
** Press Release **

The Congregational Federation is proud to announce the holding of its first Summer School on 28-30 August 2020.

The Congregational Federation (CF) is a federation of independent or Congregational churches formed in 1972 with the object of the advancement of the Christian faith, and with churches directly affiliated to it from England, Scotland and Wales. We are also part of the International Congregational Fellowship.

The aim of this Summer School is both to encourage and to challenge Christians to play our part, especially as Congregational churches, within the broader non-conformist tradition in the public life of the UK today. We will explore our distinctive values, perspectives and principles, reminding ourselves of our call to radical discipleship under Jesus.

The Summer School will immediately appeal to those in any of the non-conformist church traditions but it is open to anyone who believes that Christians and churches should have an impact on the structures and policies of society as well as getting involved at a local level to support disadvantaged people and those suffering injustices.

For information about the Summer School, the presenters and the venue follow this link:

<https://www.congregational.org.uk/summer-school/summer-school-1>

The weekend will involve a mix of plenary sessions, presented by people with experience and expertise in different aspects of Christian dissent, and interactive, workshop type sessions, led by equally experienced scholar-practitioners.

The venue for the Summer School is the iconic grade 2 listed [National Justice Museum](#) in the heart of Nottingham. The cost for delegates is **£200 per person**, which includes buffet lunches and evening meals, plus a guided tour of the National Justice Museum.

Places should be booked by 31 July 2020, and the first 30 places will attract an **early-bird discount of £50**.

The particular issues to be explored include the following:

What Are the Distinctives of a Christian Non-Conformist Voice in Public Life?

Challenging 'Empire' is a Non-Conformist Church's Responsibility

Significant Historical Congregationalists with an Ongoing Influence Today

Reading the Bible as Non-Conformists

The Importance of a Congregational Voice in the UK Today

The following academic experts and practitioners are our presenters:

Professor Anthony Reddie

Professor Reddie is the editor of Black Theology: An International Journal. In 2015 he was appointed Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Philosophy, practical and Systematic Theology at the University of South Africa. He is also the Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture and a trustee of the British and Irish Association for Practical Theology.

His latest book is Theologizing Brexit: A Liberationist and Postcolonial Critique, the first intercultural and postcolonial exploration of the Brexit phenomenon.

Rev Dr Ann Jeffers

Dr Jeffers is a Research Fellow at Roehampton University, and formerly a Director of Research at Heythrop College, University of London. She is also a Tutor on the Congregational Federation's ministerial training course. She is the co-editor of a textbook on Gender and Religion and has contributed to The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception and to Oxford Biblical Studies Online.

Rev Dr Alan Argent

Dr Argent is Research Fellow at Dr Williams's Library, London, and is a significant expert in the Non-Conformist and dissenting Christian traditions with several important books published on this, including the major work, The Transformation of Congregationalism 1900 - 2000. He is the Minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton and a Tutor on the Congregational Federation's ministerial training course.

Rev Suzanne Nockels

Rev Nockels is the President Elect of the Congregational Federation and the Minister of two Congregational churches in Sheffield. She has a Masters' degree in Mission (Pioneering) and is a Tutor on the Congregational Federation's ministerial training course with a particular interest in fresh expressions of church.

Rev Dr Julian Gotobed

Dr Gotobed is a Senior Lecturer in Ministerial Theology at the University of Roehampton. He is a member of the Research Group in Theology, Religion and Practice, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He has published several important articles including one on Martin Luther King Jr, entitled Rediscovering Justice. He is also an Accredited Minister in the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Rev Dr Graham Adams

Dr Adams is a tutor at Northern College and one of the ecumenical staff team within Luther King House. He is programme leader for their MA and teaches Mission Studies in the context of global Christianity and religious diversity and dialogue. He is the author of Christ and the Other and is a Tutor on the Congregational Federation's ministerial training course.

For further details and information about booking on the Summer School please contact the administrator at: madeleine.varley@congregational.org.uk. Or telephone: 0115 911 1460.