 Contact:

Lynn Goswick, Trinity Wall Street

212-602-9635, lgoswick@trinitywallstreet.org

Barbara Dimajo, LAK Public Relations

212-329-1429, bdimajo@lakpr.com

*For Immediate release*

**Trinity Institute Announces Winners of the 2015 National Theological Conference “Creating Common Good” Essay Competition**

*Theological Scholars Submitted Essays on the Theme of Economic Inequality*

*and How to Make Changes for the Common Good*

New York, NY (September 1, 2015) – Trinity Institute has named one grand prize winner and two runners-up for the Trinity Institute 44th National Theological Conference “[Creating Common Good: A Practical Conference on Economic Equality](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/trinity-institute/2015/home)” essay competition.

[Willis Jenkins](http://religiousstudies.virginia.edu/faculty/profile/wjj2c), associate professor and director of graduate studies in the religious studies department at the University of Virginia, won first place for his essay “Is Plutocracy Sinful?” Honorable mentions were awarded to [Scott Bader-Saye](http://ssw.edu/about-southwest/faculty-and-staff/scott-bader-saye/), professor of Christian ethics and moral theology and academic dean at Seminary of the Southwest, for “Closing the Gap: A Social Imaginary for the Common Good” and [Amaryah Jones-Armstrong](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/gdr/people/bio/amaryah-jones-armstrong), a graduate student in theological studies at Vanderbilt University, for “The Spirit and the Subprime: Race, Risk, and our Common Dispossession.”

Winners were asked to examine the post-2008 economic context and offer solutions on how best to pursue God’s promise of abundant life against the backdrop of the global financial crisis. The three essays presented alternatives to the status quo that are consistent with scripture, theological traditions, and contemporary understandings of human flourishing.

The first-place prize is a $10,000 award; the runners-up will each receive prizes of $2,500. All three essays will be published in the Anglican Theological Review in February 2016 and the three winners will participate in a panel discussion at Trinity Church on November 8, 2015. The discussion will be webcast at trinitywallstreet.org.

**Trinity Institute**

Trinity Institute is an annual conference in its 45th year that equips clergy and laypersons for imaginative and catalytic leadership. Trinity Institute conferences present emerging and inclusive theological and social perspectives and engage participants in inquiry, dialogue, and reflection. Participants from all faith perspectives are welcomed. The conference is sponsored by Trinity Wall Street, an Episcopal parish in New York City.  Recent conferences include *Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace*; *Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes;* *Radical Christian Life: Equipping Ourselves for Social Change; and Creating Common Good: A Practical Conference on Economic Equality.*

**Trinity Wall Street**

Chartered in 1697, Trinity Wall Street is an Episcopal parish offering daily worship services and faith formation programs at Trinity Church, St. Paul’s Chapel, and online at trinitywallstreet.org. Trinity Wall Street includes Trinity Grants, providing more than $80 million in funding to mission partners around the world since 1972; St. Margaret’s House, providing subsidized housing to the elderly and disabled since 1982; Trinity Preschool; Trinity Institute, an annual theological conference; an extensive arts program presenting more than 100 concerts each year through series such as Concerts at One, and performances by the Grammy-nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street and the Trinity Youth Chorus. Trinity Real Estate manages the parish’s six million square feet of commercial real estate in lower Manhattan, providing funding for the parish’s local and global mission outreach.  For more information, visit trinitywallstreet.org.

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