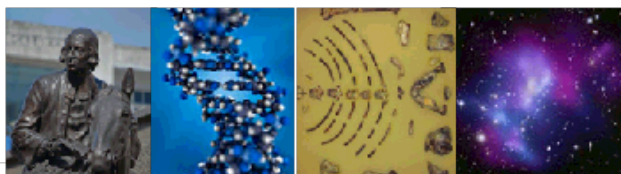


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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February 21, 2014

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

On February 9, on a snowy Sunday evening at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center, more than sixty loyal dialogue participants enjoyed the program focusing on “Different Orders of Truth in Science and Religion.” Formal presentations were followed by comments, questions and discussion. Dr. Richard Restak, renowned author and neuropsychologist at the George Washington University Medical School, led off by helping us to understand how the mind works, and how some people are open to new facts and analysis, while others are rigid in beliefs in spite of new facts and data.

Dr. Steven Freeland, evolutionary biologist recently returned from assignments at the observatory in Hawaii, helped us to understand the scientific method and the limitations of scientific claims, which are always subject to revision when new data emerges.

Dr. Iliia Delio, Franciscan sister and Professor of Theology at Georgetown University, helped us to understand the dimensions of truth from a religious perspective, with a faith that is open to new forms of knowledge in the context of our religious traditions. Making the evening more rich in dialogue, there were 79 different sites around the world, from New Zealand to Denmark and across the United States, where persons in churches gathered in small discussion groups, many of whom sent in questions for the speakers via an internet connection. Dr. Cate Bennett, neurobiologist at NIH and a board member for the Institute of Science and Judaism, serving as moderator for the evening, coordinated these questions for a rich give-and-take. For the next several weeks, the full podcast of this event can be found on our website, and we are hoping that some of you who missed making the connection on February 9th can connect now, and perhaps convene your own discussion group to play the presentations. We are grateful for the work of the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. Gary Sherman, for coordinating all of the details and on-site arrangements. Now we have to pay the bills,

Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center of the United Methodist Church



Distinguished Panel:

Dr. Steve Freeland:

NASA Astrobiology Institute & Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County. Research focused on the origin and evolution of genetic coding.



Dr. Richard Restak, MD:

Practicing neurologist and Prof. of neuropsychiatry, GWU; Author of several articles and 15 books; Popular guest expert appearing on science, news and education radio and TV programs.



Sr. Iliia Delio:

Franciscan Sister of Washington; Senior Fellow in science & religion at Woodstock Theological Ctr, Georgetown Univ.; Winner of 2000 Templeton Course Award in Science and Religion; Author of several books including “Christ in Evolution.”



M. Catherine Bennett, PhD

and so we make one more appeal to you, our colleagues and participants, to help even in some small way as we move ahead to replenish our small coffer, enabling us to do this again and move our website into a continuous interactive mode. Ours is a certified tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, managed by an all-volunteer Board, and we will acknowledge each gift we receive. Contributions easily can be made by clicking on the donate button, or you can mail a check to our treasurer at WesleyNexus, 24500 Fossen Road, Damascus, MD 20872. We need to maintain our viability to provide resources for your church and others who want to engage in this continuing science and religion dialogue. The more support we receive, the better we can serve you. Many thanks for your faithfulness.

E. Maynard Moore, Ph.D., President

Invited Moderator:

Board Member, Inst. for Science & Judaism. Cate is a neurobiologist with over 30 years research experience. She has a life-long interest in the fundamental questions about the origins and meaning of our existence, viewed through the lens of physics, cosmology, biology and religion



Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Breakfast in Baltimore

WesleyNexus will host a “special meal” for informal discussion at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference May 29-31, 2014 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore. All clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference are welcome to attend to learn more about the opportunities for participating in the science and religion dialogue. **It is IMPORTANT to register for this special meal – breakfast on Friday May 30 – at the time that you register for Annual Conference.** All you have to do is purchase the meal plan, or buy this one particular meal, when you register. Your meal ticket for breakfast can then be used to attend this informal discussion with members of the WesleyNexus Board of Directors. Those clergy persons who might have a conflict might want to have their lay delegate register for this event to gain perspective and information on forthcoming programs sponsored by WesleyNexus. Our purpose, as is the case consistent with our mission, is to bring the best thinking in sound science and contemporary theology together in a way that informs all “thinking Christians.” Most especially we encourage young people to attend. Early-bird registration deadline is Thursday February 27, so please do not delay. Registration is available on-line at www.bwcumc.org.

Religion in the Digital Age

The Institute of Science and Judaism and the Washington DC Jewish Community Center are hosting a program on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 3:00 PM at the DCJCC(1529 16th St.NW,



The Institute for Science and Judaism
ScienceAndJudaism.org

Washington,DC 20036). The program will feature Wayne Firestone, President, Genesis Prize Foundation, Amy Lazarus, Executive Director of The International Institute for Sustained Dialogue and DJ Saul, Chief Marketing Officer of iStrategy Labs. Come and hear these thought leaders discuss how technologies that allow for instant global communication and connectivity impact how young adults experience their faith and traditions. "How do complex and thought-provoking religious texts translate in a digitally-focused world?" Though the context of the conversation targets Jewish faith communities, the questions asked and the answers given have applicability across all faiths. The flyer can be found [here](#).

Video Available Online

We have posted the podcast of our Evolution Weekend program so that churches, seminaries and individuals can organize a “viewing event” and facilitate their own discussion. It will be available on this website through the end of March. You can reach the podcast by going to our jump page [here](#). You can also download our discussion guide by clicking [here](#).

But first, please know that we are dependent on you, our participants, for donations to cover expenses for this event. WesleyNexus is a certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so please consider supporting this initiative with a contribution either through the PayPal DONATE link located [here](#) or by sending a check to:

WesleyNexus, Inc.
24500 Fossen Road
Damascus, MD 20872

We will use these funds to further our efforts to promote the dissemination of resource material promoting the dialogue between sound science and religion across the country.

NY Review of Books: Brilliant Blunders

Finally, the NY Review of Books has run a review of a new book called [Brilliant Bunders: From Darwin to Einstein — Colossal Mistakes by Great Scientists That Changed Our Understanding of Life and the Universe](#) by Mario Livio. Written by Freeman Dyson, the review applauds the author for presenting the great discoveries along side the significant mistakes of five of our greatest scientists: Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Lord Kelvin, Linus Pauling and Fred Hoyle. The review can be found [here](#).

Thank you.

Rick Barr, WesleyNexus

