

First Presbyterian Church of Durham
and the Presbyterian/Reformed House of Studies at Duke Divinity School
present

The Sixteenth Annual McPherson Lectureship

Rev. Dr. Ron Cole-Turner

*H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

*“Enhancing Ourselves through Technology
and Why it Matters for Christians”*

**Alumni Memorial Commons Room
Sunday, February 22, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**



New technologies offer to modify human beings in profound ways. Transhumanists welcome the idea that human beings will set themselves free from biological limits, perhaps even to the point of making themselves no longer exactly human. Applied to the individual, technology might extend the lifespan and change the person so much that personal authenticity and continuity are called into question. Applied to the human species, some wonder whether humanity could possibly diverge into two or more species as a result of technological enhancement. Even if these claims are overstated, the question of a plastic and enhanceable humanity presents a new kind of challenge to Christianity today. What vision does Christianity offer for the future of the individual and the species?

Rev. Dr. Ron Cole-Turner teaches on the faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he holds the H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics, a position relating theology and ethics to developments in science and technology. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, a founding member of the International Society for Science and Religion (currently serving as vice president), and has served on the advisory board of the John Templeton Foundation and the Metanexus Institute. Ron is the author of *The New Genesis: Theology and the Genetic Revolution*, co-author (with Brent Waters) of *Pastoral Genetics: Theology and Care at the Beginning of Life*, and the editor of several books, most recently including *Transhumanism and Transcendence: Christian Hope in an Age of Technological Enhancement*. He is also the author of the popular baptism hymn, “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise.” His wife, Rebecca, is a spiritual director and retreat leader. They have two daughters, Sarah and Rachel.

For directions or to sign up, please call the
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