

Adult Christian Formation

LENT 2010

Dale Turner's Convictions

Feb 21 and 28, March 7, 14 and 21 – 9 AM in Old Hall 2

In Preparation for the return of the Dale and Leone Turner Lectures
with Dr. Walter Brueggeman

For the year following Dale's death in 2006, the church's Turner Legacy Committee worked to discern the pastoral/theological content of his ministry with us here and across the Northwest. Many open discussions with church members and friends were held in a series of forums, at Seabeck and through widespread correspondence. Our clergy consistently report that Dale's work set the tone and spirit of UCUC on which we have built now for a generation.

While some physical memorial of Dale Turner's time with us may soon be forthcoming, it we knew from the outset of our discernment that he would be best remembered by ongoing works of progressive ministry, looking ahead rather than behind. Among those efforts should be a discussion of the Convictions that motivated his life, and – he would say – the application of what we say we believe to our real life concerns. Dale would want us to “tangibilitate.”

Therefore, as we prepare to receive Walter Bruggemann and his Dale and Leone Turner Lectures on Faith and Culture in April, what better exercise during Lent this year than to gather presenters, older and younger, who will reflect on the five of the Convictions, including the challenges they address.

On Sunday mornings at 9 AM for the five weeks prior to Palm Sunday, two presenters will offer short reflections each week, approximately ten minutes each, followed by group engagement around the following:

- *Love of God and Neighbor is the heart of life and justice its social demonstration.*

Knowing that helpful acts of charity respond to the symptoms of suffering, we must also address its causes and proclaim justice as a prime element of faithful life.

- *Genuine care for people is marked by compassion.*

Seeing too many stressed and distracted lives, we must develop skills in the arts of listening, empathy and the offering of wise counsel.

- *Authentic religion lives to be of service to others.*

Facing a society crippled by individualism, we must build Communities of Service with the theology and spiritual discipline required to sustain them.

- *Wisdom requires that faith, reason and all forms of knowledge work together for good.*

Hearing religious claims of superior truth that reject the work of science and fragment of our perception, we must promote a holistic understanding of God's creation.

- *Humility and humor shape a loving way of understanding our experience.*

Believing no person or group has a monopoly on virtue, we must accept our own foibles and rejoice that laughter helps us honor the opinions and beliefs of others.

You are invited, encouraged and urged to join the Lenten Discussion of what moved so much of what we do today. Copies of the full Turner Legacy Convictions Statement are available in the church office and following worship starting Feb. 7. The Sunday gatherings being on Feb. 21.

We hope to see you then....

The Turner Legacy Committee
and the **Adult Christian Formation Team**