



THE UNITED
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
LE SÉMINAIRE UNI

R. J. Campbell

PREACHING WORKSHOP



Rev. Dr. Richard Topping

“Imagination, Scripture, and Preaching:
Tensive Proclamation”

How does scripture shape our imagination to see the world differently and what does this mean for preaching? Too often preachers get trapped in a documentary or moral or *laissez faire* reading of the bible, which leads to informational, imperative or status quo preaching. What if we engaged with scripture more playfully, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and allowed it to reconfigure the world, the context we see? What if preaching is not principally announcing the results of biblical excavation, telling people to shape up and fly right, or accommodating gospel possibility to the context as it is delivered by social scientific analysis? What if preaching is announcing the new creation that God brings and is bringing in Christ and living toward that world in the power of the Holy Spirit? Can you imagine that!

Richard Topping is the Principal of the Vancouver School of Theology. He also holds the St Andrew's Hall Chair in Studies in the Reformed Tradition. He is the former minister of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal, where he served for 13 wonderful years. He is published in the areas of historical and philosophical theology, biblical interpretation (hermeneutics), and theological education. He is the author of *Revelation, Scripture and Church*, which explores biblical hermeneutics for preaching; and editor of *Calvin@500*, a volume on the theology, history, preaching and pastoral practice of John Calvin. His most recent essay, “Theological Studies: Keeping it Odd,” is an attempt to lay out the essentials for students who want to engage in the challenging task of thinking and speaking of God.

Dates:

Friday, Oct. 18th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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Saturday, Oct. 19th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location:

The United
Theological College
3521 University
Street, Montréal

Cost:

\$150 for Continuing
Education;
\$220 if you are
attending for
academic credit as a
“Focus on Practice”
Fees include lunch on
Friday & Saturday.

**Registration
deadline:**

Oct 11th, 2019
Register by email:
admin@utc.ca

Info:

admin@utc.ca
514-849-2042, ext.
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*Language of
presentation: English.
Bilingual discussion is
encouraged.