On September 24, 2015, led by Pope Francis, the United States Congress applauded the Golden Rule. The next day, things were back to normal. The 2016 Lansing Lee Conference will consider the question of whether civility and respect as spiritual values are essential to democracy. Led by New York Times writer, Mark Oppenheimer and a panel of thinkers and writers, participants will explore the idea of transformational leadership. As we look toward the elections of 2016, how can the country go from a place of partisanship to engagement? Join us at Kanuga as we seek to engage public issues at the intersection of politics and religion.

MARK OPPENHEIMER  Keynote Speaker

Mark Oppenheimer used to think he was the only living writer to have contributed to both The Christian Century and Playboy. But then someone told him Harvey Cox also did that. A former writer for The New York Times, he now writes for the Los Angeles Times and pens a monthly column about fatherhood for The New Republic, as well as The New York Times Magazine, The Believer, Salon, Slate, Mother Jones, The Nation, and elsewhere.

Although much of his writing has been about religion (he has a Ph.D. in American religious history), he also writes about politics, urbanism, family, and, as often as possible, himself. His latest book, Wisenheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate, was published in 2010. He is also the author of two other books, Knocking on Heaven’s Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture and Thirteen and a Day: The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Across America. Mark is most proud of moderating a much-discussed debate between Dan Savage and “traditional marriage” activist Brian S. Brown. He would like his tombstone to read, “He kept them from killing each other.”

The Lansing Lee Conference is made possible by an endowment established by Natalie Lee and with major support from the Buford L. Bowen Endowment.
Special Guests

Arslan Iftikhar

Arslan Iftikhar is an international human rights lawyer, global media commentator and author of the book *Islamic Pacifism: Global Muslims in the Post-Osama Era*. He also serves as Senior Editor for *The Islamic Monthly* magazine. For nearly a decade, Arslan was a regular on-air weekly commentator for National Public Radio (NPR) and he was also named one of the top 12 Muslim Twitter accounts in the world by *The Huffington Post* in May 2011. Arslan has also been an adjunct professor of religious studies at DePaul University and he is also a member of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) and Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders).

Elizabeth Bruenig

Elizabeth Bruenig is an assistant editor at *The Washington Post*, where she helps manage ‘Post Everything’ and ‘Outlook’, two of the paper’s opinion sections. Previously, she was a staff writer at *The New Republic* covering religion and politics. She earned degrees in sociology and English at Brandeis University before completing a Master’s of Philosophy in Christian theology at the University of Cambridge as a Marshall Scholar. She currently lives with her husband, Matt, and their baby girl in Washington D.C.

David L. Holmes

David L. Holmes is a Walter G. Mason Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus at the College of William and Mary. He holds degrees in English from Michigan State and Columbia universities and master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Religious Studies from Princeton University. He also studied theology at Duke University Divinity School and received honorary doctorates from Lycoming and Hood colleges. After focusing for several decades on classroom teaching, Holmes wrote the academic best-seller, *A Brief History of the Episcopal Church*, the best-selling *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers* and the acclaimed *The Faiths of the Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama*.

Chaplain/Moderator

The Reverend Ed Bacon

Ed Bacon has been the rector of All Saints Church in Pasadena, CA since 1995. He has been honored several times for his peace and interfaith work. David is a regular guest host on Oprah’s Soul Series on Sirius XM Radio and has also been a contributor on Oprah.com. He is the author of *8 Habits of Love: Open Your Heart, Open Your Mind*.

Conference Rates

$390 – Double occupancy: program, lodging & meals

$490 – Single occupancy: program, lodging & meals

$175 – Commuter: program, lunches & suppers

$265 – Non-participating spouse: lodging & meals

$105 – Student: program, lunches & suppers

Affiliated with The Episcopal Church since 1928, Kanuga is situated on 1,400 mountain acres near Hendersonville, NC, on scenic Kanuga Lake. We welcome over 25,000 guests annually to the year-round conference and retreat center, Camp Kanuga, Camp Bob and Mountain Trail Outdoor School.