

**Marriage Matters: Marriage, the Bible and the Church  
A Covenant Network Regional Conference**

**St. Mark Presbyterian Church  
2200 San Joaquin Hills Road  
Newport Beach, CA 92660**

Saturday, 22 November 2014  
9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

As presbyteries around the country begin to discuss an update to the description of marriage in the Book of Order, the 2014-15 series of regional conferences will continue to explore

**Marriage Matters.**

**Keynote Speaker Mark Achtemeier**, a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is a theologian and writer. He has served the church as a pastor and professor, and was a member of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. His most recent book is *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*, which "chronicle[s] the journey with the Bible that took [him] from a personal stance of judgment and exclusion to a changed heart that longs for the day when the church will fully celebrate and participate in God's blessing of same-gender relationships."

**Preacher D. Mark Davis** began his service as the pastor of our host church in January. He came to St. Mark from Iowa, where he was pastor of Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive. He has earned both a Ph.D. and a D. Min., and is the author of two books: *Talking About Evangelism* and *Left Behind and Loving It*.

**Workshops:**

**Communication Matters: Navigating Difficult Conversations:**

**Lucy Stafford-Lewis**, Teaching Elder and Marriage and Family Therapist. *Living in unity with those with whom we disagree is not easy. Learn strategies for engaging in respectful conversations with a focus on listening and finding common ground.*

**Covenant Network Matters:**

**Brian Ellison**, Teaching Elder, Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and **Tricia Dykers-Koening**, Teaching Elder, National Organizer of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. *Join the Covenant Network staff for a discussion about what's happening with the PC(USA) and the Covenant Network — as well as a focus on organizing for Amendment 14-F.*

**Scripture Matters: Reading the Bible, Seeking the Heart of God**

**Mark Achtemeier**, conference keynoter. *A time for informal conversation about reading the Bible*

**Family Matters: Blessed by Covenantal Promises:**

Join married couples Robin and Stephanie Wade, Sue and Monica Riley, and Norn Lessard and Geof Wickett for a moderated exploration of marriage and what it means to their families.

## **Conference Schedule:**

8:30	Registration and Coffee
9:00	Welcome
9:10	Morning Prayers
9:30	Keynote/Plenary with Mark Achtemeier
10:15	Question and Response
10:45	Break
11:00	Workshop
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Keynote/Plenary 2 with Mark Achtemeier
1:45	Table Talk
2:15	Covenant Network Reflections
2:30	Closing Worship
3:15	Farewell

**Morning Coffee and lunch are included in the \$35.00 registration fee.**

Please register by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at:

<http://covnetpres.org/newport-beach-ca-regional-conference/>

**Questions? Contact Susan Thornton at 949.200.1913 or [susan@stmarkpresbyterian.org](mailto:susan@stmarkpresbyterian.org).**