

From Revolution to Rebirth: The Church in Russia 1917-2017

The Russia Mission Network Conference

Thursday, September 28-Saturday, September 30, 2017
Eastminster Church, Pittsburgh PA

Our Theme

This year's conference recognizes the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. Our speakers and guests will be our guides to the revolution, the implications for the church during the Soviet period and the revival of the church in the Post-Soviet era.

This Year's Host

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, an urban congregation in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood, is engaged in a variety of relationships with Russian Orthodox institutions, including St. Tikhon's Orthodox Humanitarian University in Moscow (in partnership with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) and St. George's parish near Kineshma.

The Schedule & Program

The program begins with a reception, dinner and evening program on Thursday and concludes on Saturday afternoon following lunch. Featured speakers include:

Fr. Silouan (Roubo), Abbot and director of the drug rehabilitation program at St. George's.

Maria Strievskaya, a graduate of St. Tikhon's sponsored by Eastminster on a research stay at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS).

Bill Gleason, historian and recently retired Coordinator of Eurasian studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State.

John Burgess, Professor of Systematic Theology at PTS and author of *Holy Rus: The Rebirth of Orthodoxy in the New Russia*.

Alan & Ellen Smith, PCUSA Mission Co-workers.

The Russia Mission Network (PCUSA)

"...so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." Romans 1:12

The RMN is made up of Presbyterians from all corners of the U.S. who have an interest in, and a heart for, Christ's church in Russia.

Many network members are active in partner church relationships and a few pursue independent projects. Some have traveled to Russia, others have not. In all cases, our hope is to break down the walls that divide us and encourage one another as we live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our communities and countries.

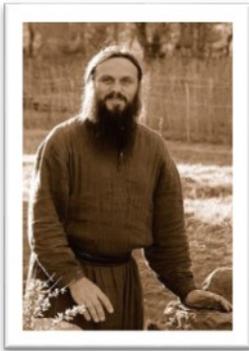
The network gathers annually for fellowship, updates on mission involvement in Russia and to learn from one of our mission partners. As a network we have welcomed and been deeply enriched by Russian guests and partners from the Baptist, Lutheran and Orthodox confessions.

See the reverse for more on our speakers. Complete the enclosed form and register today!

Questions? Email Deb Burgess at RMNcom@hotmail.com

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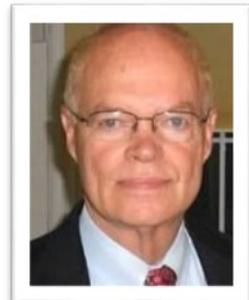
Guest Speakers



Igumen Silouan (Rouba) is a monk-priest who serves as abbot and manager of St. George's Parish near Kineshma, Russia. He and 3 other monks oversee the work of a model drug rehabilitation program in the parish. Work, reflection and self-examination, counseling and introduction to, and inclusion in, the life of the parish form a holistic approach to rehabilitation. Fr. Silouan came to St. George's parish 23 years ago after accepting the Orthodox Christian faith and was baptized there not long after arriving. He is a graduate of the Moscow Theological Seminary (St. Sergius-Trinity Monastery). Additionally, he is a gifted photographer and musician.



Maria Strievskaya is a graduate of St. Tikhon's Humanitarian Orthodox University where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Theology with special qualifications in Classical and Early Christian Literature. She currently teaches Latin and Church Slavonic at Classical Grammar School 'Radonezh' and Latin at the Pirogov Russian National Research Medical Institute. In the fall of 2013, she was the guest of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Eastminster Presbyterian Church through a joint program of the seminary, Eastminster and St. Tikhon's. Maria is a lifelong Muscovite and musically gifted.



Bill Gleason, recently retired as the Coordinator for Eurasian Studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, is an historian and has spent his professional career exploring the history and politics of Russia and Ukraine. He taught for 5 years at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and was the founding director of the Fulbright Program for Ukraine. Knowing both political spheres, his expertise on the current political situation is well thought through and nuanced.



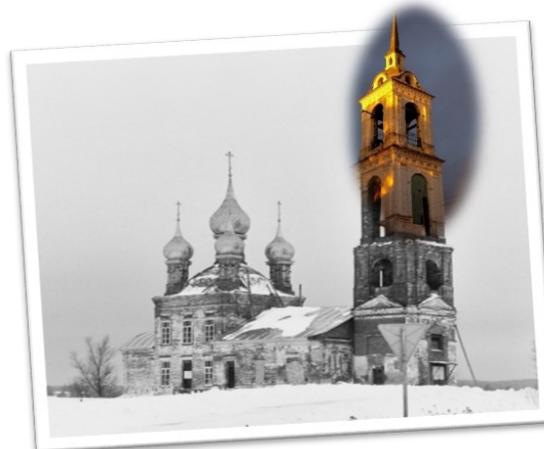
The Rev. Dr. John P. Burgess is professor of systematic theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Previously he was Associate for Theology in the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). His latest book, *Holy Rus: The Rebirth of Orthodoxy in the New Russia* is the product of extended research in Russia including sabbatical leaves in 2004-05 and 2011-12. Burgess was a Fulbright Scholar to Russia in 2011 and a Luce Fellow in Theology in 2012. Among his other publications are *Encounters with Orthodoxy: How Protestant Churches Can Reform Themselves Again*, *The East German Church and the End of Communism*, and major articles on the Orthodox Church in Russia and Ukraine.



Alan and Ellen Smith are PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers. As regional liaison for Eastern Europe, Ellen Smith facilitates Presbyterian Church (USA) support for partner relationships, programs and activities. Al's primary duties relate to the ministries of PC(USA) partners among the Roma and other minority groups in Russia. For more than 15 years, Ellen and Al's ministry in Russia has included facilitating relationships between Presbyterian congregations in the U.S. and Russian congregations. This twinning program strengthens faith communities in both countries. It witnesses to the Gospel's power to overcome barriers of culture and history, of mistrust and suspicion.

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How to Register

Please complete one form for each person registering. Registration and lodging fees and group payments may be made with one check. Checks should be made payable to Eastminster Presbyterian Church with RMNC on the memo line. Mail your registration form and payment to Eastminster Church, 250 N Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

Registration Fees

\$135 per person for the entire conference or \$70 per day. \$35 for students for all or part of the conference. The conference fee includes admission to all conference activities, program materials, meals and snacks throughout the event. **The deadline for conference registration is September 15.**

Lodging Fees

Lodging for the conference will be at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N Highland Avenue, just one block from Eastminster Church, where Thursday and Friday conference sessions will be held. Lodging at the seminary is available beginning on Wednesday night, September 27, through Saturday night September 30 for those who would like to come early or stay over to enjoy Pittsburgh. Rooms are \$30 per person per night, double occupancy, or \$60 per night for a single room. Rooms are equipped with private baths. Lodging at the seminary will fill on a first come, first served basis, so make your reservation early. **The deadline for lodging reservations is August 1.**

Meals

Your registration fee includes meals for the days you attend: Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast and lunch. Please indicate on the registration form any food allergies or sensitivities you may have.

Accessibility

All conference facilities are non-smoking and handicapped accessible.

Transportation & Parking

Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) is serviced by four major airlines and many smaller ones. Rental cars are available from eight agencies. Information on airline and ground transportation is available at www.flypittsburgh.com. An Uber ride from the airport to Eastminster Church costs about \$40 at non-peak hours. Travel time to the city is about 45 minutes, but depends heavily on when you arrive at the airport. Whether driving or flying, we suggest you plan to arrive before 3:00PM to avoid rush hour delays entering the city. Free parking will be available at both Eastminster Church and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary during the conference.

Registration Confirmation

You'll receive written confirmation of your registration, including driving directions, check-in instructions, suggestions on what to bring and any schedule updates.

Eastminster Church

We'd love to welcome you at Adult Discipleship Class at 9:15AM and worship at 10:30AM on Sunday morning. You can explore Eastminster's mission and congregational life via the church website: www.eastminsterchurch.net.

Visiting Pittsburgh

Good information on Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, cultural attractions and events can be found at www.visitpittsburgh.com.

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Registration Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email address _____

Congregation or Organization _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Registration Fee

_____ \$135 full conference rate

_____ \$35 Student rate

_____ \$70 for () Friday () Saturday

Lodging Fee

() Wednesday () Thursday () Friday () Saturday

() \$30 double occupancy:

() I will be rooming with _____

() Please assign me a roommate

() \$60 single occupancy

_____ **Lodging Total (Number of Nights x Rate)**

Total Fees Enclosed

_____ **(Registration + Lodging)**

Food Allergies & Sensitivities: _____

Transportation: Please indicate your transportation plans.

_____ Will travel by car to Pittsburgh.

_____ Will travel by plane. Flight number and anticipated arrival time: _____

() I'll take a cab from the airport and would be willing to share the ride with someone.

() I'll rent a car at the airport and would be willing to give others a ride to the conference.

Send your completed form and payment to:

RMNC, Attn: Lynn Cox, Eastminster Church, 250 N Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206