

Greetings, Gentlemen,

I hope this finds you all well. It is time to start thinking about the 2012 Elliott House Seminar. This year's seminar will be held Tuesday, January 24 through Thursday, January 26. Dr. Neil Robertson will be conducting the 2012 seminar on the topic of "Grace and Freedom in the Reformed Soul: Erasmus, Luther and Richard Hooker". This is the first Elliott House seminar to address theologians from the early modern era. Dr. Robertson is the Director of the Early Modern Studies Programme, Associate Professor of Humanities, and an adjunct professor for the Contemporary Studies Program at the University of King's College, Halifax, NS.

### **The Texts:**

Luther "The Heidelberg Disputation". The best version is in Timothy Lull (Ed.) *Martin Luther: Basic Theological Writings* pp.30-49, because it includes the proofs, if unattainable the Dillenberger may be used.

Erasmus, *On the Freedom of the Will* (Selections). We will be looking at the Preface and Introduction and the last part of the text, beginning at Examination of Luther's Arguments (in one version this is in Part III and the Epilogue, in the version by Ernst Winter it is in Section VI-VIII.)

Luther, *The Bondage of the Will* - The selection in John Dillenberger, *Martin Luther: selections from His Writings* is all that is needed.

Richard Hooker, *Laws of the Ecclesiastical Polity* Book V, Appendix I (Keble edition, vol.2. pp./ 556-97) and *A Learned Discourse of Justification* (Keble edition, vol. 3, 483-547). The Keble edition is recommended, as opposed to the Folger Library edition.

### **Seminar Conductor:**

Neil G. Robertson is an Associate Professor in the Foundation Year, Early Modern Studies and Contemporary Studies programmes. Dr. Robertson graduated from the University of King's College in 1985 with a BA in Political Science. He went on to take an M.A. in Classics at Dalhousie University, and in 1995 completed his PhD at Cambridge in Social and Political Science. He has held the position of Director of the Foundation Year Programme and is past Director of the Early Modern Studies Programme, which he helped to found. Dr. Robertson was the King's College Dean of Residence in 1989-1990 and has been Chair of Faculty since 2001. He was a student of James Doull, Robert Crouse, George Grant, Wayne Hankey and Dennis House, names familiar to many who frequent Elliott House Seminars. He has contributed on a number of occasions to the widely respected Atlantic Theological Conference. The heart of his research is to consider the origins of modernity and the critiques of the modern world by a wide-array of contemporary thinkers. He has co-edited two books: *Philosophy and Freedom: The Legacy of James Doull* and *Descartes and the Modern* and is in the midst of co-editing a third collection, *The Unity of Opposites: Hegel in Canada*. Dr. Robertson has published a number of articles and chapters on early modern political and religious thought and on contemporary critics of modernity such as George Grant, Leo Strauss, and John Milbank. He is also the Chairman of the Board for Halifax Humanities, a humanities outreach programme for the marginalized, and works with a number of other volunteer organizations.

**This year's Elliott House will be limited to 35 participants. Please register by e-mail to [osbornejes@mac.com](mailto:osbornejes@mac.com). I will send you a return e-mail confirming your registration. Please send your response by November 15. When registering please let me know if you plan on attending the cocktail reception on Monday and the dinner on Tuesday.**

### **The Daily Schedule:**

#### **Monday 23 January**

5:30 Evening Prayer (in the Chapel)  
6:15 Cocktails at the Rectory

#### **Tuesday 24 January**

8:15 Morning Prayer  
8:45 Breakfast Cranmer Hall (1st floor)  
  
9:00-12:00 Seminar- Ralston Room (3rd floor)  
12:00 Break for lunch  
2:00-5:00 Seminar  
5:30 Evening Prayer

7:00 Dinner at the Green-Meldrim House

The schedules for Wednesday and Thursday will be the same as Tuesday, without the dinner.

Please feel free to forward this to any men in Holy Orders whom you think might be interested in attending the seminar.

If you need assistance with transportation from the Savannah airport, or accommodations while in Savannah don't hesitate to contact me. Because participants have preferred to make their own arrangements for the seminar, I have not reserved a block of rooms at a particular hotel. If you need a listing of hotels near St. John's please ask when you register.

The registration fee of \$45.00 may be payed upon arrival or mailed to:

Elliott House of Studies  
Attn. Jessica Osborne  
1 West Macon Street  
Savannah, GA 31410

Yours in Christ,

Jessica Osborne  
Administrator  
Elliott House of Studies

