

BACKGROUND CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Aims of Plenary & Parallel Session

The conference study process (plenary & parallel sessions) will take place in the context of the spiritual life of the conference. The aims of the conference study process are to:

- Make clear the changes in mission thinking since 1910
- Create a new vision and spirituality of mission to inspire Christians in churches and mission bodies
- Encourage networks and alliances across regions (especially the North-South divide) and confessions for common witness
- Give guidelines on mission practice and identify priorities for church and mission leaders
- Highlight issues for further research and reflection
- Result in commitment to continue the spirit of cooperation

The tangible outcomes of the study process of the conference are intended to be:

- Shared ownership of common calls/commitments for the Sunday celebration
- A record of the key issues and priorities identified, with some indication of which are felt to be most urgent
- A listeners' report prepared by a listening group
- Reflections on the conference by three invited delegates
- Audio-visuals used in the conference which can be posted on the website
- A conference report, including presentations at the conference and a record of the discussions

The aims of the study process of the conference will be accomplished through nine timetabled sessions over the three full days at the Pollock Halls. These comprise three plenary sessions and six parallel sessions in which delegates will be divided into three groups.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary 1: 'Mission in long perspective'

Dr. Dana L. Robert

Thursday 3 June 2010, 11:00-13:00

This session will illuminate the conference theme in the light of one hundred years of mission since 1910. Dr. Dana Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Boston University School of Theology, will give a keynote address, which will be followed by several complementary perspectives recognising different histories and current contexts.

In her twenty-five years of teaching, she has directed approximately sixty doctoral dissertations in mission studies and the history of world Christianity. Former students hold teaching and ministry positions around the world. At Boston University, Robert also directs the Center for Global Christianity and Mission (<http://www.bu.edu/cgcm/>) and is affiliated with the African Studies Center.

Robert's books include *American Women in Mission: A Social History of their Thought and Practice* (1997), *Christianity: A Social and Cultural History* (co-author 1997), "Occupy Until I Come": A.T. Pierson and the Evangelization of the World (2003), *African Christian Outreach: Vol. 2 Mission Churches*. (Editor 2003), *Converting Colonialism: Visions and Realities in Mission History, 1706-1914* (Editor, 2008), and *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). Her most recent book is the 2010-2011 mission study text for the United Methodist Church, *Joy to the World!: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity* (2010). With her husband Marthinus L. Daneel, a leading scholar of African Indigenous Churches and African Traditional Religions in Southern Africa, Robert co-edits the book series *African Initiatives in Christian Mission*, published by the University of South Africa Press. She serves on the editorial boards of major journals, including the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, *Church History*, and *Missionalia*. In 2006 she launched the online *History of Missiology* website to provide resources in the history of nineteenth and twentieth-century mission thought. (<http://digilib.bu.edu/mission>)

Robert is a lifelong lay United Methodist from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She serves on the Committee on Faith and Order for the denomination, and for many years has chaired the denominational professors of mission. She received her bachelor's degree in history from Louisiana State University, and her masters' and doctorate in religious studies from Yale University. In support of her husband's ministry among African Indigenous Churches, she travels regularly to Masvingo, Zimbabwe. She has two grown sons and lives mostly in Somerville, Massachusetts. As a visible reminder of the forgotten lay women who have supported missions over the past century, Robert is carrying a piece of her hundred year old grandmother's handmade quilt to all the 2010 events she attends.

Plenary 2: 'Mission worldwide'

**Rev. Dr. Lee Young-Hoon, Dr. Tony Kireopoulos, Dr. Teresa Francesca Rossi,
Dr. Fidon Mwombeki**

Friday 4 June 2010, 11:00-13:00

This magazine-style session will include four case studies of contemporary initiatives in Christian witness, exploring the question 'What is mission?' The case studies are:

- 'Christian spirituality and the diakonic mission of the Yoido Full Gospel Church', Rev. Dr Lee Young-Hoon, Senior Pastor, Yoido Full Gospel Church, Seoul
- 'Ecumenical charity as Christian witness', Dr Tony Kireopoulos, Senior Program Director for Faith & Order and Interfaith Relations, National Council of Churches USA
- 'A missing mission? The "Budding Ecumenism" Formation Project of the Centro Pro Unione', Dr Teresa Francesca Rossi, Associate Director, Centro Pro Unione, Rome
- 'Mission to the North: Challenges and prospects', Dr Fidon Mwombeki, Executive Director, United Evangelical Mission, Germany

These will offer real engagements in current contexts and comments will be invited from the floor. More information on the speakers can be found on our website www.edinburgh2010.org.

Plenary 3: 'Towards a common call'

Saturday 5 June, 20:00-21:30

This business meeting will conclude the conference study process by highlighting key issues and priorities for the churches, reflecting on the debates of the conference, and gathering consensus around a common call to be made at the following day's closing celebration.

Parallel Sessions

The conference study process will be informed by presentations in the plenary sessions of the conference but will be focused on processing the results of the main study themes. Two consecutive sessions will be allowed for work on each theme, and these will be arranged in three tracks according to the following table. Delegates are being asked before the conference to select the track they would like to follow.

Day	Sessions	Track 1 (SHC)	Track 2 (SHC)	Track 3 (PS)
3 June	14:15-16:00 16:30-18:00	1. Foundations for mission	5. Forms of engagement	2. Mission among other faiths
4 June	14:15-16:00 16:30-18:00	8. Mission and unity	4. Mission and power	6. Theological education
5 June	11:00-13:00 14.15-16:00	9. Mission spirituality	7. Christian communities	3. Mission and postmodernities

Each theme will be approached in a different way, utilising different resource people representing transversals and regional and confessional studies. The aim of the parallel sessions is to debate and refine the key issues and priorities raised in the pre-conference report by hearing diverse perspectives and working in small groups. Delegates are expected to have read the relevant reports before coming to the conference and are asked to bring their insights to share.

Afternoon and Evening Events

- **Thursday, 3 June, 19:00 – 20:00**

There will be a reception for conference delegates at the Scottish Parliament on the evening of Thursday 3 June. The number of places is strictly limited. Admission is restricted to official conference delegates and named special guests. Travelling companions will not be admitted unless this has been arranged with the Conference Office beforehand. To request admission, subject to availability of places, contact: vol2010@cofscotland.org.uk You will require your conference delegate badge and proof of identity as part of the security procedures on arrival. This includes an airport style check. For more information on the Scottish Parliament visit: www.scottish.parliament.uk

- **Friday, 4 June, 19:30 – 00:30**

Delegates are invited for local events off site (list of events will be included in conference pack), and a traditional Scottish ceilidh at Pollock Halls.

- **Saturday, 5 June, 16:30 – 18:00**

Delegates are invited to take some quiet time over the Ecumenical Pilgrimage in the grounds of Pollock Halls, and local events off site (list of events will be included in conference pack).

Sunday Celebrations

- **Morning:** Delegates are invited to join one of 30 local congregations for morning services on Sunday, 6 June. These include services at St. Giles Cathedral (guest preacher: Rev. Lee Chul Shin, Yougnak Presbyterian Church, Korea), St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral (guest preacher: The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, Church of England, UK), and Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart. A list of Morning Services will be included in the conference pack.

- **Afternoon:** The Closing Celebration will take place at the General Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland. 300 delegates and 900 local and international visitors will be expected. Guest preacher at this event will be The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu. He will lead the celebration together with representatives of other Christian traditions.