TRADITIONED INNOVATION:
A public theology series from North Park Theological Seminary

We enter the 2020–2021 academic year amid many economic and political uncertainties, navigating the layered crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent and pernicious racialized inequities in church, nation, and world. This complex reality requires all the resources available to us, including a critical evaluation of the past—“traditioned innovation” (L. Gregory Jones) that fruitfully draws from, critiques, and reimagines the past for the needs of the present and future. NPTS faculty and leading practitioners of Covenant congregations and denominational ministries will collaborate to lead creative discussions integrating scholarship, ministry practices, and formation.

“Community Vaccination: Remembering the Past to Heal for the Future”
March 24, 12:00–1:30pm (CDT)

In less than a year since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, we have witnessed the remarkably rapid development of not one but multiple effective vaccinations. While these vaccines have proven highly effective in clinical trials, their efficacy for ameliorating our current crisis depends upon broad public receptivity. Challenges to this receptivity emerge in part from a history of abuse within medical research, particularly among communities of color who have suffered the effects of the virus disproportionately. Our March public theology panel will contextualize these particular fears and discuss constructive ways Christian leaders and communities can contribute to receptivity of this critical intervention. We hope this panel will inspire both understanding and trust. Our panel of community experts and practitioners includes Dr. Kara Davis, Rev. Tomás Sanabria, Tribal Leader Darnella Melancon, and Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom.

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