

# SUNDAY EVENING FORUM

PRESENTS

## Dr. David Galston

# Spirituality and the Emerging Church

In his book *Religion Under Attack*, Nigel Leaves indicates that religion is being bombarded from every quarter—by scientists, spiritualists, agnostics, ex-believers, non-believers and even those who had never bothered with it in the first place. But most religions remain blithely (and perilously) unaware of the prevailing mood of unbelief, disdain for religion, and the growth of alternative spiritualities that has resulted from fundamentalism and dogmatism. They do not seem to understand what the objections are, nor why they should respond in a reasonable way.

Christianity's classic plan of salvation was a vast myth of cosmic Creation, Fall and Redemption. Earth-centered and supernaturalist, it was fatally damaged by Galileo and later astronomers, and by historians of human origins. In his book *A New Great Story*, Don Cupitt rewrites the old grand-narrative as the story of how religion called us out of nature and gradually made us ourselves: social beings in an ordered world, language-using and self-aware. Religious ideas, whether they build civilization or inspire criticism of it, are always leading ideas. They made us everything that we are. Cupitt sees the history of religion as culminating in the teaching of Jesus, who announced a new age in which human beings are at last fully themselves, fully reconciled to each other and to life. That message was lost almost immediately, and the cycle begun afresh ...

In his book *Fictional Religion*, Jamie Spencer points out that the books of the New Testament are not the infallible words of God given that the texts were in a state of flux during the faith's early centuries. He believes that the church can and should build on that flexible tradition, and he challenges readers to take a more rational, more scholarly, and a more historical-critical approach to the New Testament



David Galston is currently the Ecumenical Chaplain (Anglican / Presbyterian / United Churches) at Brock University and the minister of the Quest Centre in Hamilton. David was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Before coming to Brock, he was a chaplain at McGill University and the University of Windsor. David holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of Winnipeg, a Master of Divinity from Vancouver School of Theology (MDiv), and a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) from McGill University.

**SUNDAY, February 19, 7:30 p.m.**

**Burlington Baptist Church**

**2225 New Street (west of Guelph Line)**

**Sunday Evening Forum is a community forum to discuss important current issues which impact our lives and faith. Outstanding speakers present cutting-edge ideas.**

**The public is warmly invited. Admission at the door is \$5.00.**

**For further information call 905-335-5537 or 905-634-2477**

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