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Weinstein, Mark D., "Experts Discuss Religious Freedom at Cedarville Summit" (2014). News Releases. 83. http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases/83

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2014

CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein Executive Director of Public Relations (Office) 937.766.8800 (Mobile) 937-532-6885 mweinstein@cedarville.edu

Experts Discuss Religious Freedom at Cedarville Summit

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University, in partnership with the Chuck Colson Center for Religious Worldview, will host a two-day Religious Freedom Summit Oct. 9-10, 2014, in the Dixon Ministry Center. National experts will discuss the assault on religious freedom as well as ways of preserving religious freedom.

The headlining speaker is **Steve Green, president of Hobby Lobby**. The arts and crafts retailer made national news this year when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the company's favor, finding that it didn't have to fully comply with the Affordable Care Act based on its religious beliefs. Green will speak October 9 at 7 p.m. He will also lead a breakout session on business at 2 p.m. on the same day.

Joining Green at the Summit will be Russell D. Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; John Stonestreet, fellow at the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview; and Jennifer Marshall, vice president for the Institute for Family, Community, and Opportunity at the Heritage Foundation. A full list of speakers can be seen below.

"Religious freedom has been an important American freedom since our founding," said Mark Caleb Smith, Ph.D., director of the Center for Political Studies and assistant professor of political science at Cedarville University. "As our country becomes more diverse and as we have more disagreements over moral issues and even religion itself, the idea of religious freedom is going to be at the heart of those discussions."

In addition to plenary sessions, there will be breakout sessions in political science, pre-law, business, education, communication, bioethics and theology.

"This conference is an opportunity for us to speak in depth about an important topic for our culture," said Smith, "It will provide all attendees a great opportunity to engage their minds on this issue."

To learn more information or register for the conference, visit <u>cedarville.edu/freedom</u>. Cost is \$60 per person and the fee includes all meals and refreshments as well as conference materials.

Roundtable and Plenary Leaders at Summit:

Mike Adams Political Commentator, townhall.com

Mindy Belz Editor, WORLD Magazine

Eric Buehrer President, Gateways to Education

Phillip Bethancourt Executive Vice President, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

Jeremy Ervin Dean, School of Education, Cedarville University

Thomas Farr Project Director, Religious Freedom

Steve Fedyski President and CFO, Vibrant Consulting Group

Mike Gonidakis President, Ohio Right to Life

Derrick Green Interim Chair, Department of Communication, Cedarville University

Steve Green President, Hobby Lobby

John Hart General Counsel, Cedarville University

Mark David Hall President, Christians in Political Science

Jason Lee Dean, School of Biblical and Theological Studies, Cedarville Univ.

Jennifer Marshall Vice President, The Heritage Foundation

Angelia Mickle Interim Dean, School of Nursing, Cedarville University

Russell Moore President, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission

Austin Nimocks Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom

Craig L. Parshall Senior VP and General Counsel, National Religious Broadcasters

Loren Reno Dean, School of Business Administration, Cedarville University

David Rich Professor of Public Administration and Political Science, Cedarville Univ.

Mark Caleb Smith Assoc. Prof of Political Science & Director, Center for Political Studies,

Cedarville University

Warren Smith Associate Publisher, WORLD Magazine

Dennis Sullivan Director, Center of Bioethics, Cedarville University

John Stonestreet Fellow, Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview

Eric Teetsel Executive Director, the Manhattan Project

Robert Vaughn Assistant Professor of Political Science, Cedarville University

Jeffrey J. Ventrella Speaker and Fellow, Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview

Kristen Waggoner Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom

Thomas White President, Cedarville University

About Cedarville University

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,620 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings.