HUFFINGTON ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE AT HCHC

# FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD
## Baptists and Orthodox Toward a Common Witness

DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2024

Join us for an engaging discussion on
Christian spirituality and social engagement

**TOPICS:**
**FAMILY LIFE AND SEXUALITY**
**ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND MIGRATION**
**ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

This event is open to the public and offers a unique opportunity to explore shared values, address modern challenges, and foster meaningful dialogue between Baptist and Orthodox traditions.

Scan the QR code below for detailed program and speaker information.

**HOSTED BY**
**THE HUFFINGTON ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE AT HCHC**
For inquiries, email hei@hchc.edu

MALIOTIS CULTURAL CENTER

**THIS EVENT IS OFFERED BOTH IN-PERSON & ONLINE**

**VENUE: THE MALIOTIS CULTURAL CENTER OF HCHC**

***FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD***

***Baptists and Orthodox Toward a Common Witness***

Join prominent Orthodox and Baptist theologians to discuss topics
related to Christian spirituality and social engagement,
including family life and sexuality, economic justice and migration,
as well as ecumenical relations.

This event is open to the public.

**BAPTIST-ORTHODOX COLLOQUIUM IV**

**Host Organization: Huffington Ecumenical Institute at HCHC**

**Venue: Maliotis Cultural Center of HCHC**

**Brookline, MA**

**December 10–11, 2024**

**HOST**:
Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis; Professor of Theology, Executive Director, Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Hellenic College Holy Cross

**FACILITATORS**:
Rev. Dr. Brandon Gallaher (UK) (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Exeter) and
Dr. Elizabeth Newman (Adjunct Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity and Union Presbyterian Seminary)

**SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**:

5.30 pm Meet Fr. John Chryssavgis at the Maliotis Cultural Center
Fr. John will accompany you to dinner at the HCHC Cafeteria
6.00 pm Dinner at HCHC Cafeteria
7.00 pm Reception at Maliotis Cultural Center
7.30 pm Introduction: Fr. John Chryssavgis
Moderator: Dr. Dale Irvin

Joint Keynote Address: **Christian Spirituality and Social Engagement**

- Rev. Dr. Brandon Gallaher and Dr. Elizabeth Newman

9.00 pm Departure for the hotel (Transportation provided by HCHC)

**Wednesday, Dec. 11** (Joint sessions)

7.00 am–8.30 am Breakfast at hotel
8.30 am Departure from the hotel (Transportation provided by HCHC)

9.00 am–10.30 am Session I:
Moderator: Dr. Curtis Freeman
**Family life: sexuality and the role of women**

- Dr. Rosa Hunt (Baptist)
- Dr. Valérie Duval-Poujol (Baptist)
- Dr Teva Regule (Orthodox)
- V. Rev. Dr. Philip LeMasters (Orthodox)

10.30 am–11.00 am Break

11.00 am–12.15 pm Session II:
Moderator: Benjamin Malian
**Economic justice and migration**

- Dr. Rady Roldan-Figuero (Baptist)
- Rt. Rev. Dr. Anthony (Vrame) of Synada (Orthodox)

12.30 pm–2.00 pm Lunch at HCHC Cafeteria

2.00 pm–3.30 pm Session III:
Moderator: Fr. John Chryssavgis
**Ecumenical relations**

- Dr. Steven Harmon (Baptist)
- Rev. Dr. Philip Halikias (Orthodox)

3.30 pm–4.00 pm Concluding Remarks

For a shared background, speakers and participants are encouraged to read the relevant sections of the recent Orthodox statement, *For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church* (https://www.goarch.org/-/life-of-the-world-thurs). The conversation will also focus on various social statements of the Baptist Communion.

**BAPTIST SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Valérie Duval-Poujol** is a French Baptist theologian, Bible translator, and author of several books. She teaches at the Catholic Institute of Paris and is involved at different levels in the fight against domestic violence. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity of the Baptist World Alliance and as a delegate for Phase III of the international ecumenical dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

**Dr Curtis W. Freeman** is Ruth D. Duncan Director of the Baptist House of Studies and Research Professor of Theology and Baptist Studies. His most recent book is *Pilgrim Journey: Instruction in the Mystery of the Gospel* (Fortress Press 2023). He is an ordained Baptist minister, editor of the *American Baptist Quarterly* and a member of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Doctrine and Christian Unity.

**Dr. Steven Harmon** is a Professor of Historical Theology at Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. He is the author or editor of seven books, including most recently *Baptists, Catholics, and the Whole Church: Partners in the Pilgrimage to Unity* (New City Press, 2021). He is Co-Secretary for Phase III of the Baptist-Catholic international dialogue and served as a member of the Baptist delegations to the Anglican Communion, and to pre-conversations with the Eastern Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate.

**Dr. Rosa Hunt** is a Senior Research Fellow at IBTS, Amsterdam. She is a minister of the Welsh-speaking Tabernacle Baptist Chapel in Cardiff, Wales, Co-Principal of Cardiff Baptist College, and an honorary lecturer at Cardiff University. She is originally from Malta. Her interests include patristic hermeneutics and language in all its manifestations. She enjoys communicating the relevance of faith to everyday life and does this in a number of ways including presenting a programme on BBC Radio Wales. She also has a particular interest in contemplative spirituality.

**Dr. Dale T. Irvin** is the chair of Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network, an adjunct at Georgetown University in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, a founding editor of the *Journal of World Christianity*, and a founding faculty member of the New School of Biblical Theology. He previously served on the faculty of New York Theological Seminary for 31 years, the last 13 of those as President. He is the author of a number of publications, including *History of the World Christian Movement* with Scott W. Sunquist.

**Dr. Elizabeth Newman** is an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Duke University Divinity School and teaches in The Baptist House of Studies, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. Her most recent book is *Living the Liturgy, Enlarging the Baptist Vision* (Baylor, 2024). She is Chair of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity and Co-

Chair of the Baptist delegation of Phase III of the international ecumenical dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church.

**Dr. Rady Roldán-Figueroa** is a Professor of the History of Christianity at the Boston University School of Theology, is a Puerto Rican scholar whose research engages a diversity of themes and topics in the history of Christianity from the 15th to the 20th century. He specializes in early modern global Christianity, Christianity in colonial Latin America, the intersectionality of Catholicism, race, and colonialism as well as the history of Christian spirituality. His most recent book is *The Martyrs of Japan: Publication History and Catholic Missions in the Spanish World (Spain, New Spain, and the Philippines, 1597–1700)* (Brill, 2021).

**ORTHODOX SPEAKERS**

**Rev. Dr. Brandon Gallaher** is an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Exeter (Devon, UK). He is a priest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate serving in the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. His publications include *Freedom and Necessity in Modern Trinitarian Theology* (OUP, 2016), [with John Chryssavgis] *The Living Christ: The Theological Legacy of Georges Florovsky* (Bloomsbury, 2021) and *Kallistos Ware of Oxford (1934-2022): A Life in Pilgrimage* (The Wheel, 2024). He is currently co-editing *Eastern Orthodoxy and World Religions: The Theology and Practice of Inter-Religious Encounter in the Contemporary Christian East* (Forthcoming Brill, 2025).

**Rev. Dr. Philip Halikias** is the Chief Equity and Compliance Officer and Adjunct Professor of Orthodox-Catholic Relations and Ecumenism at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He focuses on Ecumenical and Interfaith work through the National Council of Churches' Faith and Order Commission and Muslim-Christian Dialogue. He is an active participant and contributor to the North American Orthodox-Catholic Consultation and is currently representing the Orthodox church on the editing team for the World Council of Churches Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Fr. Philip serves the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Manchester, New Hampshire, and lives in Massachusetts with his family.

**V. Rev. Dr. Philip LeMasters** is Professor of Religion and Director of the Honors Program at McMurry University (Abilene, TX). An Archpriest of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, he is a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, where he has also taught as an adjunct Professor of Christian Ethics. His most recent book is *Sex and Salvation* (SVS Press, forthcoming 2025). A Senior Fellow in the Orthodoxy and Human Rights Project of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University, his research focuses on applied issues in Orthodox social ethics.

**Benjamin Malian** is a graduate student of theology at Holy Cross School of Theology, where his work-study is at the Huffington Ecumenical Institute. Originally from Michigan, he completed undergraduate studies at Michigan State University. His academic training is in the field of international relations, with a concentration in sustainable community design and development. He is interested in exploring Orthodox visions of communal belonging and sacramental ecology.

**Dr. Teva Regule** is an Adjunct Professor at Boston College. She received her M. Div. from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and her Ph. D. in Systematic Theology from Boston

College. Her doctoral work focused on liturgical theology and history. Throughout her life, she has been an active member of the Orthodox Church. Dr. Regule is the immediate past president of the Orthodox Theological Society in America (OTSA). At present, she serves on the board of the St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess, an initiative that aims to educate the faithful about the historical female diaconate and advocate for its revival to meet the ministerial needs of the church and society for today.

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Anthony (Vrame) of Synada** is the Director of Holy Cross Orthodox Press, Adjunct Associate Professor, and Acting Dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He is an auxiliary bishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Ecumenical Patriarchate. He was a member of the Faith and Order Commission from 2004-2019 and Chair of the Commission from 2005-2013 for the National Council of Churches in Christ, USA. Currently, he is a member of the Convening Table on Christian Education and Faith Formation of the NCC and serves on the Board of Directors of Friendship Press. He was President of the Orthodox Theological Society in America from 2007-2009. He is the author of *The Educating Icon: Teaching Wisdom and Holiness in the Orthodox Way* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1999) and many articles on Orthodox Christian religious education and the history of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States.

# International Baptist-Orthodox Colloquia (2021-)

The International Baptist-Orthodox Colloquia were established to foster conversation and unity with between Baptists and Orthodox. These are not official dialogues but informal conversations ("colloquia") that have taken place in academic institutions globally.

### *The aim and purpose of these informal conversations:*

1. Increase our mutual understanding, appreciation and Christian charity towards each other;

2. Seek to discover together areas we might share in common and how we might understand our differences in more constructive ways.

The colloquia have taken place at academic institutions in particular regions. The intent is to keep the conversation responsive to specific contexts. The challenges in Romania, for example, are very different from those in the United States. In addition, having an academic institution as host provided a relatively neutral ground, which is especially helpful where tensions between Orthodox and Baptist are high.

The colloquia have built on Pre-Conversations between Representatives of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate (1994-2011).[1] The Ecumenical Patriarchate in the end withheld official approval that the conversations might become an Official Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the BWA. This sad outcome was arguably the product of the fractious character of the unity of world Orthodoxy, which has only increased since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022. Despite this set back, it was believed that informal and unofficial conversations would be ways to build rapport and work toward peace, unity and justice in our respective regions and between our different communions. In recent years, the Orthodox have engaged with great creativity in similar informal academic and pastoral dialogues with other church groups, notably, the Orthodox-Pentecostal Academic Dialogue (2017-).[2]

***Past and future meetings:***

**First colloquia** (May 26, 2021): "The Nature and Dignity of the Human Person," International Theological Conference at Bucharest University (Director: BWA Vice President Otniel Bunaciu) See news story: https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/612262/_Baptist_orthodox.aspx

**Second colloquia** (June 6, 2022) – "Church and Society," University of Sofia, Bulgaria, Dr. Parush Parushev (Bulgaria), Rector of St. Trivelius Institute Sofia, Fellow of the Bulgarian Academy

**Third colloquia** (April 26-27, 2023)– "One Earth, One Love: Care for the Planet and the Climate Crisis," Regents Park College, University of Oxford, England, Dr. Paul Fiddes, (England), Professor of Systematic Theology, Oxford University, Fellow British Academy

**Fourth colloquia** (December 10-11, 2024)– "Spirituality and Social Engagement," Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Boston, United States, Dr. Elizabeth

[1] See Steven R. Harmon's "A Report on Pre-Conversations between Representatives of the Baptist World Alliance and the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, Crete, Greece, 31 October-1 November, 2011."

[2] See "Orthodox-Pentecostal Academic Dialogue," *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 28, no. 2 (2019): 163–164, "Orthodox–Pentecostal Academic Dialogue: Report on the Third Meeting," *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 30, no. 1 (2021): 1-2 and "Orthodox–Pentecostal Academic Dialogue," *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 31, no. 2 (2022): 169-170.

Newman (USA), Adjunct Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity School and Rev. Dr Brandon Gallaher, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Exeter.

*Outcomes:*

- A Baptist-Orthodox collection of essays
- Building relations between Baptist and Orthodox
- Engaging theological and ethical challenges impacting the life of the church in the world

**Theological Resource Group**

The purpose of this group is to serve as a resource for local conversations between Baptist and Orthodox theologians and leaders. These conversations take place in the form of academic colloquia. The intention of these gatherings is not so much to have a Baptist perspective versus an Orthodox one, but to have Baptist and Orthodox theologians and leaders talking together about topics of mutual concern.

*Baptist participants from the Commission*

- Dr. Otniel Bunaciu
- Dr. Paul Fiddes
- Dr. Steve Harmon
- Dr. Elizabeth Newman
- Dr. Parush Parushev
- Dr. Valérie Duval-Poujol
- Rev. Tony Peck (retired, General Secretary of EBF)

*Orthodox participants*

- The Rev. Dr. John Behr (Scotland), Regius Professor of Humanity, University of Aberdeen;
- Dr. Tamara Grdzelidze (Georgia), Associated Professor in Religious Studies, Ilia State University, Tbilisi;
- The Rev. Dr. Brandon Gallaher (England) Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Exeter;
- Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou (USA), Archbishop Demetrios Professor in Orthodox Theology and Culture at Fordham University, Senior Fellow and co-founder, Orthodox Christian Studies.

* In addition, we will include Everton Jackson, Director of Integral Mission and head of the BWA Commissions in all future planning sessions and meetings.
* All members of the Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity have been and will continue to be invited and involved in the colloquia.

Submitted by Elizabeth Newman, Chair, Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity
October 8, 2021, edited Brandon Gallaher, April 17, 2024.