

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2011 Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference will be held November 14–16 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East (4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111). The theme “Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call” acknowledges that keeping “wonder, love, and praise” in one’s practice of ministry can be a daunting task. The routine, the management tasks, the sense of having (after awhile, at least) “been there...done that”—all conspire to make one’s sense of call less a matter of joy and wonder and more a matter of jaded, perfunctory professionalism. How can parish clergy sustain a sense of awe, a wonder that they are summoned to stand on “holy ground?” With the assistance of insightful speakers and workshop leaders, the conference will offer participants an opportunity for spiritual refreshment, challenging ideas, and inspiring conversation—and maybe even a bit of wonder and awe.

Plenary speakers are Anabel C. Proffitt, Associate Professor of Educational Ministries at Lancaster Theological Seminary and author of the forthcoming *The Sense of Wonder: Pathos and Play in Religious Education*, and John A. Berntsen, Director of Student Services at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and author of *Cross-Shaped Leadership: On the Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice*. Proffitt’s addresses are titled “The Importance of Wonder in Life and Ministry” and “Cultivating Religious Imagination in Ministry,” while Berntsen will speak on “Our Human Stuff: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Psalm 139:14)” and “Glad and Generous Hearts: How Awe Came upon Everyone (Acts 2:43).”

An opening luncheon presentation and an array of workshops, together with Tuesday’s special interest luncheons, round out the conference’s program.

The \$150 registration fee covers the Monday luncheon, the Wednesday breakfast, and admission to all plenary sessions. Tuesday’s special interest group luncheons are open to all by advance reservation; cost is \$20 per person. A printable registration form is available on the Council’s Web site at www.pachurches.org, which also offers the opportunity for online registration with MasterCard, Visa, or Discover Card. For a brochure with registration form, send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to State Pastors’ Conference, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, 900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 211A, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024.