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**2014 Mutton Lecturer**

**Neal Plantinga**

The Mutton Lecturer for 2014 is the Rev. Dr. Cornelius (Neal) Plantinga. Neal is Senior Research Fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin College. He was professor of Systematic Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary from 1979 to 1996. From 1996 to 2002, he was Dean of the Chapel at Calvin College. From 2002 to July, 2011, he was President of Calvin Seminary. He is the author of five books, most recently Reading for Preaching: the Preacher in Conversation with Storytellers, Biographers, Poets, and Journalists. Walter Brueggemann said about this book: “Plantinga loves words, phrases, sentences and stories. He relishes them and knows their durable power. Plantinga also cares about ministers. He knows the burdens and wonders of ministry, and treats preachers with deep respect.”

For 12 years, Neal Plantinga has taught the seminar “Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching.” It has been held annually on the Calvin Seminary campus and also at retreat centers across the country. Ministers of many and differing denominations have taken part. One former participant said: “It is the best continuing education event I have ever taken, both for the enjoyment at the time and the long-term benefits for my ministry.”

The Robert D. Mutton Lecture takes place from 9am to 3pm on Saturday, November 22, at the Wisconsin Conference UCC Frederick R. Trost Center, 4459 Gray Road, DeForest. WI (Coffee & goodies at 8:30am). The title for the morning session is “Reading for Preaching,” and for the afternoon session, “Preaching Sin and Grace in a No-Fault Culture.” To register, go to [www.wcucc.org](http://www.wcucc.org), and click on “Register here for all conference events.” Lunch is included in the $15 registration fee.