The SpiriT of The Age:

"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"—1 John 4:4

From the very beginning, the Christian faith has stood in contrast with the world. John wrote: "The world is passing away along with all its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (1 Jn. 2:17). It is so important then, for believers to understand the dividing line between the two. With this in mind, the 2018 Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology confronts the age of the Spirit with the Spirit of the age. Seldom has there been a greater need for God’s people to understand what it is that characterizes both the secular kingdom and the kingdom of Christ. The answer was seen when the Spirit of God fell upon the church at Pentecost. What does it mean for us to be living in the age of the Spirit? What are the resources, blessings, and callings of Christ’s people in light of the coming Spirit? These are questions we will consider together in our study of the work and power of the Holy Spirit in our current age.

Our plenary conference speakers this year are Daniel Akin, Daniel Hyde, Conrad Mbewe, and Richard Phillips. Together we will consider the work of the Spirit in this age of the church together with its collision with the world-spirit of unbelief and idolatry. Richard Gaffin will provide our pre-conference on the theme of Pentecost and the Work of the Spirit Today. Those familiar with Dr. Gaffin’s ministry at Westminster Theological Seminary will recognize his singular passion and insight into this vital topic.

We are excited to return to Grand Rapids, MI, and Bryn Mawr, PA, and look forward to renewing many old friendships and to forming new relationships as we study such a vital topic in the context of rich doxology. Please join us, we are confident that this year’s conference will help you to understand both the times in which you live and the Spirit of Christ by whose power you believe.

Speakers

Daniel Akin currently serves as the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a professor of preaching and theology. Dr. Akin is passionate for a great commission resurgence in North America and around the world.

Richard Gaffin is professor emeritus of biblical and systematic theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He joined the faculty of Westminster in 1965 and is an ordained minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Daniel Hyde has been the pastor of Oceaninde United Reformed Church since its inception in 2000 and teaches a variety of courses at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Adb-America Reformed Seminary, and the Instituto João Calvino in Recife, Brazil.

Jonathan Master is the dean of the school of divinity, teaches theology, church history, and New Testament at Cairn University. He also oversees Cairn’s honors program, a part of Cairn’s Center for University Studies. Dr. Master also serves as the Alliance editorial director, as well as co-host of the podcast Theology on the Go.

Conrad Mbewe is frequently described as the “African Spurgeon.” He serves as the pastor of Kabwata Reformed Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia.

David Murray is professor of Old Testament and practical theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.

Scott Oliphint is professor of apologetics and systematic theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to coming to Westminster, Dr. Oliphint was an ordained pastor in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, was a pastor in his hometown of Amarillo, TX.

Richard Phillips serves as senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC, and is chair of the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology.
What took place on Pentecost? What consequences follow for the church? As Christians continue to be divided, sometimes deeply, on these questions, this year’s pre-conference will examine the gifts and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. What is the power of the Spirit in the Word of God? What is the power of the Spirit in Christian living? What is the power of the Spirit in the church? What is the power of the Spirit in evangelism? These are just a few of the compelling questions that will be addressed during this year’s pre-conference.”

Pre-Conference Schedule

GRAND RAPIDS, APRIL 13–15 • PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 27–29

Friday

8:00 a.m.  Pre-Conference Registration
9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  Pre-Conference

Saturday

8:00 a.m.  Late Registration
9:00 a.m.  Second Address: Two Worlds, Two Spirits
10:30 a.m.  Third Address: The Spirit of Conviction

Sunday

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  Pre-Conference

HOTELS

Grand Rapids

First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center
8941 Byron Center Avenue SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

Philadelphia

Proclamation Presbyterian Church
278 Broadway
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

VENUES

Grand Rapids

First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center
8941 Byron Center Avenue SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

Philadelphia

Proclamation Presbyterian Church
278 Broadway
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

SUNDAY

11:30 a.m. Question & Answer Session (All Speakers)
12:30 p.m. Lunch
2:00 p.m. Fourth Address: The Spirit of Transforming

*PCRT has been for decades the flaggship conference in North America for biblical Christianity. [M]ultitudes of students, ministers and Christians from a huge variety of church backgrounds have been here into a marvelous new world of biblical exposition, pastoral doctrine, and worship—all wonderfully filled with a sense of the glory of God.”

—Sinclair Ferguson

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Pre-Conference: $ __________ +  Conference $ _________ = Total $ ______________