



THE ACADEMY DISCIPLER

NEWSLETTER FOR TEACHERS AND FACILITATORS

October 2011

Dear Teachers and Facilitators,

Let me begin by saying thanks to all of you who helped to make our fifth annual Convocation a great success! It was a blessing to see our teachers and leaders participating in worship, highlighting the important role of discipleship in the life of the church.

October is Leadership Development Month at the Academy! We have exciting opportunities to grow our ministry through training, strategy, and implementation. I hope that you will participate in one of our trainings as we seek to develop our leaders, who in turn, help develop disciples who bring Christ into the world.

Please read below for more information on the following:

- ❖ Oct 2 October is Leadership Development Month
- ❖ Oct 8/9 Small Group Ministry Conference
- ❖ Oct/Nov Fall Sermon Series
- ❖ Nov 6 Fifth Anniversary Speaker Series: Professor Kendall Soulen

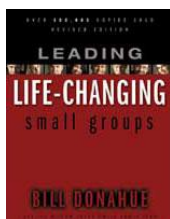
As always, you can find news and other information on the [Academy web page](#).

Blessings,

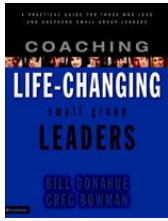
Cynthia

OCTOBER IS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MONTH!

We are offering the following trainings to build adult discipleship at AUMC. Both classes start this Sunday, Oct 2, 2011 at 12:30pm:



Leading Life-Changing Small Groups will provide training for starting and growing a small group. If you have not yet taken this class or if you want a refresher, this is a great way to study the basics of leading and growing your class or small group. This class will be led by Pam Jones.



Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders will train leaders to serve as coaches for both new and continuing leaders. This class will be led by Richard Robinson. Our goal is for every teacher and leader to have a coach to connect with and care for them on their journey. Please pray about whether you are called to be a coach for small group leaders

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY CONFERENCE WEBCAST

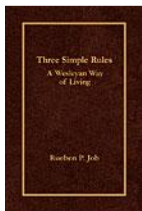
Sat, Oct 8, 9am-12pm; Sun, Oct 9, 12:30-3pm

On October 8 and 9, we will view video footage from the Group Life Conference at Willow Creek. Willow Creek is a leader in small group ministry implementation and training. Because we already utilize their *Leading* and *Coaching* curricula, I believe the Group Life Conference will help us to develop a consistent message and strategy for small group ministry.

We chose the above dates based on those who responded to our survey. Saturday morning will focus on vision and strategy of small group ministry at AUMC. Sunday afternoon will focus on implementation and will pull together both coaches and leaders. Please RSVP so that we will know how many to expect on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon.

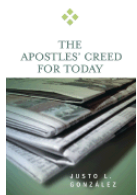
FALL SERMON SERIES

This fall join us for two sermon series. Classes and small groups are invited to join these studies or people may follow along individually:



Three Simple Rules – Sep 25-Oct 9, 2011

In [*Three Simple Rules*](#), Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for today's readers. This simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God," calls us a deeper relationship with God.



The Apostles' Creed – Oct 30-Nov 20, 2011

This study will cover both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed and help participants learn how the church came to adopt a set of beliefs that we still proclaim today. For a text, I am recommending Justo Gonzales, [*The Apostle's Creed for Today*](#).



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER SERIES

**Professor Kendall Soulen
Wesley Theological Seminary
Sunday, Nov 6 at 9:45am**

Save the date! Professor Kendall Soulen will speak about our sermon series on the Apostle's Creed. Please save the date and invite your class or small group to attend.

Kendall Soulen is Professor of Systematic Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary. He is also a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. He received the MDiv degree from Emory University and the BA and PhD degrees from Yale University. He has authored *The God of Israel and Christian Theology* (1996), *Handbook of Biblical Criticism, 3rd edition*, co-authored with Richard N. Soulen (2001), *Abraham's Promise: Judaism and Jewish Christian Relations* (2004), and *God and Human Dignity*, co-edited with Linda Woodhead (Summer 2006)

Besides being interested in 'all things theological', he is an old-time banjo and fiddle player. He is currently working on a manuscript entitled *The Name of God in Trinitarian Perspective*.

Look for updates in the "For Teachers" section on the [Academy web page](#).



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