

GFM National Staff Conference 2025

Pre-Course Assignment

Readings

Dallas Willard, *Renewing the Christian Mind*

Chapter 22: Discipleship How-To

Chapter 28: Lessons from the Life of Jesus

Steven Garber, *The Seamless Life*

“A Disposition to Dualism”

“A Hard Question”

Interview(s)

One of GFM’s core commitments is the integration of faith, learning, and practice. The above readings explore several themes of integration, such as a spirituality of stewardship, a disposition to dualism, hints of hope in our work, and practicing the presence of Jesus in our day-to-day professional lives. In GFM we often explore more broadly the ways that creation, fall, redemption and consummation shape the integration of our faith and our work.

After you complete the readings but before GFM National Staff Conference, interview one graduate student or faculty member at a campus you serve (you are welcome to interview more if you find the interview a helpful conversation starter). Explore some of these themes of integration in your conversation.

Some questions you might use:

- Where do you see evidence of God’s good creation in your discipline?
- Where do you see evidence of the fall in your discipline?
- Peter tells us in one of his earliest sermons that the resurrection of Jesus has put us on a trajectory toward “times of refreshing” and “the time of universal restoration” (Acts 3:20-21). What do you imagine your discipline looking like when it is “refreshed” and “restored?”

- What does it look like for you to steward your studies/research/work as an opportunity to follow Jesus, to love God and neighbor, in a world that is not yet restored? How does Jesus shape your work and the way you do your work?
- What practices do you find helpful as you seek to “practice the presence” of Jesus with you in the midst of your work?
- Are there places where your professional community seems unwilling to apply an ethical lens as they make decisions?
- What “hints of hope” do you see in your work or your field right now?

Reflection

1. What questions are you bringing into this year’s conference as you work to help students and faculty integrate their faith, learning and practice?
2. What ideas do you have that you would like to refine in conversation with your colleagues?

Please come prepared to discuss the readings and interview and your own reflections. We will incorporate this into our small group times during the conference. Thank you!