

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you!" John 14:18, ESV

The nature of Discipleship is rooted in mission. It is based on the idea that the Gospel does not terminate with me. It is given to me, received by me, and then passed on....through me. So the Great Commission is an expression of this, flowing from the words of Jesus in John 13: 34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In this conference we will explore this particular understanding of Discipleship and Mission. The idea that it begins with the gift of faith given to us but does not end there. Rather, it compels us and becomes a Christ-centered and Christ-motivated undertaking.

Our guest speakers will bring a unique perspective to this discussion. Pastor Alexander Gross from the Ukraine and Pastor Siimon Hammer from Estonia, have, and are still, trying to rebuild the church in a post-communist Eastern Europe.

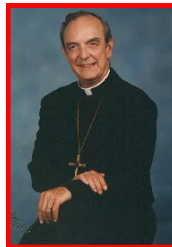
Most of us recognize that an orphan is someone without a father or a mother and without the connection of an extended family. Orphans often suffer from feelings of anxiety, isolation, and hopelessness.

Central and Eastern European countries endured more than 70 years of imposed scientific atheism under Soviet communist rule. In the wake of the fall of the Iron Curtain, multiple generations have been left as spiritual orphans.

For most, there is no older generation of believers – no grandmas and grandpas, no fathers or mothers to lead, teach and guide younger generations along the path of faith. The concepts of knowing a Father in heaven who loves you, belonging to an extended family of brothers and sisters in Christ, extending forgiveness to others, and having the sure and certain hope in Jesus Christ have been lost.

Almost 3 decades after the fall of the Soviet Union, there is still only a remnant of believers who are desperately trying to fan the embers of faith in a society that still functions largely in the long shadow of its atheistic, communist past.

In this conference you will hear from Pastors that are living this reality in their ministries, communities and countries every day. You will also have the opportunity to examine your own ministries and Christian walk in light of our call to Discipleship and Mission.



The Rev. Dr. Michael C.D. McDaniel (1929 -2003) of blessed memory served as bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the former LCA from 1982 to 1987 and then of the ELCA from 1988 to 1991. Prior to his episcopal call, Bishop McDaniel served as a parish pastor and then from 1971 to 1982 as a professor of religion and philosophy at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC. The Carolinas Mission District is proud to honor Bishop McDaniel's lifelong commitment to orthodoxy and ecumenism with this annual Reformation conference. We come together as confessional Christians to do theology for the sake of the church – in Bishop McDaniel's words, in order to "enhance our common witness to Christ".

Location

GCTS:
14542 Choate Circle
Charlotte, NC 28273
704-527-9909

The Michael C.D. McDaniel Reformation Conference *Ecclesia Plantanda* Lecture Series



**Gordon-Conwell Theological
Seminary**

November 7, 2019

**Presented by the Carolinas
Mission District, NALC
& East European Missions
Network**

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 Registration Opens
- 10:15 Welcome & Opening
- 10:30 Keynote 1: Pastor David Breidenbach
- 11:30 Working Session 1 (Attendees) –
Discipleship & Missions – What is our role?
- 12:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 Keynote 2: Pastor Alexander Gross -
Ukraine
- 2:00 Working Session 2 (Attendees) –
**Discipleship & Missions – What could this
look like?**
- 2:30 Keynote 3: Pastor Siimon Haamer -
Estonia
- 3:30 Break
- 4:00 Panel Discussion (All) –
Being the church in difficult times
- 5:00 Closing Thoughts
- 5:30 Dinner & Fellowship
- 6:30 Worship

Led by GCTS Lutheran Studies alumni and Students



Pastor David Breidenbach is the Executive Director of Eastern European Missions Network. In his previous call, he was Associate Pastor and Director of Overseas Missions at Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM. He has served on mission teams to Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus.



Pastor Alexander Gross is President of the DELKU (German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ukraine). He has served as the Director of Youth center in Petrodolina, Ukraine.

Pastor Siimon Haamer is Dean of the Tartu Academy of Theology in Tartu, Estonia. He was among the first graduates of TAT in 1998 and felt the call to teach a new generation of Christian leaders for Estonia. Under his leadership, TAT has embarked on a major expansion project to serve the ever increasing student population.



Vendors

Department of Lutheran Studies, GCTS

Sola Publishing

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REGISTRATION

Complete and mail this form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$40 if paid before October 25, 2019, \$50 after that date or at the door.

Mail registrations and fees to:

Carolinas Mission District
PO Box 6381
Hickory, NC 28603

Checks should be made out to:

**Carolinas Mission District
Memo line: McDaniel Conference**

This conference is open to all — pastors and laity. Registration is not required for attending the worship service only.

(Make extra copies of this form as necessary)