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**“Reading the Verbs:
Finding the Script in the Scripture”
With Dr. Anna Carter Florence
June 25 - 29, 2018**

The Washington Island Forum is especially tailored to lay leaders and pastors who want to deepen their spirituality and connect with the message of the scriptures in a more profound way.

If you do a quick survey of any bible passage, you'll find that what is true in life is also true in scripture: the verbs dominate. Not adjectives; verbs. It's what we do and don't do that preoccupies human beings. And it's the verbs we cannot imagine for ourselves (live, liberate, forgive, resurrect) that the church offers, and that we reach for, week after week. So what happens when we read scripture and let the verbs lead? Through four comprehensive lectures, Anna will put a twist on dramatic theory and invite us to read the biblical "script" by focusing on the verbs that are given and chosen by the characters, based on her upcoming book "Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community." What new things will we see and hear in both our sacred text and our human drama when we connect the verbs? How can that, in turn, change and renew our reading and speaking about scripture? Learn more and register [here](#).

[Anna Carter Florence](#) is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale College and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Anna served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Her books include *Preaching as Testimony* and *Inscribing the Word*, as well as two forthcoming books: 'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet, and *Come Back When You've Found Something True: New Ways to Read Scripture*, based on her 2012 Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School. She is a frequent teacher and lecturer in this country and abroad. [Watch a video on YouTube](#) of Dr. Anna Carter Florence at the 2017 annual Marten Lecture in Preaching at the University of Notre Dame, February 24, 2017.

The Forum is a 40 year tradition and is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and *The Christian Century* magazine. Enjoy four and one half days of worship, workshops, discussion, and contemplation in an ecumenical retreat setting on Washington Island, just north of Door County Wisconsin. The week begins with a welcome and opening picnic Monday afternoon at Trinity Lutheran Church. Tuesday through Thursday enjoy morning prayer and workshop sessions at the Trueblood Performing Arts Center (TPAC) with Anna Carter Florence, and optional afternoon discussion groups. Friday begins with a Eucharist, a final workshop and discussion, with departure at noon.

[Learn more about the Washington Island Forum](#)