

CATA at NES Fall Theology Conference

October 3, 2026 • “*Spirit and Scripture*”

8:00–8:50 Registration

8:50–9:00 Welcome from Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University and the Canadian-American Theological Association

9:00–10:15 — Plenary (Main Room)

Ephraim Radner “*Getting Beyond History: An Evangelical Imperative*”

10:30–12:00 — Session 1

Room #108 — Prophetic and Cultic Critique: Trauma and Justice in the Old Testament

Chair: Josef Sykora

Chris Landon (NES) “A Priest for a Price: A Socio-Theological Examination of Micah’s Cultic Critiques”

Raquel Diaz (NES) “An Intertextual Reading of the Shofetim in Judges through the Mosaic Judicial Framework of Exodus 18:20-21: Ehud’s Story”

Iman Jaya Zandrotu (Vancouver School of Theology) “~~Trauma, Justice, and the Holy Spirit~~”

Kristin Helms (Roberts Wesleyan University) “Transhumanism in Conversation with Gen 6:1-4”

Main Room — Historical Theology and the Spirit

Chair: Jeff McPherson

Aaron Kelley (Haddon Institute) “Communion with God: Trinitarian Spirituality in Owen and Bavinck”

Harold Shepherd (Anglican Diocese of Toronto) “The Concept of Divine Illumination in Roman Catholic Biblical Interpretation from the Perspective of Henry de Lubac, Dei Verbum and Verbum Domini”

Kamil M. Halambiec (Regent University School of Divinity) “Spirit and Scripture: Jonathan Edwards and the Theology of Genuine Revival in the First Great Awakening”

Room #109 — Formation through Struggle, Embodiment, and Limitation

Chair: Beth Gerhardt

Mark Oser (NES) “What Exercise Science Can Teach Us About Spiritual Growth: Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the FITT(ER) Principle”

Austin Spiller (Southeastern University) “Wrestling with the Spirit: Scripture, the Conquest of Passion, and Virtue Formation”

Andrew Barron (Tyndale University) “Beyond Hyper-Cognitive Discipleship: Rethinking Spiritual Formation for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities”

12:00–1:00 Lunch (Cafeteria)

1:00–2:15 — Plenary (Main Room)

Ephraim Radner “*The Supratemporal Jesus and the Spiritual Reading of Scripture*”

2:30–4:00 — Session 2

Room #108 — Pentateuchal Texts and the Identity and Action of the Ruach

Chair: Chris Landon

Kristian Klepes (NES) “The Exodus Defines the Shema’s Meaning”

Ambrose Thomson (McMaster Divinity College) “From Geography to Genealogy: The Deliberately Disrupted Structure of the Book of Numbers”

Nate Wall-Bowering (Providence Theological Seminary) “The Spirit Kills? Pneumatology and Death in the Pentateuch”

Main Room — Revival, Discernment, and Contextual Hermeneutics

Chair: Rick Wadholm

James E. Pedlar (Tyndale Seminary) “The Spirit and the Swindler: James and Ellen Hebben’s Mission in Jamaica”

Stephen Bailey (Northern Seminary) “Does the Spirit Only Speak through Good Exegesis?: Examining the “Plain Sense” and a Believer’s Interaction with the Holy Spirit in Scripture”

Simon Karani Kariuki (McMaster Divinity College) “The Living Word in a Changing Intellectual Landscape: The Holy Spirit, Scripture, and Christian Discernment in Contemporary Africa”

Room #109 — The Spirit’s Presence and Sacred Space

Chair: Kristin Helms

Michael Blythe (Africa Nazarene University) “When the Scroll Becomes a Sanctuary: Spirit, Scripture, and Temple Space in Luke-Acts”

Bradley Strelau (Wesley House, Cambridge) “Sacred Interruption: Liturgical Narrative and the Phenomenology of Depression in Modernity”

Tracy Ross (Howard University) “More Than Power: Recovering the Holy Spirit as the Indwelling Presence of God”

Room #108 — Spirit-Formed Public and Social Ethics

Chair: Andy Koehl

Sunny Rao Gandem (NES) *“The Spirit as Agent of Dignification: Toward a Pneumatological Foundation for Dalit Hermeneutics”*

Lauren Center Willis (NES) *“Spiritual Formation as the Pursuit of Humble Fellowship with God and Others”*

Kevin McGinn (NES) *“Poverty Alleviation is Not Optional for Spiritual Formation”*

Heather McDivitt (St. Bonaventure University) *“The Public Fruit of the Spirit: Exploring Galatians 5, Moral Formation, and Applied Ethics”*

Main Room — New Testament Pneumatology: Salvation, Unity, and Charism

Chair: David Carr

Brian D. Johnson (Northern Seminary) *“Saved by the Holy Spirit: A Neglected Passage on the Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation”*

Isaac Boluwatise (McMaster Divinity College) *“Spirit-Formed Communion as Public Witness: A Johannine Theology of Ecclesial Unity”*

Josfin Raj (Universität Bonn) *“The Spirit Who Speaks and the Scripture That Tests: Prophecy, Healing, and Discernment in the Sixth Phase of Catholic–Pentecostal Dialogue”*

Herbert Niba (Pontifical John Paul II Institute) *“Enlightenment Humanism and the “Sin against the Holy Spirit”: A Philosophical Reading of Pope John Paul II's Encyclical “The Lord the Giver of Life””*

Room #109 — Spirit, Scripture, and the Pressures of Modern Culture

Chair: James Pedlar

Jeffrey McPherson (Roberts Wesleyan University) *“Resisting the Digital Principality: A Pneumatological Subversion of Technology as a Fallen Power”*

E. Janet Warren (Tyndale Seminary) *“The Social Spirit”*

Fidel A. Arneccillo, Jr (California State University) *“Wesleyan Quadrilateral without Prima Scriptura”*

5:45–6:00 Closing

Presented jointly by Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University and the Canadian-American Theological Association