

# The Leighton Ford Initiative in Theology, the Arts, and Gospel Witness

## Reclaiming Art for the Kingdom

President Scott Sunquist and Gordon-Conwell have a vision for theology and the arts. It is to revive what they hold in common. It is to reacquaint Christians with these truths and broaden ministers' gospel witness. It is to honor an artist, a pastor of leaders, and a Gordon-Conwell trustee emeritus, Dr. Leighton Ford. It is a vision with tremendous relevance to the Church today.

By God's grace, we walk toward the vision of President Sunquist and Gordon-Conwell in faith that God will provide discernment as we develop programming for this vision, faith that God will grant the impact we intend through our programming, faith that God will help us generate the financial commitments to continue this programming and endow a faculty chair in Dr. Ford's honor.

Thank you for your interest in this initiative. If you have questions, I would be delighted to answer them.



**Dr. Wesley Vander Lugt**  
Adjunct Professor of Theology and Acting  
Initiative Director

## Funding Opportunities

- \$3 million for The Leighton Ford Endowed Chair for Theology, the Arts, and Gospel Witness.
- Gifts and commitments of close to \$1.6 million have already been received.
- Gifts to support current programming of The Arts and Gospel Witness Initiative are also invited.

## Honoring Leighton Ford



An "artist of the soul," Dr. Leighton Ford has mentored thousands of pastors and leaders throughout his 65+ years of ministry.

He has also found joy as an actual artist through prolific painting and writing poetry.

Dr. Ford is trustee emeritus at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and founder of Leighton Ford Ministries.

*"God is an artist and he has painted this world with beauty. We have a responsibility both to enjoy it and to preserve it."* –Leighton Ford

## Current and Future Programming

- Engage with painting, music, theatre, dance, literature, film, and more
- Host symposiums and conferences
- Curate gallery exhibits and special events
- Provide theological engagement with public art
- Host trips at sites of global arts influence
- Create new arts and ministry courses
- Assist faculty in integrating the arts into their teaching
- Pursue arts and theology research and publications
- Offer theology and arts certificate
- Explore arts chaplaincy concentration
- Host an annual creative in residence
- Launch a DMin track in theology and the arts

## For More Information

Dr. Wesley Vander Lugt, Adjunct Professor of Theology  
Acting Director of the Leighton Ford Initiative in  
Theology, the Arts, and Gospel Witness  
wvanderlugt@gcts.edu | 704-621-5885