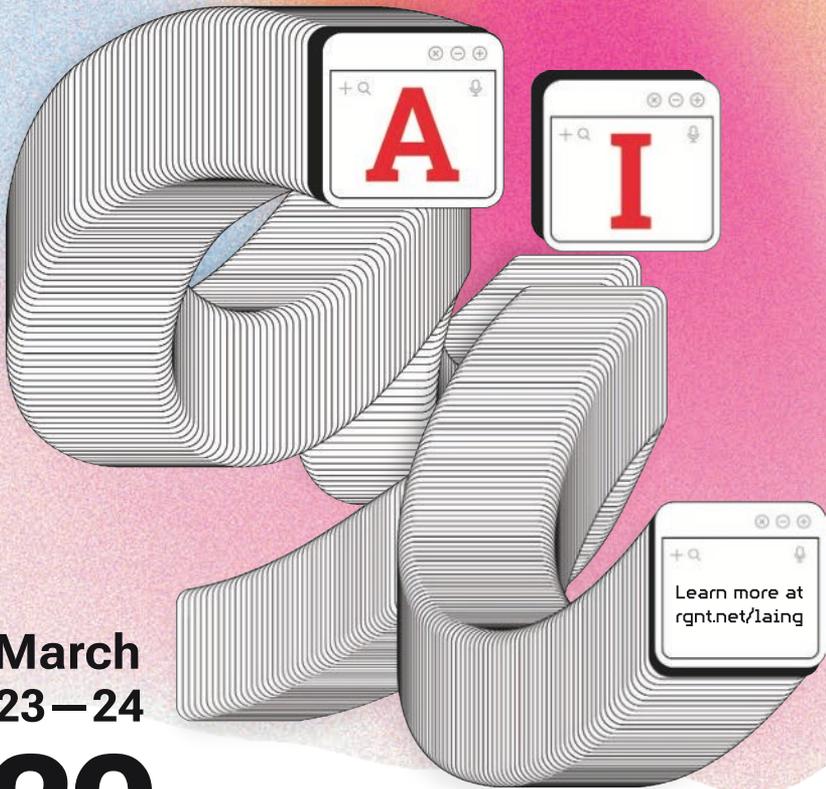


Laing Lectures

# Faith-Based Ethics for a World of Powerful



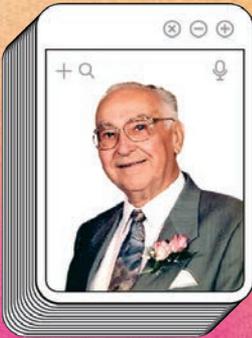
March  
23—24

20  
26

MEGHAN  
SULLIVAN

 Regent  
College

# THE LAING LECTURES



**Pastor William J. Laing**

The Laing Lectures began at Regent College in 1999 in cooperation with Roger and Carol Laing, in honour of Roger's father, William John Laing. The purpose of these lectures is to encourage persons recognized for scholarship, wisdom, and creativity to undertake serious thought and original writing on an issue of significance for the Christian church and to share such thoughts through a series of public lectures and their subsequent publications. The material presented by the Laing Lectures is intended to move beyond an analysis of historic and current concerns to provide proposals for alternative action for the Christian church. In doing so, lecturers are invited to explore in an interdisciplinary way the relationship between Christianity and culture, and to suggest ways in which that relationship might lead to greater flourishing of the church, the larger human household, and the whole community of creation.

William John Laing (1916–1992) was the much-loved pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Calgary. A graduate of William Aberhart's Prophetic Bible Institute, "Bill" Laing assumed the pastorate of the Bible Institute Baptist Church in 1939 when he was only 23. He served that church for more than four decades. Through his dynamic personality and strength of character, he brought stability to the congregation. Under his leadership, the church was restructured and changed its name to Bethel Baptist Church in 1949. He retired in 1981 and remained as Minister Emeritus for the following 10 years.

Evangelism and missions were prominent aspects of Laing's ministry. Over the years fifty percent of his church's budget was devoted to supporting missionaries, many of whom he had taught at Berean Bible College. Those missionaries went to Canada's north, Europe, Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America. He was an active supporter of the Youth for Christ movement and Billy Graham's ministry from their inception. As one whose life had been greatly influenced by radio evangelism, he became a frequent speaker on Canada's national Back to the Bible Hour broadcast. During the last decade of his life, he was Pastor-at-Large for Global Outreach Mission, which took his ministry to North America, Europe, and India, where he spoke to conferences of pastors and missionaries.

# MEGHAN SULLIVAN

Meghan Sullivan is the Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. She serves as Director of the University-wide Ethics Initiative and is the founding director of Notre Dame's Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, which is home to the Notre Dame–IBM Technology Ethics Lab, among other initiatives. Dr. Sullivan holds a BA in philosophy and politics from the University of Virginia, a BPhil in philosophy from Oxford University, and a PhD in Philosophy from Rutgers, and has studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford.



Dr. Sullivan is deeply interested in the ways philosophy contributes to the good life and the best methods for promoting philosophical thought. Her book *Time Biases* (Oxford University Press, 2018) offers philosophical guidance about how to navigate the puzzles that the passage of time poses to rational planning. Her most recent book, *The Good Life Method: Reasoning Through the Big Questions of Happiness, Faith, and Meaning* (Penguin, 2022; co-authored with Paul Blaschko) is based on her popular introductory philosophy course, during which she accompanies Notre Dame students through the process of developing a philosophical plan for their lives. She is currently working on a book about the role of love in our moral lives. She is also directing major grant projects focused on expanding the love ethic and considering the role of Christian thought in AI ethics.

Dr. Sullivan has collaborated with faculty from various disciplines to offer courses on subjects such as NBC's *The Good Place*, Ted Chiang's science fiction, and Thom Browne's fashion empire. She enjoys cooking, building elaborate Lego sets, reading science fiction, and traveling the world. She cheers for the Fighting Irish and Virginia Cavaliers in all of their endeavors, and when they play each other she has a rational crisis.



## The DELTA Framework— Where Is the Christian Voice in AI Ethics?

**Monday, March 23,**  
7:30–9 pm



## The Dignity of Work & the Dignity of Learning

**Tuesday, March 24,** 7:30–9 pm

Onsite: Regent College Chapel /// Online: [rgnt.net/live](http://rgnt.net/live)

Faith communities played a central role in major twentieth-century debates in applied ethics, especially surrounding nuclear armament, civil rights, and bioethics. But for a variety of reasons, these same groups were sidelined for the ethical debates at the dawn of the digital era. As we now make the transition from a search-advertisement digital economy to one based on powerful large models and agentic AI, it is more important than ever that we expand our ethical imagination. Based on over one hundred interviews with Catholic, evangelical, and mainline Protestant leaders (conducted through a recent planning grant with the Lilly Endowment), this session will discuss five concepts from the Christian ethical tradition and their relevance for debates about developing and deploying powerful AI. It will also consider the relevance of philosophical and theological thinking about AI given current economic and political conditions around the industry.

Modern Christian social thought began in the 1800s with reflections on industrialization and its effects on workers and families. This teaching on the dignity of work is sorely in need of an update as AI completely rewrites our economy and social contract. In this session, we'll zero in on Christian teaching about the dignity of work and how this teaching applies now to a technology that fundamentally affects our learning and thinking. We'll consider what philosophy and theology have to offer us in understanding the role of learning in human dignity, and how this teaching should shape how we roll AI out in our schools and offices.



## Lunchtime Interview & Q&A

**Wednesday, March 25,**  
12:15–1 pm

\*Regent College, Room 100



## Explore the *Difference Christ Makes to Everything*



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Dr. J. I. Packer once called Regent a place to “explore the difference Christ makes to everything.” We think that pretty much sums it up. Here’s why.

We often talk about studying theology as **exploring**. Our approach is goal-oriented, but open-ended. We set out to know God better, but we don't pretend to know exactly where the journey will take us. Studying theology isn't about memorizing facts or checking off boxes to qualify as an expert. It's about going on an adventure with God.

We believe theology makes a real, concrete **difference** in the world. Knowing God matters for how we think, how we live, who we are. Studying theology can and should transform us—and, through us, the world.

As Christians, we owe our allegiance not to an institution or an abstraction, but to a person. Studying theology invites us deeper into relationship with **Christ**, the person at the centre of our faith.

When Christ takes his place at the centre, he leaves nothing untouched. At Regent, we study “theology and.” Theology and cultures. Theology and art. Theology and science. Theology and what it means to be human. Theology and ... **everything**. This is theology for everyone, for every conversation, for every calling.

*Let's talk!*

Connect with us at [admissions@regent-college.edu](mailto:admissions@regent-college.edu)

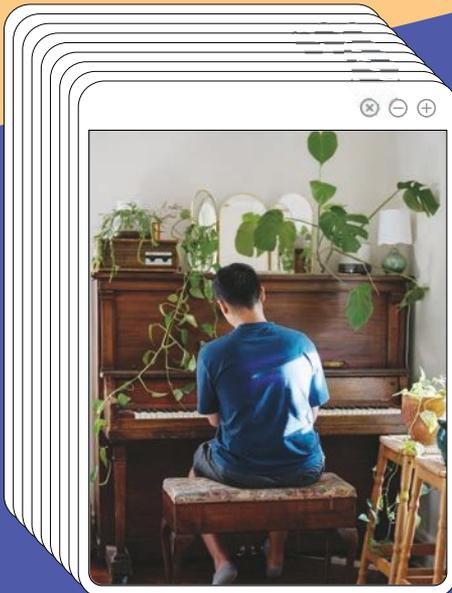
## 2026 Summer Programs



**Are you ready for a new journey?  
Come explore with us this summer!**

If you want to go deeper in your faith, in your study of Scripture, and in your knowledge of the breadth of church tradition, consider taking a course as part of Regent's Summer Programs. You'll join a community of caring, thoughtful students and scholars from many denominations, and from all over the world, right here in beautiful Vancouver, Canada. If you're ready for a new journey, Regent College invites you to come and explore.

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We're delighted to introduce you to **The Vine**, a new publication of Regent College. The Vine is Regent's newest way to share ideas and perspectives from a wide range of people within and beyond Regent's circles. In articles and interviews, podcasts and videos, you'll hear authentic voices speaking from experience and expertise about ideas that matter to thoughtful Christian communities everywhere. Please join us for conversations that inform, challenge, and inspire.

Visit [regentvine.com](https://regentvine.com) to read, listen, and watch along, and subscribe to The Vine's email newsletter.