

You are invited to attend our next

Elder Exchange

A monthly Academic Forum Discussing Issues
of Christian Faith & Life

A Three Person Dialogue on Theology and Politics: How Would Jesus Vote?

Thursday, October 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Detwiler Auditorium, VMRC

The Format: Three persons with differing theological perspectives will each share their insights into the contemporary political scene. After a listener/respondent summarizes the perspectives the meeting will be opened to audience discussion.

John Swartz, Mennonite pastor and writer, resident of Heritage Haven, VMRC

Biography: John Swartz received a B.A. in mathematics from Bridgewater College and an M.S. Ed. From Madison College. For seven years he taught in a small parochial school in West Virginia. For over 30 years he has worked with Christian Light Publications in curriculum development. Currently, John is the pastor of Mable Memorial Chapel in Harrisonburg.

Synopsis: Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world. In 2 Cor. 5:20 His followers are identified as ambassadors whose calling is to reconcile mankind to God. John believes this is best accomplished by inviting individuals into the Kingdom of God rather than through political action. The duty of followers of Christ toward earthly kingdoms and rulers is to obey and pray for rulers and be peaceable, productive members of society.



John Sloop, retired Presbyterian pastor, Harrisonburg, VA

Biography: Born to missionary parents, John came to the U.S. to complete high school in NC. After graduating from Belhaven University, he received M.Div and D.Min degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary. His 40 years of ministry in Presbyterian churches included being Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg for 27 years. John now serves the church as a guest preacher/teacher and is in the Harrisonburg City GOP. He is an avid reader.

Synopsis: "When I say, 'Jesus is Lord', I mean that He is Lord of all my life, including my engagement with culture. Jesus further calls me to be salt. Salt is both curative and preservative. Salty saints will engage the culture through the political process with the transformative truth claims of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Salt also creates thirst. My engagement in society is used by God's Spirit to create in the body politic a deep hunger and thirst for the Savior. How do I think Jesus would vote? Come find out!"



Harriett "Betsy" Hayes, associate professor of sociology, Bridgewater College

Biography: Harriet E. Hayes, Division Head of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bridgewater College, received her B.A. from Kenyon College and M.A. and Ph.D. from Brandies University. She is currently collaborating with Essential Partners on a research project examining the use of dialogue in developing intellectual humility and conviction in and beyond college classrooms.

Synopsis: Raised in the Episcopal Church, Betsy has spent her academic career living and working in educational settings with strong relationships to faith-based communities. Accepting the label "progressive," and believing civic engagement supports her Christian commitment to alleviating poverty, promoting social justice and seeking peace, she firmly believes that Jesus would model a practice of civil disclosure that can help us transcend our political polarization and reinvigorate our democracy.



Listener/Responder: Harvey Yoder, Pastor and Counselor, Harrisonburg, VA

Moderators: Richard Bowman (rebowmanmail@gmail.com)

Roman Miller (romanjaymiller@gmail.com)



Free. No registration required. All are welcome - residents, friends, family, community neighbors.

Co-sponsored by Anabaptist Center for Religion and Society