

# 2017 Faith and the Arts: Creativity, Culture, and Calling

dance • fiction • film • graphics • music • paint • poetry • sculpture • theatre •

The 2017 Faith and the Arts Conference at Evangel University explores dynamic relationships between Christian faith and the arts. We are inspired by the model of Bezalel, a craftsman artistically gifted by God, and the first individual in the Bible said to be “filled with the Spirit of God.” The conference provides opportunity for participants to think about the ways the arts reflect the God who created and pronounced his work “good.”

**The inaugural Faith and the Arts Conference is scheduled for September 22-23, 2017.**

**The theme is Creativity, Culture, and Calling.**

God invites us to exercise our divinely granted *creativity* to explore the human condition and express the depths of the individual soul. In the creation mandate (Genesis 1), God commands us to be responsible for the earth and to foster a *culture* beneficial to all creatures; Christian faith reaches to all elements of human life, so the divine *calling* to reflect the image of God—the Divine Creator—should be nurtured especially in those working in the arts.

## Featured Speakers

**Scott Cairns**, poet, memoirist, librettist, essayist and professor at University of Missouri-Columbia. (<https://english.missouri.edu/?q=people/cairns>, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/scott-cairns>)

**Tim Lowly**, artist, curator, musician, and professor at North Park University, Chicago (<http://www.timlowly.com/>)

**Ralph Winter** producer of the *X-Men*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Star Trek* films, as well as novel-to-movie creations for Ted Dekker and Frank Peretti, (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0003515/>)

## Proposal Information:

1. We seek **proposals for individual papers** that address the intersection of Christian faith and the arts. For example, presentations might explore how individual believers and/or the local church exercise divine creativity? How do cultural contexts influence our understanding and profession of faith? What impact might excellent art have on human understanding or worship of the divine?
2. We seek proposals for **creative demonstrations of worship experiences**. Each worship event should tangibly illustrate an appropriate use of arts in worship.
3. We seek **proposals for individual or group workshops** that facilitate interactive participation in an activity related to Christian faith and the arts. Proposals should include information about the leader of the workshop and the tools and facilities needed to conduct the workshop. A clear statement of purpose and expected outcomes of the workshop is desirable. Possible areas include:
  - Dance
  - Design
  - Film
  - Music
  - Painting, sculpting and other fine arts
  - Theatre
  - Writing

Please email a 300-500 word abstract and speaker information (attached in a single Word or PDF document) to [awbreyd@evangel.edu](mailto:awbreyd@evangel.edu) no later than March 1, 2017. Accepted proposals will be notified by April 1, 2017, and final papers and workshop plans will be due by August 15, 2017.

For more information about the conference, see our Web site at [www.evangel.edu/faithandarts](http://www.evangel.edu/faithandarts) or contact Diane Awbrey, [awbreyd@evangel.edu](mailto:awbreyd@evangel.edu).