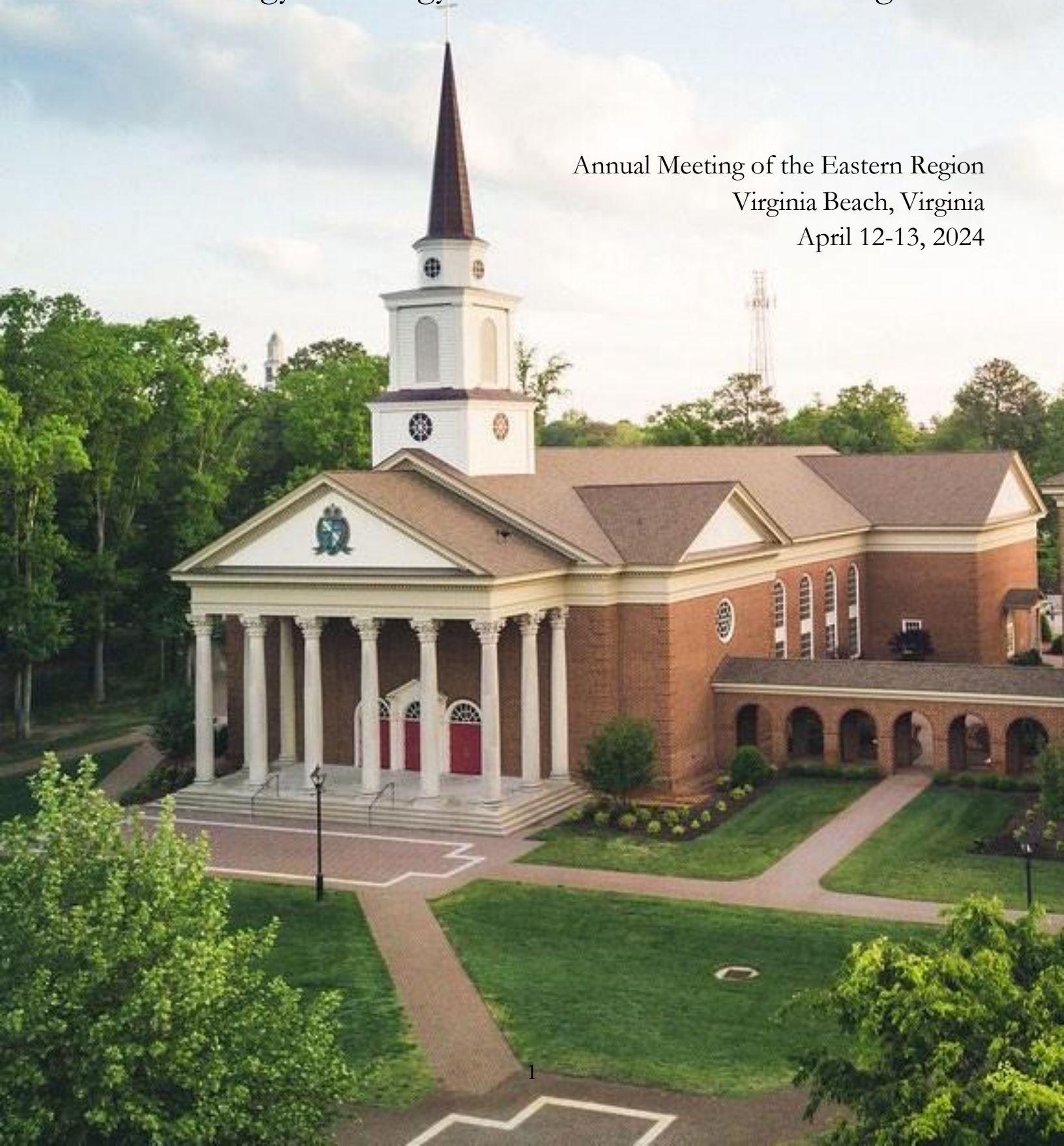


Evangelical Theological Society

Ecclesiology: Theology of the Church in a Secular Age

Annual Meeting of the Eastern Region
Virginia Beach, Virginia
April 12-13, 2024



Letter to the Conference Attendees

Welcome to the annual spring meeting of the ETS Eastern region. The theme of this year's conference is Ecclesiology: Theology of the Church in a Secular Age. We look forward to hearing the presenters, including the keynote speaker, Dr. Chuck Lawless, Senior Professor of Evangelism and Missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. We will have a special reception on Friday evening with hors d'oeuvres and live music.

I would like to thank my fellow Eastern region officers for all their help in putting together this year's conference. I would especially like to thank Regent University for hosting this year's meeting. It has been a pleasure working with the leaders at their School of Divinity in the planning of the conference.

In Christ,

Daniel Gilbert, Ph.D.
President of the ETS Eastern Region
CEO and Co-founder, Empowered Living Ministries International

General Conference Information

Location: the conference will be held at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Sessions will take place in the Library Auditorium and Robertson Hall, while the reception on Friday evening will be held on the Library balcony.

Registration: you can register for the conference online or in-person at the registration desk at the start of the conference (12:00–1:00). Registrations are \$45 Regular, \$10 Student, \$5 Spouses.

Recordings: audio recordings of the plenary and most parallel sessions will be available from WordMp3.com probably by June (we will send out a notice when they are available).

Student paper competition: the winners of the competition will be announced at the business meeting. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place.

Amenities:

On-campus Coffee Shop—77 CoffeeHouse (open Friday, April 12, 8:00–5:00; closed Saturday)

On-campus Cafe—The Ordinary (open Friday, April 12, 9:00–4:00; closed Saturday)

On-campus Restaurant—Swan Terrace Grill at The Founders Inn

On-campus hotel—The Founders Inn (757-424-5511; [link](#))

Other hotels—see the list on the Regent University website ([link](#))

Our Plenary Speaker

Chuck Lawless (PhD, Dallas Theological Seminary) is Senior Professor of Evangelism and Missions, Dean of Doctoral Studies, Vice President for Spiritual Formation and Ministry Centers, Richard and Gina Headrick Chair of World Missions, and Director of the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Executive Officers of the ETS Eastern Region

President
Daniel Gilbert
Empowered Living Ministries International

Secretary-Treasurer
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Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary
and Graduate School

Friday, April 12

12:00–1:00 Registration desk, book table (Library Auditorium)
1:00–1:10 Welcome and announcements
1:10–2:10 Plenary Session 1 (Library Auditorium)
2:20–3:00 Parallel Sessions A
3:10–3:50 Parallel Sessions B
4:00–5:00 Plenary Session 2
5:00–6:15 Reception with hors d’oeuvres and Live Music (Library Balcony)

Saturday, April 13

8:30–9:00 Business meeting (Library Auditorium)
9:00–9:15 Book table, refreshments (Library Auditorium)
9:20–10:00 Parallel Sessions C
10:10–10:50 Parallel Sessions D
11:00–12:15 Plenary Session - Panel Q&A (Library Auditorium)

Parallel Sessions A

Gregory Lamb (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) - Pauline Ecclesiology: The Philippian Church in a Secular Age
Room RH 113

John-Paul Lotz (Regent University) - An Ancient Witness: Ecclesiology in the Greco-Roman World According to the Apostolic Fathers
Room RH 114

Lisa Jo Fanelli-Greer (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) - The Decline of the American Church: A Call for Ecclesiological Reform, Restoration, and Renewal
Room RH 123

Mark Hassler (Virginia Beach Theological Seminary) - Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9): How an Overlooked Allusion to Genesis 2 Demonstrates Jesus's Deity
Room RH 205

Daniel Sloan (Liberty University) - The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Man in the Book of Daniel
Room RH 301

Carrie Wood (Regent University) - The Gospel in a Secular Age – Learning from Paul in Athens
Library Auditorium

Parallel Sessions B

Lance M. Bacon (Regent University) - Restore Such a One: Holistic Restoration for Ministers, Families and Churches Following a Sexual Moral Failure
Room RH 113

Boniface Odong (Regent University) – “Callous Hearts, Deaf Ears, and Blind Eyes” – Three Strikes on the Modern Western Church (Matthew 13:15)
Room RH 114

Melissa Davis (Regent University) - Redeeming our Stiff-Necked Worship: Examining קִשְׁהָ עֵרָף as the contrast to חַיִּים
Room RH 123

Russell Scott (Regent University) - Translating the Energēma and Dunamis in 1 Corinthians 12
Room RH 205

Bryan Litfin (Liberty University) - Was Iznik's “Underwater Basilica” the Site of the Council of Nicaea?
Room RH 301

Corné J. Bekker and James T. Flynn (Regent University) - "You have one Teacher, and you are all brothers" (Matthew 23:8): The Formation and Function of Teachers in the Ekklesia of Matthew's Gospel
Library Auditorium

Parallel Sessions C

Michael J. Stell (Catholic University of America)- What is the Church? John Williamson Nevin and the Forgotten Question of the 19th Century?
Room RH 112

Benjamin L. Merkle (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) - Seven Reasons Not to Use the Title “Senior Pastor”

Room RH 113

Paul J. Palma (Regent University) - Orderly Public Worship and Miraculous Speech: Paul’s Remarks on Boisterous Speaking in 1 Corinthians 14:26–40

Room RH 114

Jacob Byrd (Liberty University) - AI Integration in the Church and its Impact on the Christian Community

Room RH 116

Zachary K. Dawson (Regent University) - The Role of Parallelism in Luke-Acts: An Assessment in Light of Recent Advancements

Room RH 123

David Wallace (Regent University) - 'Divine Reciprocity' – Philippians 4:26

Library Auditorium

Parallel Sessions D

Jason A. Poling (St. Mary’s Ecumenical Institute) - II Cheers for Vatican II: Presbyterorum Ordinis as a Resource for Evangelical Pastors Navigating a Highly Charged Political Landscape

Room RH 112

Robert Herron (Regent University) - Theology of the Church in a Secular Age: A Modest Reminder

Room RH 113

Ruth Barasa (Regent University) - Imitating the Judean Churches’ Suffering by Imitating Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:14- 16)

Room RH 114

Scott Hyland (Liberty University) - A Brief Primer for an Evangelical Theological Method

Room RH 116

J. Daryl Charles (John Jay Institute) - Our “Secular” Vocation: Affirming a Theology of Work and Vocation for the Church

Room RH 123

John Ronning (Retired) - On the Christological Interpretation of the Old Testament: The Triple Perspective

Library Auditorium

Book Table - Stop by and purchase new edition books at a deep discount from publishers such as Baylor University Press, Kregel Academic, Langham Publishing, Lexham Press, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, and Zondervan.

ETS Doctrinal Basis

"The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs. God is a Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each an uncreated person, one in essence, equal in power and glory."

"To foster conservative Biblical scholarship by providing a medium for the oral exchange and written expression of thought and research in the general field of the theological disciplines as centered in the Scriptures." (Constitution, Article II.)