Our Speaker/Leader

Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres is Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies and Religion at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). His ministry experience is broad, including congregational pastorate, advocacy, community organizing, wider denominational leadership, and education. He holds a Ph.D. from Claremont School of Theology. He has served as the Regional Minister of the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Assistant Professor of Church History at Claremont School of Theology, and Director of Pastoral Formation at the Disciples Seminary Foundation.

He is married to Rev. Daphne M. Gascot Arias, also an ordained Disciples of Christ minister currently working on her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. They share life and laughs with their daughter Daphne Magnolia.

As a historical and comparative theologian, Professor Morales places historical voices into conversation with historically marginalized voices, within and beyond the Christian tradition, offering radical re-articulations of the affirmations of faith for today’s realities. His forthcoming book (with Lexington Books) explores the experience of wonder as grounding for a new theological anthropology.

Registration:

Name: _______________________
Church: _______________________ 
Address: ______________________ 
________________________________
Email: ________________________ 
Phone: _________________________ 
Clergy Day: ($15) ____________ 
Community Bible Lecture ($10) ______

The 2020 Gresham Lectures will be shared via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. You will need to register with the church and on the Zoom Link (see descriptions).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The registration fee helps support the financial costs of this event.

Checks payable to Central Woodward Christian Church may be sent with the registration form to:
Central Woodward Christian Church 
3955 W. Big Beaver Road 
Troy, MI 48084

Or pay online using the Givelify App. 
Choose the appropriate dollar amount ($15, $10, then choose ‘Perry Gresham Lecture.’

For more information contact the office: 
office@centralwoodward.org 
248-644-0512 
http://www.centralwoodward.org

2020
Perry Gresham 
Bible Lectures

October 23-24, 2020 
With 
Dr. José F. Morales Torres

Offered by 
Central Woodward 
Christian Church
Central Woodward 
Christian Church 
3955 W. Big Beaver Road 
Troy, MI 48085
**The Perry Gresham Lectures**

The Perry Gresham Bible Lectureship was launched in the fall of 2010, with the desire to bring to the local congregation and community biblical scholars and theologians of note. These lectures are given in recognition that we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind. This lectureship reflects the ethos of the Disciples of Christ movement, which values the mind and insists that the whole people of God should be educated in the faith.

These lectures are named after Dr. Perry Gresham, the second pastor of Central Woodward Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and later the President of Bethany College (founded by Alexander Campbell to provide educated leaders for church and society).

Gresham Lecturers include Dr. Ronald Allen of Christian Theological Seminary, Dr. Bruce Epperly, South Congregational Church (Centreville, MA), Dr. Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary, Scott Seay, Christian Theological Seminary, Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, Presbyterian Church USA (Chattanooga, TN), Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University/McAfee School of Theology, Dr. Ruth Duck of Garrett-Evangelical Seminary. Dr. Deanna Thompson of Hamline University. Dr. Thomas Jay Oord of Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID). Dr. Marti Steussy, Christian Theological Seminary.

**Clergy Spiritual Formation Day**
Friday, October 23, 2020
9:30-12:00

**Exploring Pluralism, Inside and Out: Our Pluralistic Future, Our Pluralistic Past**

Interreligious understanding and cooperation is one of the great theological questions posed to the Church today—indeed, posed to all religions. Put succinctly, the theological question before us is: How do we as Christians make sense of God’s particular revelation in Jesus Christ in light of the plurality of religious beliefs and practices? Traditionally, many responses have leaned—and erred—on one of two extremes: condemning exclusivity and vague inclusivity. Morales argues that things are not that clear-cut, especially when one considers that the very formation and development of Christian doctrine have pluralistic roots. In other words, the emergence of distinctively Christian beliefs involved engaging and even incorporating wisdom and insight from other traditions. Therefore, in the quest for interreligious understanding, “looking in” might prove to be beneficial to our “looking out.” Could moving toward a pluralistic future require that we retrieve pluralistic past?

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItc-qqqD4yF1ddTvNdDIx3INk1FwTgp0vM6](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItc-qqqD4yF1ddTvNdDIx3INk1FwTgp0vM6)

**Community Workshop**
Saturday, October 24, 2020
10:00-12:00

**How My Non-Christian Friends Made Me a Better Christian: Some Personal Stories and Theological Musings**

As a collection of personal stories that call for deeper theological reflection, this lecture testifies to the transforming power of interreligious friendships, engagement, and partnership. Starting with stories that narrate the gift of pluralism, Morales will draw out theological implications for how we understand God, Jesus Christ, the witness of Scripture, and the church’s role in this inescapably pluralistic world. The hope of this session is to sketch the contours of a Christian-pluralistic spirituality that is both unshakably committed to the core of Christian faith—that is, Jesus Christ—and wonderfully open to the transforming wisdom of other religious traditions. Could it be that our faith, to be “rock-solid,” must also be “porous”?

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ1tc-qoqD4yF1ddTvNdDIx3INk1FwTgp0vM6](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ1tc-qoqD4yF1ddTvNdDIx3INk1FwTgp0vM6)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.