

theology. His exploration will accent the outward mission of *communio* in plural contexts especially insofar as this involves renewal of the diocesan church through communication. Hughson proposes exemplifying the communicative renewal of *communio* in such specific diocesan experiences as the fate of the *Economic Justice for All* pastoral, the Common Ground project, and the response of the local church to the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

At CTSA 2004 this Research Group's final session will preview and critique a draft of Robinson's proposed work and will review Hughson's further elaboration of the *communio*-communication study. Robinson's publication is envisioned for late 2005 and Hughson's for 2006 or later.

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WORLD CHURCH THEOLOGY

Topic: Theologians and the World Church
Convener: Gerald M. Boodoo, Xavier University of Louisiana
Presenters: Gideon Goosen, Australian Catholic University
Phillip J. Linden, Jr., Xavier University of Louisiana

In looking at multiple religious belonging and dual identity Gideon Goosen's presentation acknowledged that recent religious history has raised the issue of multiple and dual belonging/identity bringing with it new theological methodologies. Goosen discussed the new terminology used in this debate particularly in the light of the book *Many Mansions*. In his presentation, Goosen used the term multiple belonging for intra-Christian purposes and dual belonging/identity for the interfaith context. He broke the interfaith context into three subgroups. The global context of interfaith issues is characterized as including the experience of Christian missionaries; migration (especially since World War II) with increasing numbers of refugees and asylum seekers; and the increased speed of air travel with continuing interest in orientalism. Goosen suggested that new insights can be gleaned from anthropological and psychological viewpoints by further investigating key concepts like personhood (Rudman), self (Merton), identity (Ricoeur) and conversion (Carrier). An attempt was made to understand dual and multiple belonging/identity from a theological perspective using the positions of Jeanron, Dupuis and Geffré, while evaluating that of Corless as untenable.

In a second presentation Phillip Linden, Jr., understood the future of World Church theology as facing several difficult questions as it reflects within the global society. It seems that social, political, and economic theories and interests are neutralizing theology, so where should the starting point of theology be in

our contemporary world? Linden suggests that such a starting point must be an investigation into the origins of our contemporary society. Centering the theological task on our origins and its implications makes us aware that a new day has already arrived. In this evolved and still evolving cultural clash the tendency is between the rejection of society, its graces, and its authority, including its religious authority and the settling into an "adjusted religion." This adjusted religion is a private matter. In it the believer hears the Word of God but does not always seek to follow that Word where suffering people are concerned. In fact, that "adjusted religion" has become the roadmap for the current efforts at creating global conformity by western civilization. In this context merely upholding religious faith as a private matter and an individualistic experience of an *abstract* God and an *absolute* Church/religious group gets to be problematic.

Responses to both presentations focused on questions and comments around the two main themes posed by the presenters: how to understand and articulate multiple religious belongings and how to adequately describe our context as a basis for theological reflection.

The group then discussed plans for a publication based on the research of its members. In order to enhance the contributions to the publication, past and future presenters will be asked to edit the texts of their presentations to the group for inclusion in the publication. It was agreed that next year we would attempt to have presentations by two female members of the society: Jane Redmont of Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley and Anna Perkins of Boston College.

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FAITH AND ORDER'S *THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH*

- Topic: A Catholic Response to Faith and Order's
The Nature and Purpose of the Church
- Convener: Michael A. Fahey, Marquette University
- Moderator: Ann K. Riggs, National Council of Churches, Faith and Order
- Presenters: Catherine Clifford, St. Paul University, Ottawa
 Francis A. Sullivan, Boston College

The Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches based in Geneva is currently in the process of preparing a major ecumenical document that potentially could be as important as the well-known Lima Document, *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry* (1982), to which the CTSA commissioned and published an official response (*Catholic Perspectives on Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*, edited by Michael Fahey, 1986). To devote the attention which this new