

U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 1 2010

PUBLIC THEOLOGY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Dates: Thursday, 4 March - Thursday, 1 April 2010

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Venue: Knox College, Arden Street, Opoho

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 50

Course Fee: \$30.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Donald Feist (476 3268)

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course in each series (subject to numbers). If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preference on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 10 February 2010, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 19 February.

Any questions about courses after 19 February should be made to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

PUBLIC THEOLOGY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

As the American activist and writer Jim Wallis often says, 'faith is always personal but never private'. In that sense 'public theology' is not another branch of theology – theology is inherently public: certainly the God revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament is intensely interested in how human affairs are ordered. This course explores the roots and nature of public theology, and how theology can engage with some of the big issues of our day – including globalization, terrorism, global warming and poverty.

The course will be presented by Professor Andrew Bradstock, who holds the Howard Paterson Chair of Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago.

The Programme

4 March What is Public Theology?

An introduction to the concept of "public theology". How has it emerged? What are its central tenets? How can it make a difference in the world? How does it relate to Scripture and the church, to other disciplines and other faiths? How important is 'context' for doing theology?

11 March Globalization

What do we understand by the term 'globalization'? Is it a 'Good Thing' or a 'Bad Thing' – or does it depend on what you mean and where you are? How might theology engage with the process? Can theology help us to understand the current global economic crisis?

18 March Tackling Climate Change

How serious is the threat of environmental disaster this century? How might we respond theologically to the issue? Can public theology contribute to raising public awareness around climate change? Is God 'green'?

25 March War and Terror.

How important is 'faith' in the quest for global peace? What does it mean to seek peace and reconciliation against the background of events like 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq? Are we heading for a 'clash of civilizations'? Can the gospel category of 'forgiveness' have any traction politically?

1 April Making Poverty History

What are the roots of global poverty and why do we allow it to continue? Are the Millennium Development goals achievable? How can theology help us understand and improve the situation? Is there still a future for liberation theology? Can we find a global solution?