

SPRING

PASTOR RETREAT

May 18-19, 2015

Villa Maria Conference Center

Re-Thinking Church

with Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel



Name: _____ eMail: _____

I am a Shenango Presbytery minister* and I will be:

- staying overnight with a private bath (\$95) commuting (\$50)
 staying overnight + an additional overnight on Tuesday for personal study leave (\$154)

**Costs for members are subsidized by Shenango Presbytery.*

I am not a Shenango Presbytery minister, and I will be:

- staying overnight with a private bath (\$125) commuting (\$80)
 staying overnight + an additional overnight on Tuesday for personal study leave (\$184)

Payment: I will mail a check Please bill me
 I will bring a check with me Please bill my church

Dietary concerns or additional info: _____

All Registrations MUST be received by Friday, April 24th!

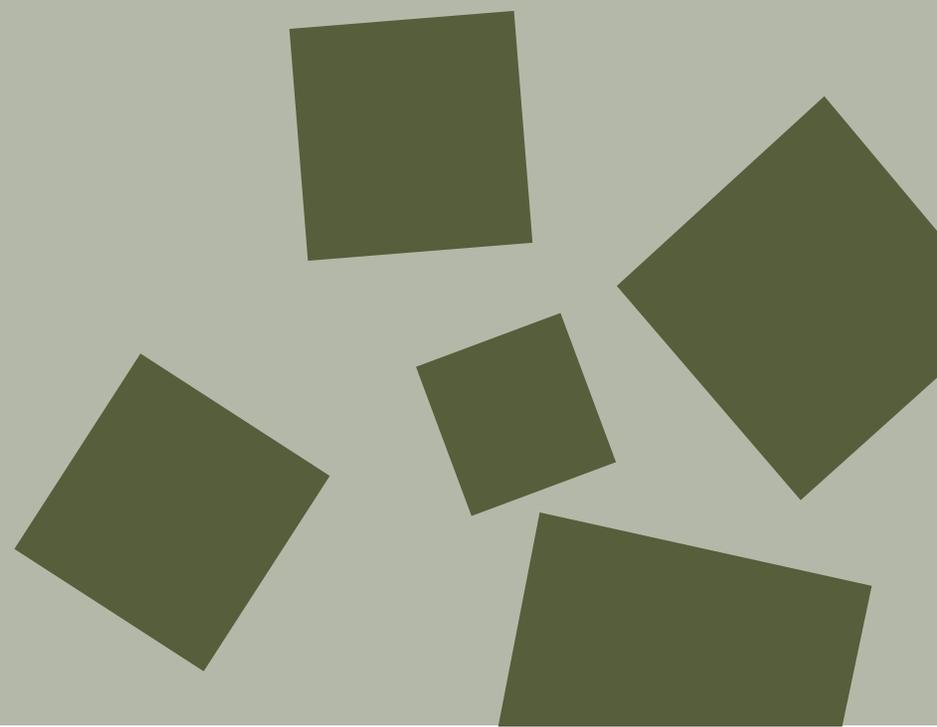
You can register only anytime at <http://www.shenango.org>.



Dr. van Driel is an Associate Professor of Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Re-Thinking Church

Having lived through several years of denominational conflict, many of our congregations are now facing the challenge of dropping numbers, shrinking resources, and an aging membership. All of this could easily feel as a trigger for exhaustion and despair. Dr. van Driel wants to suggest the opposite, though: that both our internal conflicts and our external loss of influence and status may be a God-given opportunity to once again re-imagine what it means “to be church”. In this retreat we’ll explore together how to offer our people a life-giving understanding of being church in a post-Christendom world.



Dr. Edwin van Driel

A native of the Netherlands, the Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel earned his B.Div., M.Div., and M.Phil. in philosophy from Utrecht University. In 2000 he came to the United States for further graduate work in theology, and received an M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale University, as well a diploma in Anglican studies from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Van Driel taught for two years at Fordham University before receiving a call to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2009. In 2013 he was appointed to the Directors' Bicentennial Chair in Theology at this institution.

Van Driel's main theological interests are in Christology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. His first book, [*Incarnation Anyway*](#) (OUP, 2008) dealt with the divine motivation for the incarnation: is it contingent upon sin, or does God have deeper motives to become human? He suggested the latter, arguing that in friendship and love God wants to come as close to creation as God can – by coming among us as a human being. Van Driel continues to write essays expounding the latter, supralapsarian take on Christology. In addition, he is engaged in two other research projects, both of which have generated a number of book essays and journal articles. One project offers a theological reading of contemporary Pauline exegesis. His thesis is that the difference between traditional Protestant Pauline exegesis and contemporary readings of Paul (New Perspective on Paul, Apocalyptic reading) is a difference in the assumed narrative substructure of the apostle's texts, which in turn leads to different readings of Pauline notions like “divine righteousness” and “justification by faith.” The other project deals with what he considers the sore spot of Protestant theology: the doctrines of church and ordination. Van Driel is deeply concerned with the recurring conflicts and schisms in the main-line churches, and tries to develop an ecclesiology that radically departs from our deeply engrained voluntarism and re-thinks the church as constituted by divine covenant.

Van Driel is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and served on the church's committee that produced the denomination's new hymnal, *Glory to God*. He was the primary writer of the committee's [“Theological Vision Statement”](#) and [“A Statement on Language.”](#) Also, for three years he oversaw the revitalization of chapel worship at PTS, which led to some writing projects on the place of worship at a theological school. Van Driel is married to Kimberly Miller van Driel, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and they have two children.