

You are invited to attend our next

# Elder Exchange

A Monthly Academic Forum Discussing Issues  
of Christian Faith & Life

---

## “Church and State in the Carolingian Era”

---

Carol Scheppard, Professor of the College,  
Bridgewater College

Thursday, August 8, 2019 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Detwiler Auditorium, VMRC

**The Format:** A thoughtful presentation will be shared, followed by two invited responders and then open group dialogue, to discern its resonance with vibrant Christian faith.

**Presentation Synopsis:** The fall of the Roman Empire caused a collapse in social and political infrastructures across northern Europe. The resulting instability left neither political leaders nor Christian missionaries with sufficient resources to establish and maintain a foothold. Recognizing in one another strengths necessary to forge a new society, the agents of church and state formed mutually beneficial alliances. The Carolingian Empire grew and flourished as one such merger, benefiting from the combined assets of church and state, even as it forced both parties to compromise core principles.

**Speaker Biography:** Carol Scheppard is Professor of the College at Bridgewater College where she has been a member of the faculty since 1998. She holds a BA in Anthropology from Wesleyan University, a M.Ed. in Special Education from Lesley College, a M.Div. from Princeton Theology Seminary and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Her scholarship addresses early medieval monasticism and biblical interpretation. In 2017, Carol served as Moderator for the Church of the Brethren. She lives on a small farm in Augusta County and enjoys playing the bagpipes.



**Responders:** Gerald Brunk, Professor Emeritus History, Eastern Mennonite University  
Dean Welty, Director of Valley Family Forum, VMRC Resident

**Moderators:** Roman Miller (romanjaymiller@gmail.com)  
Richard Bowman (rebowmanmail@gmail.com)



Free. No registration required.

All are welcome ~ residents, friends, family, community neighbors.

*Elder Exchange is an initiative of VMRC residents. Co-sponsored by Anabaptist Center for Religion and Society.*

Audio recordings of some of the recent Elder Exchange presentations downloaded at <https://richardbowman.com/elderechange>