

## Campus Theme Event

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

Anderson Chapel

North Park University

Dr. Michael Zuckert, University of Notre Dame

“Plato and Rawls: Political Philosophy and the Problem of Justice.”

Public Lecture and Discussion

Should Justice protect the individual or the community?

Can Justice promote both fairness and equality?

Who gets to decide what justice means in a society: the elite, the poor, the wealthy, the educated?

Or is justice what the majority of people vote on it to be, regardless of tradition, wisdom, or the rights of minorities?

Where can we find insight into answering these questions?

Come join the discussion at the first North Park Campus Theme public event on the question “What is Justice?”

2500 years ago, the Greek philosopher Plato wrote the foundational work on politics and justice for Western culture, *The Republic*. This classic work continues to speak to us today as we address issues from the public education system in the United States, the distribution of wealth and resources, and even the role of art and religion in the public sphere. Over the last 40 years, John Rawls has been the most significant political philosopher in the United States, re-establishing a foundation for justice on our basic human rights and responsibilities.

When we put these two heavyweights into the ring together, what do they have to teach us about how we should understand and pursue justice in our 21<sup>st</sup> century society? Does the United States embody the ideals of justice it purports? What do they have to teach us about a Christian conception of justice?

Come, learn, discuss and debate these basic questions on the meaning of justice with a renowned expert in the field, Dr. Michael Zuckert of Notre Dame University, and North Park’s own Dr. Soong-Chan Rah.

Dr. Michael Zuckert is the Nancy Reeves Dreux Professor of Government and International Relations as well as chair of the Department of Political Science at Notre Dame University. His scholarship is in the areas of American political thought, political philosophy, and American constitutional law and theory. His most recent book project is titled, *Completing the*

*Constitution: The Post-Civil War Amendments*, and he has been commissioned to write the volume on John Rawls for a new series on Twentieth Century Political Philosophy. In addition to his scholarship in political science, Zuckert has a host of articles on a variety of topics, including George Orwell, Plato's *Apology*, Shakespeare, and contemporary liberal theory.