

Calvin Courier

H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Reformation, Research, Teaching, Community Outreach



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Meeter Center Spring Lecture 2020

Dr. Jeff Fisher, Associate Professor of Theological Studies at Kuyper University in Grand Rapids, delivered an insightful and intriguing presentation on the relatively unknown Reformer of Basel, Johannes Oecolampadius and his “Christoscopic View of the Covenant.” First, Fisher provided an overview of the Swiss Reformer’s life (1482–1531) and his lasting contribution to the Reformation including 16 commentaries on 23 different biblical books - none of which have been translated into English. Secondly, Fisher demonstrated the “Christoscopic” (Christ the goal) theme running through Oecolampadius’ commentaries: every biblical passage reveals Christ or sets the reader on a trajectory that ultimately ends in Christ. Third, Fisher presented some main elements of the Swiss Reformer’s conception of the covenant. He departed from the standard medieval teaching that the new covenant replaced the old, and instead taught one overarching covenant of grace, variously administered, in which both Old and New Testament believers are included and saved by Christ. This emphasis on one covenant was not developed as a polemic against the Anabaptist rejection of infant baptism, but rather as a Christoscopic approach to Scripture. Fisher highlighted the Basel Reformer’s emphasis upon the Holy Spirit in the covenant, referred to his “bilateral” covenant conception, and pointed out areas of agreement and disagreement between Calvin and Oecolampadius on the covenant. Dr. Fisher is to be commended for his research and valuable efforts to bring to light this significant Reformer and early covenant theologian.

Brian Huizinga

From the Director

The Meeter Center's work continues apace, even in the midst of challenges faced by many educational institutions to do their part in lessening the risks of contagion from Covid-19. We have selected our fellowship recipients for 2020-21 - congratulations to each of them! The list of recipients and their proposed research topics can be found on p. 3. We are also in the process of selecting applicants for our two-week Genevan paleography workshop planned for July, and are delighted at the high caliber of the applicant pool. Our spring Meeter Center lecture featured Dr. Jeff Fisher of Kuyper College, speaking on the covenantal theology of the Swiss Reformer Johannes Oecolampadius - see the lecture report above. We are also planning our usual September conference - this year, we will focus on the Puritans, in the light of the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower (see p. 3). Finally, we deeply appreciate the support and interest of so many colleagues and friends - every gift you make to the Meeter Center helps support our work, whether through rare book purchases, the provision of fellowships, or activities that highlight the ongoing significance of the Reformation for modern-day audiences. Thank you!

Karin Maag

Meeter Center Podcast Channel

The Meeter Center now has a podcast channel! *Reformations* features interviews with Meeter Center fellows, Calvin professors, and experts in the field of Reformation studies. To listen in, go to our Anchor.fm channel:

<https://anchor.fm/the-h-henry-meeter-center-for-calvin-studies>. You can also find us on Spotify, Google podcasts, Breaker, or Radio Public.

The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music:

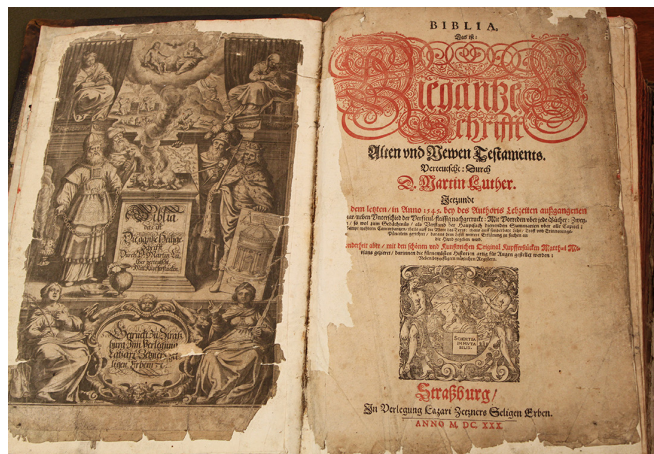
From the Reformation to the Present

The first Reformation Musical History and Theology conference on The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music will be held in Enschede, The Netherlands (25-27 November 2020). The original date has been postponed due to the covid-19 virus. Dr. Karin Maag will give one of the plenaries on psalter prefaces. For more information visit:

<https://www.rmht2020conference.com>

CURATOR'S CORNER: ACQUISITIONS AND RARE BOOKS

Due to a generous gift, the Meeter Center recently purchased eleven 16th and 17th century books. These include Calvin's 1547 commentary on First Corinthians, a 1609 volume containing Calvin's catechism, and the Heidelberg Catechism in both Greek and Latin. These volumes support our goal of having resources which are useful for scholarly research and of interest to the local community. On December 4th, twenty-eight guests celebrated the addition of these works to our collection at the Meeter Center.



Renew Your Friends Membership

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends' donations help provide funding for special programs, including fellowships, workshops, and community educational events.

Supporter	\$50	Advocate	\$500
Donor	\$100	Partner	\$1000
Promoter	\$250	Benefactor	\$5000

Donate to our Endowment or Rare Book Fund

Currently the Meeter Center owns approximately half of Calvin's works in original editions, and we expand our offerings each year. Donations to the Rare Book fund are used exclusively for adding rare books to the collection. Endowment Fund donations are also welcomed. We have a \$5 million endowment goal and are nearly half-way there, thanks to your generosity!

Donation checks may be made out to "Calvin University Meeter Center" and sent to 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. Thank you!

The Electronic Calvin Courier: Help us save trees and paper!

We now offer our Meeter Center newsletter in both digital and paper formats.

If you would like to be included on our email list to receive your newsletter as a pdf attachment, please send an email to: meeter@calvin.edu.

Please indicate whether or not you wish to continue receiving the paper version of our newsletter, as well as the pdf version.

Fellowship and Scholarship Awards

Every year, the Meeter Center offers fellowships for graduate students, faculty, and pastors, with awards of \$2,000-4,000. We also offer scholarships for high school seniors, with a 1st place award of \$3,500 and 2nd place awards of \$2,000 to be applied to college tuition at one of six specific colleges. For more information on how to apply for fellowships and scholarships, see:

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/>

Hugh and Eve Meeter High School Awards:

1st Prize, \$3,500:

-Nora TerBeek, Lynden, WA

2nd Prize, \$2,000:

-Elizabeth Anema, Caledonia, MI

-Abby Vander Ploeg, Byron Center, MI

Fellowship Recipients for 2020-2021:

Meeter Family Fellowship:

Rev. Dr. Jennifer McNutt, Franklin S. Dyrness Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Wheaton College, will work on a theological biography of John Calvin, for Oxford University Press's Christian Theology in Context series.

Faculty Fellowship:

Dr. Henk van den Belt, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, will explore the doctrine of providence in the formative period of the Reformed tradition.

Student Fellowships:

Preston Hill, Ph. D. student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, will use his time at the Meeter Center to write a chapter of his Ph. D. dissertation. The focus of his thesis is on Christ's descent into Hell in Calvin's theology.

Jeannette Kreijkes, Ph.D. student in theology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, will examine John Chrysostom's influence on John Calvin's work and thought, as part of her work for her dissertation.

Emo Van Halsema Fellowship:

Dr. Israel Flores, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Pastoral Theology at the United Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Madrid, will explore the theology behind the treatment of refugees and foreigners in sixteenth century Geneva, and its implications for Reformed churches today.



FALL 2020 CONFERENCE

The Meeter Center will host a conference on the Puritans on September 18-19, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, with a concurrent exhibition on the Puritans also on display at the Meeter Center. Our five plenary speakers are Dr. Margaret Bendroth (Director, Congregational Library in Boston), who will speak on congregationalism in the United States; Dr. Abram Van Engen (Washington University St. Louis), who will address the idea of American exceptionalism (based on his recent book); Dr. Adrian Weimer (Providence College), who will discuss early Puritan local activism; Dr. Richard Muller (Calvin Seminary Emeritus), who will compare and contrast English Reformed and Puritan theologies; and Dr. Chad van Dixhoorn (Westminster Seminary Philadelphia), who will speak on the Westminster Assembly. More details to follow. Stay tuned!



Reformation Day 2019 Lecture

Dr. Susan Felch of the Calvin University English Department gave our annual Reformation Day Lecture this year, "Discovering Anne Lock: The Extraordinary Ordinary Life of an English Reformer." Dr. Felch recently finished editing *Anne Vaughan Lock: Selected Poetry, Prose and Translations*, (volume 70 of *The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe*).

Watch it on our Youtube channel: <https://youtu.be/mALxL-Z7eao>