



REFORMED
INSTITUTE of
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON

Reformed Institute's Annual Convocation
"The Destruction of the Doctrine of Discovery"
with Mark Charles

Saturday, January 28, 2023,
9:00-11:30 am (8:30 coffee)

at

National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

ALSO LIMITED ONLINE AVAILABILITY
PLEASE REGISTER AT LINK BELOW



The Doctrine of Discovery was a Papal Decree that gave many European Countries religious legitimacy to invade and colonize the "new world" in the name of Christianity. The brutality, injustice, and destruction that followed, especially against native communities, leaves a legacy that all Christians must face. While Reformed and other Protestant communities forged their own theological rationales for conquering North America, their legacy of injustice and colonization is equally culpable. This session will explore these entangling legacies with an eye toward truth telling, repentance, and restorative justice that makes Christians better allies in justice-building with native peoples.

Mark Charles is a speaker, writer, and consultant. The son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man, Mark has faced the colonial legacy of Christian Indian schools in his own family, has served as a Reformed pastor, and has rediscovered his Navajo identity and spirituality. He teaches the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and Christendom in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. He is one of the leading authorities on the 15th-century's European Doctrine of Discovery and its influence on US history and its intersection with modern-day society. Mark is the co-author, with Soong-Chan Rah, of the book, *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*, and he authors the blog "[Reflections from the Hogan](#)."



A response will be offered by [Dr. John Lee](#), professor and Academic Dean of the John Leland Center of Theological Studies, and pastor of The Rock Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD. John is Chair of the Public Program Committee and serves on the Board of the Reformed Institute.

More information and RSVP at <https://reformedinstitute.org/events/> or email ymckinney@reformedinstitute.org