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What Role for Historic (or Recent) Confessions in Worship?

Calvin Symposium on Worship

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Event Participant(s)

Calvin Symposium on Worship, James C. Dekker, Eleazar Merriweather, Jerry Pillay, Lester Ruth, and Joyce Ann Zimmerman

Calvin Symposium on Worship 2011

C23: What Role for Historic (or Recent) Confessions in Worship?—moderated by Kathy Smith with James C. Dekker, Jerry Pillay, Eleazar Merriweather, Lester Ruth, and Joyce Zimmerman

Description: Does what we say we believe affect how we worship? With the rise of recent statements like the Accra and Belhar Confessions, many church leaders are dusting off historic confessions, wondering what role they could or should still play in the worship, life and thought of church members. This seminar will consider the educational and liturgical use of confessions from several different denominational perspectives."

A. Introductions

B. Questions for panelists—

Jim Dekker: Christian Reformed Church in North America

Jerry Pillay: Uniting Presbyterian Church in South Africa

Eleazar Merriweather: African Methodist Episcopal Church

Lester Ruth: United Methodist Church

Joyce Anne Zimmerman: Roman Catholic Church.

1. Which confessions does your church affirm?

2. How do the confessions affect your theology of worship and the educational formation of your members?

3. How do they apply to the leadership of your church?

4. How do the confessions shape the practice of your worship, in its elements, form, or style?

5. How do you use confessions in your liturgy?

6. What would you suggest to churches that want to introduce a greater emphasis on their confessions? Any best practices/creative uses of confessions in the liturgy?

C. Questions from those attending the workshop