

A Fresh Call to Gather!

2010 Fig Tree Assembly:
21st Century Church: Re-Forming

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
September 24th, 25th & 26th

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church



Guest Speaker:

Anthony B. Robinson

Keynote Speaker and Preacher
Consultant and Coach
Author
Columnist
Teacher

Learn more at www.anthonbrobinson.com

Friday, September 24

7:00 p.m. Music by the Central New York Jazz Trio

7:30 p.m. Opening Presentation: *A Tasting Tour in the Vineyards of Renewal*

It's been thirty years since most mainline Protestant denominations realized that the religious ecology of North America was shifting and changing, and that mainline Protestants were no longer the "default option." What have emerged as the major varieties (varietals to use the wine metaphor) and schools for church and congregational renewal and redirection during this time? Tony Robinson will survey the vineyards of renewal, provide some tastes, and evaluate the offerings.

Saturday, September 25

"Resources and Tools for the 21st Century Church" will be on display in the church commons all day

9:30 – 11:15 a.m. Coffee and Discussion with Tony Robinson

Clergy and Church Educators (*reservations required – Register Now*)

12:00 noon Lunch (*\$6 per person, reservations required – Register Now*)

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Workshop with Tony Robinson: *"The Power of Purpose" (with break)*

The recent Faith Communities Today study (FACT) indicated that while many mainline Protestant congregations are aging and shrinking, some congregations are experiencing growth and vitality. One of the key factors distinguishing the latter group is their capacity to "Promote a vision and purpose for the congregation." This workshop will look at the importance of mission or purpose and how a congregation and its leaders discern, articulate and use their sense and statement of mission or purpose.

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. *Closing Worship Celebration*

Sunday, September 26

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Anthony Robinson preaching: "God at the Center"

11:00-12 noon: *Q & A with Anthony Robinson*

About Anthony Robinson

Tony is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, who has served four congregations. He presently travels throughout North America as a speaker, teacher, preacher, consultant and coach serving congregations and their leaders. He has taught at several schools including Emmanuel



College/Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology. He is the President of Congregational Leadership Northwest, a Seattle-based ecumenical group that offers leadership education and support for congregational leaders.

Tony is the author of nine books, the most recent *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations*, published by Eerdmans Publishing Company in 2008. He is a frequent contributor to various magazines and journals, including *The Christian Century*, *Congregations*, and *Perspectives*

He is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He holds a Master's degree in European Cultural and Intellectual History from the University of Oregon. His Master of Divinity degree is from New York's Union Theological Seminary. He has done post-graduate study at Harvard Divinity School as a Merrill Fellow.

About Anthony Robinson, Marva Dawn, a very popular Fig Tree Assembly speaker, has written:

“Anthony Robinson offers rare gifts – the honed observations of an experienced pastor, gracious humility and honest repentance for his own mistakes, a keep comprehension of the massive changes in our society, and urgent challenges for churches to be biblically transformed into missional communities. These are gems your church needs.”

What is the Fig Tree Assembly?

Nathaniel asked the Rabbi, “How do you know me?” And the Rabbi answered, “I saw you under the Fig Tree.”

- John 1:43-51

The Fig Tree Assembly is a program of study sponsored by Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church to promote the contemplation of the life of the spirit and the growth of the church:

- **Convened** to provide an opportunity for worship, study and conversation relating to spiritual insight and growth ...
- **Led** by scholars, authors and artists who work is both well-known and respected ...
- **You** are invited to gather “under the Fig Tree” in the hope that we each will benefit from this enlightening experience.
- **Past** speakers include:

Robert Wuthnow – 2006
Luke Timothy Johnson – 2003
Bill Carter – 2001
Marva Dawn – 1999
Don Saliers – 1997
Stanley Hauerwas – 1995
Walter Brueggemann – 1994

Child Care and Children's Activities will be available throughout the weekend.

Register Now!

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