

# Asia-Pacific Regional Theology Conference

22-23 October 2019 – Chang Mai, Thailand



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

ASIA - PACIFIC

## “Christ and His Church Engaging the Cultures of Our Region”

### Call for Papers

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most culturally-diverse regions in the Church of the Nazarene. The Bible records how God has engaged with peoples from diverse cultural backgrounds with the good news of the gospel. It records faithfully the challenges and conflicts that arise when the gospel moved from its original Jewish setting into the nations of the world. Wesleyans are profoundly convinced that Christ comes to us in every cultural setting and, by the Spirit, seeks to transform both the person and the community. All our cultures provide both opportunities and challenges for mission and discipleship, both for the person and their community.

The conference seeks to explore this issue by offering a range of papers, from both academic and pastoral perspectives, on how our culture impacts both our initial presentation of the gospel and the subsequent challenge of personal and community transformation?

### Submissions are invited that address one of the following issues:

- What is a culture?
- Does God have a purpose in creating cultures?
- How does culture fit into the plans of God?
- What function does culture have for humans and societies?
- Are all cultures of equal worth?
- Does it matter which culture we embrace—are there some cultures more, or less, acceptable to God?
- Is there a Christian culture we should seek to commend or impose upon society?
- How far can we adapt the presentation of the gospel without compromising the gospel itself?
- Do we compromise the gospel when we don't adapt its presentation to culture?
- The church as the Body of Christ is both universal and local. What forms of congregational life faithfully express both our local and universal communities of faith?
- How far are we seeking to change culture through our discipleship, and is that possible or desirable?
- How does culture impact our worship practices – both in terms of expression and formation?
- How do we avoid syncretism in local sacramental and ritual practices?

Papers presented on the conference theme will be considered for inclusion in a published book on conference proceedings.

## Writing your abstract

Interested participants are invited to send an abstract of 250-300 words to the Conference Panel for consideration. A useful abstract will include the following components:

- A clear statement of the question or issue to be addressed
- A summary of the position(s) to be presented in relation to the question or issue and/or an indication of key conclusions
- An indication of key sources of information to be drawn from – key writers, research, personal experience, biblical exposition, etc.

The Conference is a safe and respectful space for theological conversation. The aim of the Conference is to explore ideas rather than convince others of any particular position. We are looking for presenters who are able to clearly articulate their ideas in a respectful manner, allowing space for disagreement and discussion with others. We will be selecting papers which represent a range of views. All abstracts will remain confidential to the RTC selection committee.

## Submitting your abstract

Supplementary to the abstract please provide a short biographical statement, including:

- Your name
- Church, academic, professional and/or community affiliations relevant to your submission
- Any experience and/or qualifications which support your submission
- Any other information you consider relevant for selection panel deliberations

**Abstracts must be submitted by email to Dr David McEwan by 15 October 2018 at [dmcewan@ntc.edu.au](mailto:dmcewan@ntc.edu.au)**

Successful applicants will be notified by 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and the completed papers (2500-3000 words) have to be received no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 in order to allow time for translation.

The Regional Theology Conference (RTC) is being organised by Nazarene Theological College but is sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Region. It will take place in connection with the Regional Conference (RC), which is also being held in Chang Mai, Thailand on the 19-22 October 2019. The RTC will take place on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and all day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Some scholarships to attend this even may be available through the Region. Participants are encouraged to also attend the RC.