



I don't feel that it is necessary to know exactly what I am. The main interest in life and work is to become someone else that you were not in the beginning. If you knew when you began a book what you would say at the end, do you think that you would have the courage to write it? What is true for writing and for [love] is true also for life. **Michel Foucault**

## What the heck is this?

Transformed is an interdenominational theological seminar hosted by Tyson House, the Episcopal and Evangelical Lutheran churches' campus ministry at the University of Tennessee. In the end, however, no one quite knows how to define Transformed. It's part Bible study, part doughnut-eating club, part conversation group, part armchair academics convention. What we know for sure is that when we get together, encounter God's Word, and explore the beauty of Christian theology, Jesus shows up.

Without abandoning or compromising the myriad traditions out of which we come, we can say with hope and assurance that God accepts us with unconditional love, and we strive to incarnate that radical welcome as a group.

Justin E. Crisp  
Peer Minister for Education  
865 242 7806  
justincrisp@me.com

## Doing theology in community is hard work.

The good news is that, most of the time, it's a lot of fun! When you participate in Transformed meetings, continue our conversations afterward, and talk to friends and family about something you've discovered or considered, you're doing something of which you should be very proud! Most of our discussions are rooted in rigorous academic conversations, which we frame in the language of Christian theology and then try to figure out what it all means for the way we live our lives.

Our goal is to see how Christian theology affects everyday life, how it's not just a medieval holdover or the hobby of seminary professors (or nerds like Justin). To do this, we'll probably talk about some impolite topics (which may or may not make for appropriate Southern dinner conversation); everything from politics to sex is up for grabs. We live in the world, and in striving to be "in, not of," our task is to discern the beautifully creative purpose out of which God has created everything, not to dismiss or condemn. God does not hate the world; rather, as the world's favorite Bible verse puts it, God loves the world.

Over the course of the semester, we'll all be stretched. The key to remaining spiritually sound as individuals and as a group is **incarnating the love with which God loves the world in our own relationships with one another**. When someone says something with which you disagree, you should feel free (even compelled!) to voice your own view. And rest assured that before too long, someone else will be disagreeing with you! This is a holy activity, and we often experience the Holy Spirit in these moments.

We're building a critical toolbox, one we can use not only to defend our beliefs in the public sphere but also to change the world in which we live. And in this way, we hope to participate in God's continual work of **transformation**, of making this world the world God created it to be.

**Unit 1: The Rapture Exposed: Understanding Protestant Fundamentalism**

<b>January</b>	13	Introductions and Follow the Money Joe Bageant, <b>Deer Hunting with Jesus</b>
	20	What's Up With Left Behind? Barbara Rossing, <b>The Rapture Exposed</b>
	27*	<b>Special Event: Bart Ehrman</b> Lecture at 5:00p; meet at Tyson House at 4:30p Dinner and Conversation to follow
<b>February</b>	3	Building Bridges, Seeking Grace Susan Friend Harding, <b>The Book of Jerry Falwell</b>

**Unit 2: Bringing Sexy Back: Toward a Holy Sexuality**

	10	What's the Problem?
	17	What's Grace Got To Do With It? Rowan Williams, <b>The Body's Grace</b>
	24	Finding a Way Forward <b>C3 Conference, Feb. 24-26</b> Leave for Nashville after Transformed Registration required
<b>March</b>	3	<b>Special Event: The Veritas Forum</b> Featuring Phyllis Tickle

**Unit 3: Out of Egypt: Exploring African-American Liberation Theology**

	10	To Be Announced
	17	Spring Break
	24	To Be Announced
	31	To Be Announced

**Unit 4: The Politics of Truth: Taking Foucault, Derrida, and Butler to Church**

<b>April</b>	7	Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?
	14	What Would Jesus Deconstruct?
	21	Maunder Thursday
	28	A Poetics of Revolution