) Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans (2007), *Theology, Disability and the New Genetics: Why Science Needs the Church* London: T&T Clarke (2007) and *Critical Reflections on Stanley Hauerwas’ Essays on Disability: Disabling Society, Enabling Theology* New York: Haworth Press (2005).

**Amos Yong** is J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, Virginia. His graduate education includes degrees in theology, history, and religious studies from Western Evangelical Seminary and Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, and Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts. He has published six books – on theology of religions, theological method, pneumatological theology, Pentecostal theology, and theology and disability – edited four others, and is presently completing four manuscripts on Pentecostalism and political theology, and on Pentecostal theology and science. He and his wife, Alma, currently reside with their three children – Aizaiah (18), Alyssa (16), and Annalisa (14) – in Chesapeake, Virginia. For publications, see [http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty_staff/faculty/yong.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty_staff/faculty/yong.cfm)

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