

## GROWING U | January 6, 2019 – February 3, 2019

Welcome to the Interim portion of the 2019 year of life-long learning. Growing U is an educational opportunity for adults to deepen their relationship with Jesus as they intentionally journey into the character of Christ.

*Spiritual Formation Committee*



### JANUARY 6, 13, 27 and FEBRUARY 3

#### **FAITH & POLITICS: OR, HOW TO RUIN POLITE DINNER CONVERSATION**

What does the Bible say about politics?

What does it mean to live as citizens of God's kingdom first while giving the proper due to the claims of our earthly citizenship?

How do we advocate well for justice among our neighbors and fellow citizens who may not share our convictions? For two thousand years Christians have wrestled with what it means to give God what is God's and Caesar what is Caesar's. In these four sessions we will start with a big-picture approach to faith and politics and the relationship between them, and move to our particular context in a modern constitutional democracy. We will look at some key biblical passage about politics, describe some of the different approaches Christians have taken throughout history, address thorny issues like the separation of church and state and pluralism, and go over some conceptual "tools" to help us live out our convictions with grace and understanding in a society (and often church!) in which people differ about important matters; during our four part series.

- J. Budziszewski, *Evangelicals in the Public Square: Four Formative Voices on Political Thought and Action*
- Matthew Kaemingk, *Christian Hospitality in an Age of Fear*
- James K.A. Smith, *Awaiting the King*.



**Professor Micah Watson** is a native of the great golden state of California where he completed his undergraduate degree at U.C. Davis. He earned his M.A. degree in Church-State Studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and holds M.A. and doctorate degrees in Politics from Princeton University. Professor Watson joined the faculty at Calvin College in the fall of 2015. He and his wife Julie have four daughters and a son and have lived in Grand Rapids for three years.