



REFORMED
INSTITUTE of
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON

The *Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington* has been created by a group of Presbyterian churches in the Washington, D.C. area to promote understanding and deepen appreciation of the Reformed tradition among the staffs and members of Presbyterian churches.

HOW IS THE INSTITUTE SUPPORTED AND STAFFED?

Funding for the Institute comes from gifts from individual donors, fees for services, and grants from the sponsoring Presbyterian churches: Darnestown, First Arlington, Georgetown, Heritage, Immanuel, Lewinsville, National, Old Meeting House, Potomac, Rock, and Westminster (Alexandria).

The Institute is governed by a board of directors composed of the sponsoring churches' representatives. The staff consists of Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Director, Ms. Mary J. Hill, Program Coordinator, and Ms. Mary K. Miano, Program Associate.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INSTITUTE?

Contact the Program Coordinator:

P.O. Box 1928

Alexandria, VA 22313-1928

Tel/Fax: 703-518-5125

info@reformedinstitute.org

www.reformedinstitute.org



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THE ONCE & FUTURE CHURCH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN AN AGE OF "LOOSE CONNECTIONS"

A course offered by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

- Dates:** Saturdays: February 10, 17, 24 and March 3, 2018
Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church
2701 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
www.wpc-alex.org
Instructors: Dr. R. Bruce Douglass
Cost: \$75 for members of Reformed Institute sponsoring churches, \$90 for all others

In recent years social scientists have been telling us that we are living in a time when people are less likely to commit themselves to active, ongoing participation in such voluntary organizations as the church. This appears to be especially problematic for organizations whose effectiveness has presupposed strong commitment and active involvement on the part of their self-selecting members. This course is designed to consider the challenge this development poses for the erstwhile "mainline" Protestant churches in the light of the understanding of the nature and purpose of the church in Reformed theology. It is designed to provide a setting for informed deliberation about such questions as these: How historically have Reformed Christians understood the nature and purpose of the church? Why have they taken that view? Why do we now find ourselves in a situation where lay commitment and participation appear increasingly to be problematic? What are our options in responding to this challenge? Do we need to rethink our theology as well as the forms of church life we have inherited--or not?



REGISTRATION

- ❖ [Saturday, February 10:](#) The Reformed Heritage
- ❖ [Saturday, February 17:](#) Why “Loose Connections”? Why “Believing without Belonging”?
- ❖ [Saturday, February 24:](#) Strategic Options: Accommodating or Resisting Cultural Trends
- ❖ [Saturday, March 3:](#) New Forms

Advanced Readings (available online):

-Amy Frykholm, "Loose Connections: What is Happening to Church Membership", *Christian Century*, May 16, 2011

(<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-05/loose-connections>)

-David Lewicki, "Denominations", *Christian Century*, March 25, 2011

(<https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-03/denominations>)

Course Instructor:



All sessions will be led by Dr. Bruce Douglass, Director of the Reformed Institute, Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University and an Elder at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. Dr. Douglass has an M.Div from Yale University and a Ph.D. (in political science) from Duke University.

*The deadline for registration is **February 7, 2018***

Mail the completed form below with registration payment to:

P.O. Box 1928
Alexandria, VA 22313-1928
Attn: Mary Hill

Please make checks payable to “Reformed Institute.”

Or go to our website: www.reformedinstitute.org to register and pay online.

- ❖ Cost to members of sponsoring churches is \$75.00.
- ❖ Cost to other participants is \$90.00.

Individual churches may wish to subsidize the cost for members. The course is limited to 20 participants, and must have a minimum enrollment of 10. Registration Deadline is **February 7, 2018**.

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YOUR CHURCH