



## Fall Theological Conference

Oct. 19-20, 2020  
via Zoom

*Bonhoeffer as Pastor to Youth  
and  
The Pastor in a Secular Age*



## FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Andrew Root** (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the Carrie Olson Baalson professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. A former Young Life staff worker, he has served in churches and social service agencies as a youth outreach associate and a gang prevention counselor.



Dr. Root writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations. His most recent books are *The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need God* (Baker, 2019), *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* (Baker, 2017), and *Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies: Youth Ministry in the Age of Science* (Fortress Press, 2018).

### *Bonhoeffer as Pastor to Youth*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of the most beloved Christian pastors and theologians of the 20th century, often listed on the top of everyone's most influential Christians. Yet, there has been a major oversight when it has come to exploring his life and thought — this omission has been the centrality of Bonhoeffer youth and children's ministry.

Between 1925 and 1939 all of Bonhoeffer's direct ministry practice was with children and youth, leading the experience of children and youth into his well-known theological works, as well as inspiring him to write much less known pieces and sermons about and for young people.

Dr. Root's presentation will look to right this biographical wrong, by exploring Bonhoeffer's work with young people and seeing how he might inspire our own ministry to give us new perspectives on our own work with young people.

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

### *The Pastor in a Secular Age*

Being a pastor is no easy task in our time. Institutions are weaker, budgets are in decline, people are uninterested, and commitment is wavering. But these are only symptoms of a bigger issue.

This presentation will seek to peer beneath the symptoms and explore why many pastors find themselves in an identity crisis. The presentation examines what living in a secular age does to pastoral identity and how pastors can find new footing within it.

### *Let's Talk: Conversations about Race*

In this bonus workshop, the Racial Justice Advocacy Network will lead a "Conversation about Race." The network will also discuss ways that they can help you to have such conversations in your ministry setting.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Monday, October 19

- 9:00 a.m. Devotion by Bp. DeGroot-Nesdahl
- 9:10 a.m. Session I *Bonhoeffer as Pastor to Youth*
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Session II
- 12 Noon Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. Session III
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Session IV
- 4:00 p.m. Closing Prayer

### Tuesday, October 20

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering Prayer
- 9:05 a.m. Time with the Bishop
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Session V *The Pastor in a Secular Age*
- 12 Noon Prayer
- 1:00 p.m. *Let's Talk: Conversation about Race*