**World Cafe: Integration of Faith, Learning and Practice**

**GFM National Staff Conference 2016**

**Description**: This World Cafe will be an opportunity to explore how GFM staff can encourage and guide students/faculty as followers of Jesus in all of life—especially in their teaching, scholarship, colleague-ship and institutional roles. We’ll brainstorm ideas and share best practices about how to help grad students and faculty integrate their faith, learning, and practice.

**Readings:**

*Academics and Faith: Our InterView with Dr. Jay Green*, by Richard Doster, in byFaith: The Online Magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America, Jan. 21, 2015.

*What I wish my pastor knew . . . about the life of a scientist,* by Andy Crouch, republished with permission from *The Ministry Theorem.*

*Advice to those who would be Christian Scholars*, by Nicholas Wolterstorff, from Emerging Scholars Blog, August 7, 2012.

**Questions:**

1. Jay Green suggests that integration of faith and learning is not a one-way process (how does my faith inform and shape my scholarship and work?), but a 2-way process which includes allowing our work/scholarship to shape and inform our faith. How could we encourage grad students and faculty to not be “merely theologians of our crafts, but able and faithful academic craftsmen who are determined to carry out the good work of our guilds as part of our service to God’s kingdom”?

2. How can we help students and faculty live as Christian scholars—in the words of Nicholas Wolterstorff: to “think with a Christian mind and speak with a Christian voice within their chosen discipline and within the academy more generally”? What are the greatest impediments you have found in helping the students and faculty you work with to do the work of integration?

3. In your experience on campus with GFM, how have you (students/faculty chapter) approached integration of faith, learning and practice? What have you tried? What “best practices” have you discovered? What did you learn from what didn’t work?

4. What types of questions have you used to encourage conversations in your chapter or with individual students/faculty around integration of faith learning and practice?

**Details: 3 rounds of conversation; 20 minutes per round.**

Round 1: discuss questions 1 and 2

Round 2: share highlights from round 1 with your new group, discuss questions 1 and 2 a bit more, and start discussing question 3.

Round 3: share highlights from round 2 with your new group, and discuss questions 3 and 4.

For each round:

* Each person takes a turn being the talker.
* The other three people serve as listeners.
* After each person in the group has had an opportunity to respond to the question/s, take the rest of the time for group discussion.

**World Cafe Guidelines:**

Speak with your mind and heart

Contribute your thinking

Focus on what matters

Listen to understand

Have fun!

Play… draw… doodle…

Listen together for patterns, insights, and deeper connections

Link and connect ideas

Slow down… so you have time to think and reflect.