

International Conference

RELIGION AND WAR IN UKRAINE

The Political,
the Public, and
the Possible

March 14th-16th, 2024

Telus 134 - Telus International Centre
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Session: Keynote Lecture

3:00PM MST, March 15, 2024

Making War and Building Peace: The Crucial Roles of Religious Actors

R. Scott Appleby, Marilyn Keough Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame

Russia's war on Ukraine has been both resisted and justified by religious authorities of the Eastern Christian tradition, including rival Orthodox patriarchs who hold competing views of "Holy Russia" and the moral legitimacy of the war. Other religious communities affected by the deadly conflict—including Baptists, Pentecostals, Roman Catholics, Jews and Mormons—have held protests, called for a ceasefire, and promoted peace talks.

What difference do religious actors make in a state's decisions to go to war and how it prosecutes and ends a war? Under what circumstances are religious actors capable of preventing deadly violence or turning the tide of social and political will? Drawing on the examples of modern cases of religious agency in both legitimating deadly conflict and building peace, the presentation will take the Russia-Ukraine war as its frame of reference in drawing lessons from the past

Scott Appleby is professor of history and the Marilyn Keough Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. Previously he directed Notre Dame's Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the Keough School's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. The author or editor of fifteen books, Appleby examines the ways religions and religiously inspired actors shape and are shaped by modern ideas, institutions, practices and conflicts. His publications include *The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence and Reconciliation*, *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding*, and the five volumes of the *The Fundamentalism Project* (University of Chicago Press), which he edited with Martin E. Marty.

Appleby has also written extensively about American religious history, Catholicism in the United States, and strategic peacebuilding around the world. Among other media appearances, he was called to offer public commentary on 9/11 and on the clergy sexual abuse crisis in Roman Catholicism. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, Appleby (PhD, University of Chicago) is the recipient of five honorary degrees.