

# Calvin Courier

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



Spring 2019  
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## Leonard Vander Zee: Meeter Center Emo Van Halsema Fellowship Recipient

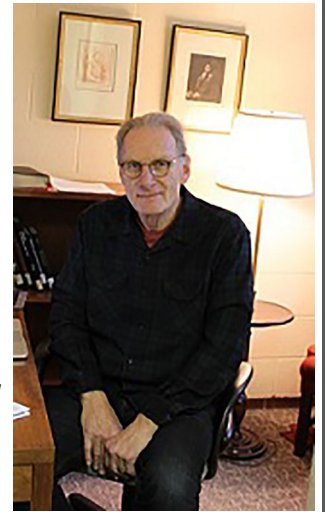
Dr. Leonard Vander Zee, retired CRC pastor and former editor-in-chief of Faith Alive Christian Resources, was one of our Emo Van Halsema Fellowship recipients for 2018. His research on communion in Reformed churches was the focus of his culminating presentation here, which he delivered at the Meeter Center Lecture Hall on January 8, 2019. "From Gracious Gift to Fearful Decision: The Trajectory of Calvin's Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper in Dutch Reformed Churches" was well received.

Dr. Vander Zee had this to say about his time at the Meeter Center:

*As a retired pastor who is deeply interested in pursuing my theological studies, I was pleased and excited for the opportunity to study at the Meeter Center.*

*For many years I have studied and written on the Reformed theology of the sacraments, with particular emphasis on John Calvin's unique and ground-breaking understanding of the Lord's Supper. A problem that has always intrigued me was that his emphasis on the "real and substantial" gift of Christ in the Eucharist has gradually lost ground in Reformed churches for a more "memorialist" (Zwinglian) view.*

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## From the Director

The Meeter Center is once again looking forward to a busy spring and summer! We will be welcoming one of our largest cohorts of fellowship recipients (see the list on page two), as well as a number of non-stipendiary scholars, from Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United States. We always enjoy introducing them to the Center and its rich collections, and learning from them about their research interests. Over its nearly forty-year history, the Meeter Center has welcomed nearly 150 such visiting scholars, and the connections made during their stays continue to bear fruit, whether in terms of publications based on their research or recommendations made to other scholars to make their way to us.

We continue to mark significant anniversary milestones associated with the Reformation. The Swiss Reformer Huldrych Zwingli's public ministry in Zurich began in January 1519. Therefore, in fall 2019, we will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Swiss Reformation by hosting a two-day conference at Calvin Theological Seminary on September 13 and 14. Speakers include Bruce Gordon, Amy Burnett, John Roth, Jordan Ballor, and Esther Chung-Kim. The conference is open to all interested scholars, students, and community members, and conference registration will open shortly. Keep an eye on the Meeter Center web page (<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/swiss-reformation-conference/>) for further details. We will also mark the 500th anniversary of Theodore Beza's birth by sponsoring a series of four panels on Beza and his impact at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Saint Louis in October 2019.

Finally, we continue to welcome contributions to the Friends of the Meeter Center and to our endowment fund. Your support enables us to pursue and even expand our activities and services to the field of Reformation studies. As Calvin College moves to become Calvin University in July 2019, the Meeter Center will continue to foster theological and historical discovery, helping students, faculty, scholars, and community members explore, assess, and connect the world of John Calvin and the Reformation to the current day.

## 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 one 1st place award of \$3,500 and three 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:

-Sara VanSolkema, Byron Center, MI

### 2nd Prize, \$2,000:

-Chris Dyk, Aurora, CO

-Kathryn Ribbens, Boise, ID

-Faith Wester, Meridian, ID

## Fellowship Recipients for 2019-2020:

### Meeter Family Fellowship:

Dr. Hyun-Ah Kim, Research Fellow at Europäische Melancthon-Akademie Bretten and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Theologische Universiteit Kampen, will explore the Reformed theology and spirituality of music from the Reformation to the present.

### Faculty Fellowship:

Dr. Amanda Eurich, Professor of History at Western Washington University, will examine the radicalization of religious identities in early modern France for her upcoming book, *A Life in Letters: Jean de Coras and the French Wars of Religion*.

### Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship:

Dr. Eric MacPhail, Professor in the Department of French and Italian at Indiana University-Bloomington, will delve into research for his upcoming book, *Atheist's Progress: Religious Tolerance from Renaissance to Enlightenment*.

### Student Fellowships:

Ariane Albisser, Ph. D. student at the Swiss Reformation Studies Institute at the University of Zurich, will focus on the Consensus Tigurinus (1549) and look at shared understandings of pneumatology in sixteenth century Reformed theology.

Suk Yu Chan, Ph.D. student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, plans to examine the development of Calvin's doctrine of God's providence from 1534 to 1559.

## Fellowship and Scholarship Awards continued

Daniel Fogt, Ph. D. student at Washington State University, will look at marriage practices in Dutch Reformed exile communities in the Holy Roman Empire in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

### Emo Van Halsema Fellowships:

Christian Finnigan, Ph. D. student in Religious Studies at McGill University and Intern at Savannah River Presbytery, will delve into the magisterial reformation as articulated in Martin Bucer's *De Regno Christi*.

Dr. Martin Klauber, Affiliate Professor of Church History at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, will read the unpublished correspondence of Huguenot pastors who served at Charenton.

## 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.

Student	\$25	Advocate	\$500
Supporter	\$50	Partner	\$1000
Donor	\$100	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 over a third of the way there, thanks to your generosity!

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

## The Meeter Center at SCSC

The Sixteenth Century Studies Conference will meet for its annual gathering in St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 17 - 20, 2019. The Meeter Center, an active partner at SCSC, will sponsor four panel sessions on Theodore Beza, and Karin Maag will speak in a panel session on the historiography of Calvin Studies within the last fifty years. She is also participating in a round-table discussion to honor John Thompson (Fuller Theological Seminary) in view of his upcoming retirement.

## NEW BOOKS & ARTICLES

Alten, Erik van. "'...they had all things in common': Calvin's exposition of the community of goods in some key texts in Acts." *Studia Historiae Ecclesasticae* 39, 2 (2013): 181-106.

Canlis, Julie. "John Calvin: Knowing the Self in God's Presence." in *A Cultural History of Christian Identity*, edited by Jens Zimmerman. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2018: 392-410.

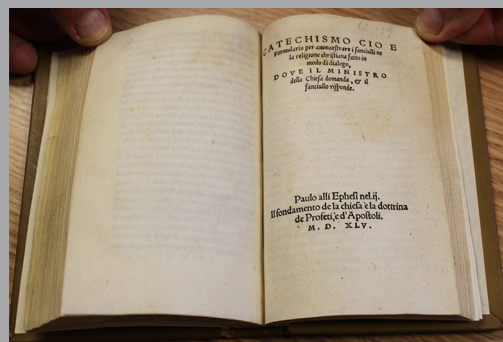
Helm, Paul. *Human Nature from Calvin to Edwards*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2018.

Pitassi, Maria-Cristina and Camillocci, Daniela Solfaroli. *Crossing Traditions: Essays on the Reformation and Intellectual History*. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

Shao, Dawei. "Calvin's Teachings on Prayer in the Framework of Salvation History." *Puritan Reformed Journal* 10, 2 (2018): 108-119.

## Digital Outreach Initiative

Dr. Maag recently posted a one-minute video about John Calvin's 1545 Italian catechism to the Meeter Center Facebook and Twitter pages. She and Paul Fields will be taking turns uploading short bi-weekly Facebook and Twitter posts about topics of interest and current events at the Meeter Center. To tune in, go to [facebook.com/meetercenter](https://facebook.com/meetercenter) and [twitter.com/meetercenter](https://twitter.com/meetercenter).



## THE SWISS REFORMATION AT 500

Think "Reformation", and the words Martin Luther, Wittenberg, 95 Theses, and 1517 spring to mind. But Luther was not the only Reformer, and Wittenberg was not the only city where the Reformation began. About 360 miles further south, in the Swiss city of Zurich, Huldrych Zwingli began his public ministry in January 1519, preaching sequentially through the Gospel of Matthew. Like Luther, Zwingli started out his career as a Catholic priest. Like Luther, Zwingli had studied the Bible extensively, in Zwingli's case focusing on Erasmus's Greek New Testament.

As he worked and preached in Zurich, Zwingli increasingly noticed the divergences between what the Bible said and the practices of the Catholic church of his day. Why did the Church say people had to abstain from meat during Lent? Where in the Bible did it say that clergy had to be celibate? Zwingli's questions grew as did discussions in the city about the need for a Reformation in church practice and doctrine. By 1523, the Zurich magistrates authorized two major public debates between Zwingli and his colleagues and supporters on the one side, and defenders of traditional Catholicism on the other. The official process of Reformation had begun. By 1523, preachers in Zurich were to base themselves solely on Scripture for their sermons. By 1525, the Catholic Mass had been banned in Zurich's territory.

To mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swiss Reformation, and to highlight its enduring impact, the Meeter Center is hosting a two-day conference on Friday Sept. 13 and Saturday Sept. 14, 2019, at Calvin Theological Seminary. Speakers include Bruce Gordon (Yale), Amy Nelson Burnett (Nebraska-Lincoln), John Roth (Goshen), Jordan Ballor (Acton), and Esther Chung-Kim (Claremont-McKenna). See <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/swiss-reformation-conference/> for more information and to register. The conference will also feature an exhibit of early printed books related to the Swiss Reformation and a re-enactment of the January 1523 disputation. Don't miss it!

## The Electronic Calvin Courier

In the near future, we will be offering 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](mailto: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.

**Did you know** that June 24, 2019 is the 500th anniversary of Theodore Beza's birth? The Meeter Center currently features an exhibit in his honor. Be on the lookout for postings on his life and work on our Twitter and Facebook pages in the coming months.

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*My research led me to identify two possible reasons for this change:*

- 1. A theological drift in Reformed churches (with my focus on Dutch Reformed) toward a more Zwinglian approach, aided perhaps by the general tendency toward a sharper dualism between the material and spiritual which is inimical to sacramental theology.*
- 2. The emphasis on discipline and testing faith surrounding the Lord's Supper, which started already with Calvin, tended to take the focus away from the gift of Christ to the faith and piety of the recipient, which is characteristic of Zwingli.*

*I also made a careful study of the liturgical Form for Holy Communion that was used for centuries in Dutch Reformed churches and went back to their beginning. The study revealed that the Form itself tended to emphasize these two tendencies noted above.*

*I also became intrigued by the overwhelming attention paid by the Reformed theologians to the relationship of the Lord's Supper and Christ's death on the cross. While true, this also tended to overlook the other important emphases within the sacrament on themes such as incarnation, resurrection, and Christ's ascension bringing humanity to heaven and into fellowship with the Father.*

*Finally, I intend to develop my study beyond my Fellowship presentation into a theological journal article.*

*I am very grateful to the Meeter Center and its board for offering me the fellowship, and to Paul and Karin for their unstinting helpfulness in pointing me to the abundant resources available at the Center.*