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Office of University
Communications

March 5, 2015

Creighton University Hosts Conversation as Part of Founders Week Activities

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – A Gardner-Webb University instructor of Christian theology recently participated as a keynote speaker in a discussion on ecumenism held at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., as part of a four-year series of events with the theme “Celebrating the Legacy of Vatican II.”

Dr. Steve Harmon was one of several internationally-recognized theologians and clergy members from around the country who took part in a conversation on ecumenism during last month's symposium. *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Decree on Ecumenism coming out of the Second Vatican Council, was the subject of a discussion between keynote speakers Harmon, William Rusch, D.Phil., of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Yale Divinity School; and the Rev. John Crossin, Ph.D., a priest in the order of the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales and a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“My address was on ‘*Unitatis Redintegratio* in Baptist Perspective,’” Harmon shared. “In it, I explored how the Decree on Ecumenism has impacted Catholic-Baptist relations and I called attention to some features of the Decree that converged with two concepts near and dear to Baptists—religious liberty and the responsibility of all Christians for the ministry of the church.”

Each speaker made an individual presentation that discussed the *Unitatis Redintegratio* and its implications for their particular denomination and for Christianity as a whole. The conversation was part of a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II in 1965 and Creighton's Founders Week 2015 festivities. From 2012 until the fall of 2015 various lectures, convocations, seminars, courses, films and other events have been sponsored by Creighton to focus on the meaning and impact of the Second Vatican Council. Scholars from all disciplines on campus and beyond were invited to learn more about how the Catholic Jesuit character of the institution, greatly influenced by the Council and its teachings, could be further enriched and understood by all members of the community, regardless of the source of their spirituality.

Creighton University is a Catholic and Jesuit comprehensive university committed to excellence in its selected undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. □ Members of the Creighton community are challenged to reflect

on transcendent values, including their relationship with God, in an atmosphere of freedom of inquiry, belief and religious worship. Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).