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April 10, 2012

Register Now

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.— Registration is now open for Gardner-Webb's 2012 Pastors' School, a three-day educational retreat for pastors and students of ministry and theology, May 28-30 at GWU. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, distinguished Old Testament scholar and author of more than 50 books and Bible commentaries, will serve as guest keynote speaker, along with Dr. Jim McConnell, professor of New Testament interpretation at GWU.

Brueggemann and McConnell will address the theme, "Out of Babylon: The People of God and Empire from both the Old and New Testament Perspectives." In addition, the 2012 School will feature a presentation on Christianity and Islam by Dr. Donald Berry, professor of world religions at GWU, and morning devotional presentations by Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian life and service and senior minister to the University.

The goal of the annual Pastors' School is to offer ministers the chance to learn, converse and reflect about themes related to church ministry, and to hear from leading thinkers like Brueggemann and McConnell on pressing current issues.

During last year's School, a record 71 ministers enjoyed presentations by the influential scholar and church historian Dr. Leonard Sweet (Drew University, Madison, N.J.). According to Rev. John Bridges, GWU's assistant vice president of advancement for religious studies, Sweet's message was "of historic nature," a call for nothing less than "a new Reformation in evangelism."

Bridges expects Brueggemann's message to be just as powerful. "Dr. Brueggemann is one of the most respected Old Testament scholars in the world," he said. "His writing is prolific and profound and amazingly relevant for the Christian community in the 21st century."

Bridges also called McConnell a "rising star in New Testament studies and in Baptist life," and said the "Out of Babylon" theme "lends itself to the expertise of both these exceptional scholars."

Registration is \$60 for participants, \$30 for additional church staff or spouses, and \$15 for students. The cost of meals (five meals) is \$30. Lodging in campus apartments is available for \$60 per night.

A deposit of \$30 per person is due by May 1, with the balance due upon arrival. Mail deposits to: John Bridges, P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017.

For lodging inquiries at the AmericInn in Boiling Springs, call 704-434-9996. For the Hampton Inn in Shelby, N.C., call 704-482-5666.

For more information about the Pastors' School, visit gardner-webb.edu/pastors-school or call John Bridges at 704-406-3008.