



ROME SCHOLARS & LEADERS NETWORK

June 10 - 13 2024 | Rome, Italy

Immersion in Roman Catholic Theology and Culture as a way to equip Evangelical leaders and scholars to understand and effectively minister in Roman Catholic contexts throughout the world.

**www.reformandainitiative.org/rsln
contact@reformandainitiative.org**

WHY IS THE RSLN IMPORTANT?

Evangelicalism currently has an incoherent relationship with Roman Catholicism. Many evangelicals are uncertain about what Roman Catholics actually believe. Do they believe in the same Gospel, or something entirely different? This question is important for leaders of evangelical churches and organizations and for hundreds of millions of evangelical believers around the world. We are convinced, in line with the historic Protestant view, that Roman Catholicism is a severely flawed system in need of a radical biblical reformation in its basic theology and practice.

Currently, the Reformanda Initiative is the only organization with a strategy and program for evangelical leaders and scholars to study Roman Catholicism from an explicitly evangelical perspective so that they may equip and educate others as well.

RSLN VISION

The Rome Scholars & Leaders Network was designed to create a context for evangelical scholars and leaders:

- To have access to evangelical scholars who are experts on Roman Catholicism.
- To study and evaluate Roman Catholic theology and practice in the heart of Roman Catholicism, Rome itself.
- To be trained and equipped to be scholars, leaders and communicators of an evangelical perspective about Roman Catholicism and the biblical Gospel of salvation through faith alone.



WHO CAN ATTEND?

The Rome Scholars & Leaders Network is invitation only. The RSLN would welcome applications from:

1. Evangelical scholars currently involved in theological research and/or training
2. Existing or emerging evangelical scholars or leaders with at least a Master in a theological field
3. Influential evangelical leaders and trainers serving in, or preparing others for service in a Roman Catholic context



WHAT IS THE RSLN?

The RSLN is a weeklong seminar in Rome sponsored by the Reformanda Initiative, partner of the Forum of Christian Leaders (foclonline.org).

The Rome Scholars & Leaders Network programme includes:

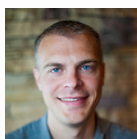
1. **Text-based discussions** on pre-assigned reading selections
2. **Integrated lectures** on Roman Catholic theology and practice, evangelical theological distinctives, historical relations between Roman Catholics and Protestants, and opportunities for dialogue, evangelism, and engagement today
3. **Papers**, written and submitted by participants, from an evangelical perspective on Roman Catholic theology and practice that are evaluated by Rome Scholars faculty
4. **Personal mentoring** between each participant and a faculty member
5. **Excursions and tours** of the Vatican and other important historical sites in Rome

2024 RSLN FACULTY



LEONARDO DE CHIRICO

Dr. Leonardo De Chirico is the pastor of Breccia di Roma. His PhD is from King's College (London); it was published as *Evangelical Theological Perspectives on Post-Vatican II Roman Catholicism*. His latest book is *Same Words, Different Worlds. Do evangelicals and Roman Catholics believe the same gospel?* recently published by IVP. He is a lecturer of Historical Theology at Istituto di Formazione Evangelica e Documentazione in Padova, Italy. Additionally, Leonardo is the Director of the Reformanda Initiative / RSLN.



GAVIN ORTLUND

Dr. Gavin Ortlund is a pastor, author, speaker, and apologist for the Christian faith. He serves as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Ojai in Ojai, California. Gavin has a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in historical theology, and an M.Div from Covenant Theological Seminary. He is the author of eight books as well as numerous academic and popular articles. He runs the YouTube channel Truth Unites, which seeks to promote gospel assurance through theological depth.



GREGG ALLISON

Dr. Gregg Allison is professor of Christian theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gregg received his PhD at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is secretary of the Evangelical Theological Society and a book review editor for the Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society. He is the author of numerous books, including *Roman Catholic Theology and Practice: An Evangelical Assessment* (2014), *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine* (2011) and *40 Questions about Roman Catholicism* (2021).



MATTHEW JOHNSTON

Matthew Johnston is a pastor of Lux Evangelica, a church he helped plant in Genoa. He has served in Italy since 2013 and previously was an associate pastor in Florida. He is a graduate of The Expositors Seminary (M.Div, 2011) and the University of Glasgow (M.Th, 2023), where he researched Christology in the thought of Robert Bellarmine and Francis Turretin. He is working on his PhD in historical theology at ETF, Leuven.



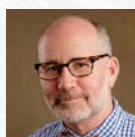
RACHEL CIANO

Rachel Ciano lectures in Christianity in History at Sydney Missionary and Bible College, Australia. With her husband, she has ministered in Australia and the UK. In 2009, they planted a church in a multicultural area of Sydney which is one-third Catholic, and they continue to serve and lead here. She is co-author of *10 Dead Guys You Should Know*, and the apt sequel, *10 Dead Gals You Should Know*.



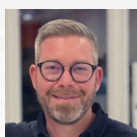
LAUREN MOORE

Lauren Moore is a missionary and church-planter in France. She has earned degrees in Christian Ministry (Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia), and in Philosophy: Religions and Societies (University of Bordeaux Montaigne, France). Her masters thesis was on the current pilgrimage trends in Lourdes. She is currently pursuing a PhD at Union School of Theology.



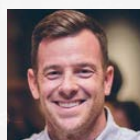
BRADLEY GREEN

Dr. Bradley Green is professor of Systematic Theology at Union University (Jackson, Tennessee) where he serves on the Board of Directors at the Augustine School. Brad received his Th.M., from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Ph.D from Baylor University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of American Friends of Tyndale House Cambridge. His latest book is *Augustine of Hippo: His Life & Impact: His Life and Impact* (2020).



CLAY KANNARD

Clay Kannard is co-pastor of the church Breccia di Roma. Clay earned a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies from Moody Bible Institute, a Master of Theological Studies with emphasis in Preaching and Pastoral Ministries through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is pursuing his MTh through Union School of Theology (Rome campus). Additionally, Clay serves as the Communications Director of the Reformanda Initiative.



REID KARR

Reid Karr is the pastor of Breccia di Roma San Paolo. He has been employed by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since June of 2009. He is pursuing his MTh through Union School of Theology (Rome campus). Additionally, Reid is the Associate Director for the Reformanda Initiative.

AND MORE TO COME!

WHAT IS THE COST?

*PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES AND DINNERS. A LIST OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS WITH PRICE RANGES WILL BE PROVIDED

CONFERENCE FEE (LUNCH INCLUDED)

€200 EARLY REGISTRATION: APPLY BY JANUARY 1ST

€250 REGULAR REGISTRATION: APPLY BY FEBRUARY 28TH

€300 LATE REGISTRATION: APPLY BY MAY 31ST



HEAR WHAT RSLN PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING:

HOW DO I APPLY TO THE 2024 RSLN?

If you are interested in applying for the Rome Scholars & Leaders Network, please fill out an application at:

www.reformandainitiative.org/rsln

HEAR WHAT KEY EVANGELICAL LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ROME SCHOLARS & LEADERS NETWORK:



Stefan Gustavsson, General Secretary, Swedish Evangelical Alliance

'Today many evangelicals have a shallow understanding of the difference between the Evangelical faith and the faith of the Roman Catholic Church. This ignorance leads easily to either prejudices about or naïve affirmation of Roman Catholic theology. What is needed instead is a thorough and knowledgeable assessment of the two systems of belief. In this area of great need the Reformanda Initiative and its Rome Scholars Network provides timely and unique resources for evangelical leaders. I recommend it with great enthusiasm!'



Augustus Nicodemus Lopez, Vice-President of Presbyterian Church of Brazil

'For quite a long time evangelicals have been critical of the Roman Catholic Church here in Brazil. Sadly to say, most of the time without even knowing the reasons why....We need to know more about the Roman Catholic Church and find the best approach to our Catholic friends, especially when the Reformed faith is taking a surprising turn in Brazil and growing fast among young people. The Reformanda Initiative and the Rome Scholars Network will prove to be a powerful tool to help evangelicals to better understand and interact with Roman Catholicism.'

From a professor of biblical and theological studies:

"The conference was helpful in so many respects. It helped me better conceptualize and understand the RCC as a system rather than isolated and individual doctrines. The conference helped me understand that when approached from a systemic perspective, the differences between Protestants and Catholic are greater than I previously envisioned. Thusly, the importance of my work and ministry in a Catholic context is only heightened."

From a European theological trainer:

"I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church, I have ministered for years in a culture dominated by it, received a four-year graduate theological degree from a highly respected evangelical institution and yet participation in the RSN was, in many ways, an eye opener for me. The people who lead the project wonderfully combine their love and commitment for the Gospel with immense historical, academic and personal expertise in the complex reality of Roman Catholicism. This is a very needed initiative that enriches and equips the Church for its ever-challenging mission to proclaim true Gospel of Jesus Christ to the dying world around us."

From an experienced missionary in a Roman Catholic country:

"Although being a church planter in a highly Catholic context, I was pretty ignorant to the in-depth teaching of the Vatican. RSN was a great opportunity to meet with people from all over the planet and sit under the teaching of world-class Evangelical scholars on Roman Catholicism. I learned a great amount and left with a desire to continue learning and engaging with Roman Catholicism, so that I can be better prepared to share the one true gospel of Jesus Christ with my Catholic friends."



The Reformanda Initiative exists to identify, unite, equip, and resource evangelical leaders to understand Roman Catholic theology and practice, to educate the evangelical Church and to communicate the Gospel.