

2013 Lecture Series

SPAFER

Rev. Michael Dowd & Connie Barlow

Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham • April 12th & 13th, 2013



religious leaders across the spectrum. Celebrated by liberals and conservatives alike and uniquely gifted at building bridges between believers and non-believers, Michael shares “The Great Story” — humanity’s common creation story — in ways that uplift and expand heart, mind, and soul. His passion is showing how a sacred view of death, human nature, and the trajectory of big history can inspire and empower each of us to live with greater integrity, joy, and zest for life.

Connie Barlow is a gifted evolutionary educator, author of popular science books, and developer of the leading epic of evolution / religious naturalism website: TheGreatStory.org. Her books, *Green Space*, *Green Time: The Way of Science* (Copernicus Books), *Evolution Extended: Biological Debates on the Meaning of Life* (MIT Press), and *From Gaia to Selfish Genes: Selected Writings in the Life Sciences*, all explore the nexus of science, meaning, and inspiration. An evolutionary humanist and Unitarian Universalist, Connie is also a well-known developer of curricula for children’s religious education that highlight our shared evolutionary story. Since 2002, she and her husband, Michael Dowd, have lived entirely on the road as “America’s evolutionary evangelists” — which is also the title of the couple’s occasional podcast.

SPAFER

South Points Association for Exploring Religion
- a non-profit all-volunteer forum for exploring religion -
P.O. Box 130267 • Birmingham, AL 35213
www.spafer.org • email: spafer@spafer.org

Rev. Michael Dowd, and his science-writer wife, Connie Barlow, have addressed more than 1,700 religious and secular groups across North America during their 11 years of living on the road promoting the sacred side of science and an inspiring form of naturalism. His engaging presentations integrate empowering science with a passionate life-affirming spiritual message of hope and possibility. His bestselling, bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, was endorsed by six Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics, and by

“Soulful Science: Evidential Inspiration and Realistic Hope”

Friday, April 12th, 2013

Session 1: “The Sacred Side of Science: Big History, Human Nature, Death”

Time: 7 pm, followed by a reception
Lecture and Q & A by Michael Dowd

Saturday, April 13th, 2013

Session 1: “How Religion Is Failing Our Youth — and What We Can Do About It”
Lecture and Q & A by Connie Barlow

Time: 9 am

Session 2: “How Religion Betrayed God — and Atheists Became Prophets.”
A discussion lead by Michael Dowd.

Time: 11:00 am

Place: Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham
4300 Hampton Heights Drive, Birmingham, AL

Price: \$20 Friday Night
\$20 Saturday or \$35 for both days

Additional Info:

To make a reservation, go to the Web site www.spafer.org, click on “Our Next Speaker” in the orange Lecture Series tab and pay with your credit card or your PayPal account. You may also you print off a ticket order form to mail in with your check to : SPAFER, P.O. Box 130267, Birmingham, AL 35213. All tickets are picked up at the door, and no confirmations will be sent out.