

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING in K-College Classrooms

New Church Education Society Forum

November 11, 2006 – Academy of the New Church Secondary Schools

Problem-based learning is a powerful classroom process using real world problems to motivate students to work collaboratively and communicate effectively. Teachers are coaches and participants as students find answers to questions like, “Why aren’t plants growing well in the school garden this year?”, to “Was there another choice for Sir Thomas More? Did he have to capitulate to King Henry the Eighth or risk death for his principles?”

Reverend, Doctor Ray Silverman will present the New Church doctrinal foundation, and Doctor George Watson will present the research basis for including problem-based learning in your repertoire of teaching methods K-College. Their presentations will be followed by a superb luncheon and afternoon workshops designed to equip you to apply problem-based learning at your classroom level.



Ray Silverman has a Ph.D. in English and Education from the University of Michigan, an M.A.T. from Wesleyan University and an M. Div. from the Academy of the New Church. Ray serves as Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion at Bryn Athyn College. Ray and his wife Star have developed and led *Rise Above It* seminars and courses for more than 15 years.

Ray has also taught at Mercer University (Atlanta) in both the university and prison programs. He has served as pastor of the Pittsburgh New Church and the Atlanta New Church, and hosted the radio show, "Words of Spirit and Life" (WAEC Atlanta). Ray is the editor/reviser of Helen Keller’s spiritual autobiography, *Light in My Darkness*.

George Watson is Senior Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences and Unidel Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Delaware. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Delaware. Among his personal teaching interests are problem-based learning, and web-based delivery of instructional materials for development of science and technology literacy among non-science majors, and curriculum reform of engineering physics courses.

George was the 1998 Delaware Professor of the Year, awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He served as principal investigator on both the Institution-Wide Reform of Undergraduate Education and the ALO/USAID project to reform science and math education in Perú. He is currently the principal investigator for an NSF GK-12 project at the University of Delaware.



Please let us know if you think you would like to participate so we can send you further information and registration materials. Contact Lisa Weiss – lisa.weiss@newchurch.org