

An Invitation from the President



Dear Friends,

I've had a least four revelations in my life regarding food. One was when my wife pointed out to me that my family-of-origin is "food obsessed." Cheri was referring to my family's habits of offering guests something to eat upon first walking in the door, of judging the success of events

(such as weddings) by how good the food was, or by all the time spent at family gatherings anticipating, enjoying, and talking about food.

A second revelation was discovering, as a child, that Catholics and Methodists could not take communion together because Methodists were not part of the Catholic family. In my own Methodist congregation, we practiced an open table the four times a year we celebrated communion; and the pastor always noted in the invitation that "Jesus offered communion to everyone, including Judas, so we don't exclude anybody." I did not yet know the terms "table fellowship" or "ecumenical hospitality."

A third revelation was in college and seminary where I learned the essential importance in Jesus' ministry of table fellowship, the meaning attached to his table manners in a culture that judged a lot about a person by the company he kept at mealtime.

The fourth revelation is when I read Margaret Visser's book, *The Rituals of Dinner*. How vulnerable we make ourselves when we sit at table with each other! We trust not only that the food is safe to eat but that our table companions will not turn utensils into weapons. It is the inherent vulnerability of eating together that makes betraying someone at the table all the more loathsome.

Attention to food. Divisions within Christianity over the table. The importance in Jesus' ministry and the Christian story of table fellowship. The trust necessary to eat with others. I don't know for certain what will be the insights Professors Smith, Taussig, and McKenzie bring to us at Ministers' Week. But I would imagine they will shed fresh light on the importance of food and meals in ancient times and in ours. Please join me in what is sure to be a delicious event!

Gary Peluso-Verdend
President, Phillips Theological Seminary

Registration Information and Methods

Online: www.ptstulsa.edu
Phone: 918-610-8303
Email: melanie.tipton@ptstulsa.edu
Mail: Ministers' Week, Phillips Theological Seminary
901 North Mingo Road
Tulsa, OK 74116-5612

For directions to PTS and lodging suggestions, please visit our web site at www.ptstulsa.edu or call 918-610-8303.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration fee: \$110 per person

The registration fee is \$110 and includes meals if received by January 12th.

Registrations received after this date will not include meals.

Number of registrations _____

Additional guests for Wednesday night dinner are \$27.50 each
____ Number of additional guests for Wednesday night dinner

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Special Requests: (please mark all those that apply)

Meals Accessibility Hearing Other

Comments: _____

Method of Payment

Credit Card: (please circle one) Visa Mastercard Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name on card (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Personal Check made payable to Phillips Theological Seminary. Please specify Ministers' Week on memo line and include check with this registration form.

Continuing Education Units Available.

If you are interested in CEUs please check here.

Cancellation Policy

90% refunds will be available if cancellation is received by Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

If Minister's Week is cancelled due to inclement weather, 100% refunds will be available.