

Two Swords-It Is Enough

An Peace Church Approach to Reading the Bible

Friday, 6-8:30 PM and Saturday, 9:00-4:30 PM,

January 18-19, 2008

At the Albany Mennonite Church

This one evening plus one day event follows the Conference of September, 2005, on the Nonviolent Atonement. From that conference came the question, “How does one read the Bible as a guidebook for peace, when one considers the texts, including some of the words of Jesus, that seem to condone violence?”

Dr. Mary Schertz, professor of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will be leading us in hermeneutical exercises using as a text the account of Jesus in Luke 22: 35-39 instructing them to sell their cloaks and buy swords

Lecture themes will be:

- taking a close look at the hardest text in the Bible: the two swords passage has been characterized as the most difficult text in the Bible. Here we take a look at it in its larger literary context (22.31-61) and try to make sense of the possibilities for interpretation.**
- what good does it do to read the Bible if we all see what we want to see?: we'll take a look at some of the different ways of reading the biblical text, ways that have separated us and ways that have brought us together.**
- reading the Bible canonically: one metaphor for biblical interpretation is the Bible as a tapestry—what is fore-grounded? what is back-grounded? What does a “top ten texts” exercise teach us?**
- reading the Bible congregationally: have we lost the art and sustenance of reading the Bible in the congregation? is Bible reading vital to congregational life or something we just don't have time for anymore? How do we regain a sense of vibrancy, a biblical**

spirituality, a sense that abiding in the text is a bulwark against fragmentation and isolation in contemporary life?

The lectures will allow for ample time for questions and audience participation.

REGISTRATION

Name(s)_____E-Mail/Phone_____

Registration fee \$15. per person; \$10.00 for spouse or friend. This includes payment for the noon meal and snacks. Checks to Albany Menn Church desig. For Schertz Conf. Send form to Larry Eby at 2740 Foxglove Loop SE, Albany, OR 97322 or register by E-mail to Breneby@aol.com or phone (541-812-1498) by Jan 15, 2008 and pay at conference.