

Science, Religion, and Faith in the 21st Century

Dr. Joe Shane from Shippensburg University and Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle is available to teach adult and youth Sunday School classes on intersections of science and religion. An outline of the three sessions is provided below and they can be modified depending on interests. Times other than Sunday mornings can also be arranged. His overall goal is to spark conversation and insight in addition to “scratching the surface” of this vast and essential topic.

Some biographical information and a list of churches (and one public library) where he has previously taught the course are provided on the back side of this page. He can be reached at jwshan@ship.edu.

Session 1: How shall we think about science and religion?

Historical and contemporary approaches to science and religion, including voices from faith communities. Specific examples of various approaches will be discussed along with how Joe’s personal interest in the topic developed.

Session 2: From Dayton to Dover: Evolution as THE science-religion issue in the United States

A brief overview of evolutionary theory along with the backlash experienced in the United States as part of the Christian Fundamentalist movement. Court cases from the 1925 *Scopes* “monkey” trial through the 2005 *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School Board* trial will be discussed.

Session 3: Becoming science-religion "boundary pioneers" in 21st century America

Examples of scientists and theologians who have reconciled scientific and religious understandings will be presented here. We will also focus on our responsibilities in an age of science and technology.

Biographical Notes

Dr. Joseph (Joe) W. Shane is Professor of Chemistry and Science Education at Shippensburg University. He joined the Shippensburg faculty in 2005 and he has responsibilities to both the chemistry department and to programs, both undergraduate and graduate, that license pre-service secondary (7-12) science teachers. In addition to teaching a variety of chemistry courses, he teaches pedagogical methods in science and supervises the majority of Shippensburg's pre-service secondary science teachers.

Joe received his B.S. in chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1991 and his M.S. in chemistry as well as his teaching license at Purdue University in 1995. He then taught high school chemistry in Noblesville, Indiana until 2003 and then returned to Purdue for his Ph.D. in science education shortly after marrying his wife of 20 years, Molly Anderson Shane.

Joe's interest in the historical and philosophical interactions between science and religion began in 2005 which was the same year of the now famous (often referred to as "Scopes II") *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School Board* trial. After a few years of independent study, Joe offered an adult Sunday school class to his fellow congregants at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. With the encouragement of the Pastor and Christian educator, he then took the "show on the road" and has now given numerous presentations and short courses for the general public and for various churches in the region. He also hosts speakers for an Annual Forum on Science and Religion at Shippensburg University and he teaches an undergraduate honors seminar largely based on the pioneering work of Ian Barbour. He also works to assist his professional organizations in broadly understanding science-religion issues as they relate to teaching. During the Spring 2022 semester, he is on sabbatical leave as a Visiting Scholar with the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Dialogue on Science, Religion, and Ethics Program (www.sciencereligiondialogue.org).

Joe was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania and he and Molly currently reside in Carlisle. Joe is an Elder and former Clerk of Session at First Presbyterian Church and Molly, in addition to working as the development director at the Bosler Memorial Library, is an active choir member and cellist.

Need a reference? Call one of the following where Joe held his class previously...

First Presbyterian Church
Silver Spring Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church
Faith Presbyterian Church
Derry Presbyterian Church
Bosler Memorial Library (Carlisle)

Christ Presbyterian Church
Monaghan Presbyterian Church
Paxton Presbyterian Church
Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
Wayside Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church