

**Title:** Global Connections and Local Initiative in African Christian Community Development

**Panelists:** Tibebe Eshete (College of the Ozarks and Torchbearer Foundation for Missions, Reconciliation, and Development), Martin Niboh (Calvin College), and Joel Carpenter (Calvin College)

**Abstract:**

Very often, questions of what makes for sustainable community development in Africa, Asia or Latin America focus intently on what happens on the ground, in specific localities. National policies and the roles of expatriate NGOs often factor in as well. But we are seeing something rather new in recent decades, the increasing involvement of expatriates, now living in Europe or North America. Much of what has been studied regarding them falls into the categories of the "brain drain" exporting of national talent from South to North, or the economic effect of financial remittances, from immigrants in the North to their homelands. What we are seeing now, however, with increasing frequency, is the personal engagement of expatriates in movements for human flourishing back home. This session features the reflections of two such agents, one from West Africa and the other from East Africa, who have been vitally involved in the welfare of their former countrymen. Is there a place for "outside - in" engagement of this sort in "bottom up" approaches to sustainable development? This session will feature that question, plus some first-hand accounts of effective local work.

*Presentations*

1. "Do Trickle-down Development Efforts in Africa Trickle Down?"

Martin Niboh, professor of physics and mathematics, College of the Ozarks, and director of the Torchbearer Foundation for Missions, Reconciliation, and Development, Yaounde, Cameroon

2. "Antsokia: the Jewel of World Vision International Ethiopia"

Tibebe Eshete, professor of history, Calvin College

Comments: Joel A. Carpenter, Calvin College