

Theology & Peace Conference 2016
Tuesday, May 24 - Thursday, May 26th
Techy Towers, Chicago

People & Policing: Compassion for OUR Violence

Plenary Speakers:

Vern Neufeld Redekop

Neil Franklin

Preston Shipp

Bible Study Leader:

Anthony Bartlett

Mimetic Theory 101:

James Warren

Advanced Mimetic Theory:

Paul Nuechterlein

Panelists:

Betsy Hansbrough: Theology & Peace Board Member

Patty Prasada-Rao: Community Organizer

Sereta Williams: Former Police Officer in Columbus, Mississippi

More TBA

Vern Neufeld Redekop is Professor of Conflict Studies at Saint Paul University, Canada. He is the former President of the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution. He is the author of *From Violence to Blessing: How an Understanding of Deep-Rooted Conflict Opens Paths to Reconciliation* (Novalis, 2002) and *Beyond Control: A Mutual Respect Approach to Protest Crowd-Police Relations* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2010).

Neil Franklin spent over 30 years participating in, and directing, state and local police anti-drug efforts before retiring to become the executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), which advocates for the legalization of drugs and a law enforcement approach that defends human rights and views drug misusers as persons in need of treatment as opposed to punishment.

Link: <http://www.alternet.org/drugs/why-man-who-fought-drug-war-30-years-now-spearheading-project-stop-it>

Preston Shipp is a former prosecutor in Nashville, Tenn. turned criminal justice reform advocate.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlmHHVbyyuA>

Anthony Bartlett A founder of Theology & Peace, Tony is the author of *Cross Purposes: The Violent Grammar of Christian Atonement* (Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2001), *Virtually Christian: How Christ Changes Human Meaning and Makes Creation New* (John Hunt Publishing, 2011), and *Pascale's Wager: Homelands of Heaven* (Hopetime Press, 2014). He and his wife Linda lead a small Christian community, Wood Hath Hope, at Bethany House in Syracuse, NY.

Paul Nuechterlein is a noted expert in interpreting the Bible through the lens of René Girard's Mimetic Theory, with an eye to both theology and anthropology. A student of Girard's work for over 20 years, Paul has built and maintains this website, **Girardian Reflections on the Lectionary**, which receives an average of 600 visits each day from people across denominations and around the world. Recently retired after 30 years of parish ministry in ELCA congregations, he is now able to devote full-time to his passion for spreading the Gospel of peace and justice, which he believes is at the heart of Jesus' faith. With the birth of Paul's new ministry, Discipleship Seminars in Mimetic Theory. He is the Contributing Theologian for Theology and Peace, Paul has also served on the Board of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion.