

St Louis Native, Pastor and Author Dr. Raymond R. Roberts to present Unifying Message of Hope this Saturday, August 8

Pastor Dr. Raymond R. Roberts will speak on Aug. 8 at Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery Assembly in St. Louis about his new book "A Democratic and Republican Faith."

ST LOUIS, MO, UNITED STATES, August 5, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Pastor, Professor and Author Dr. [Raymond R. Roberts](#) will discuss the religious and secular principles that guided the American founding in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, this Saturday, August 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery during the Assembly's Education Hour. Roberts will reference principles outlined in his new book "[A Democratic and Republican Faith](#): A [Public Theology](#) for a Church and Nation in Crisis" (Wipf and Stock, April 2026).

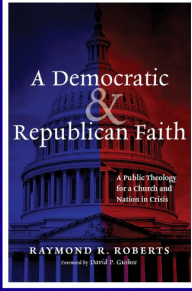
Dr. Roberts says, "Though it may sound counterintuitive, we frequently find common ground by getting to higher ground. That is by identifying principles that people share and then talking about how they apply. Our nation is increasingly divided by affective polarization, the fear that our political opponents want to destroy the country. We diminish this fear when we discover that we share values and principles."

Roberts adds, "While we will likely continue to disagree about what the principles mean or how they apply to a given situation, focusing on what we have in common shifts the discussion away from the people to the principles and related policies. Extremists will always exist, but when we center our attention on the principles, we expand the middle, common ground."

**BOOK TALK/
EDUCATION HOUR**

DR. RAYMOND R. ROBERTS

SAT, AUG 8, 2026, 10-11AM



PRESBYTERY OF GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY

**HOSTED BY
COTE BRILLANTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
401 DARST RD.
FERGUSON, MO 63135**

Pastor and Author Dr. Raymond R. Roberts will speak on Sat, Aug. 8, 2026, at 10AM about his new book "A Democratic and Republican Faith" at Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery Assembly's Education Hour hosted by Cote Brillante Presbyterian Church in Ferguson, MO.

Based on extensive research and a PhD in History and Theology, Roberts expands, "One feature of our tattered democratic culture is that many doubt that their political opponents share their values. The rise of extremism on both the left and right is partially to blame; however, the mainstream church contributed to this decline by failing to pass on its principles to its members."

To understand why this is so, Roberts emphasizes that it's important to remember that the institutions and practices of democracy rest on a number of ideas. The author believes these concepts include notions such as people possess inherent dignity that governments must respect, or the chronic human tendency to corruption requires us to uphold the separation of powers between branches of government, or that our lives are bound together in ways that call us to mutual responsibility. In addition, Roberts' book explains that the church's teachings about imago Dei, sin, and covenant relate directly to these things.



To bring our country together and reduce affective polarization, Pastor and Author Dr. Raymond R. Roberts believes we can reach higher ground by finding common ground in our shared values.

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Moving to higher ground invites us to transcend our political divisions and seek shared values of freedom, fairness, respect, and compassion.”

*Dr. Raymond R. Roberts,
Pastor and Author*

Expanding on these ideas, Roberts adds, “If the church recovered its theological language, it would contribute to a public ethos that defends democracy and its freedoms. They would also be better able to consider how others broadly share these or similar principles. Moving to higher ground invites us to transcend our political divisions and seek shared values of freedom, fairness, respect, and compassion.”

“I think most people want to fix America's broken system of immigration and they want to treat immigrants like

human beings. We got past the Jim Crow segregation by going to a higher ground and reaffirming our shared human dignity. We can do it again,” Roberts reflects.

To help find a path forward, Roberts will discuss the 9 principles featured in his public theology,

which include: theocentrism, creation, image of God, natural law, sin, hope, vocation, covenant, and ecclesiology.

Dr. Roberts has been presenting the concepts in “A Democratic and Republican Faith” at churches and conferences around the country. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Presbyterian Outlook chose this book as a Book of the Month. Outlook book editor, Amy Pagliarella, writes, “More than just a clever play on words, the title, ‘A Democratic and Republican Faith’ demonstrates that the thread of Protestant faith in the American story goes beyond partisanship. Roberts, a pastor and professor of ethics, is convinced that ‘Christianity’s view that all people are equal in God’s sight encourages the republican ideal that all citizens are equal before the law.’ In their desire to establish a country without a national religion, Roberts argues that American forefathers were guided by their faith — even if they often lived their Christian ideals haphazardly.”

BOOK TALK EVENT – All are welcome

Dr. Raymond R. Roberts Book Talk

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 10:00AM CST (Doors open at 9:00AM)

Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

Hosted by Cote Brillante Presbyterian Church

401 Darst Rd.

Ferguson, MO 63135

WHERE TO GET THE BOOK

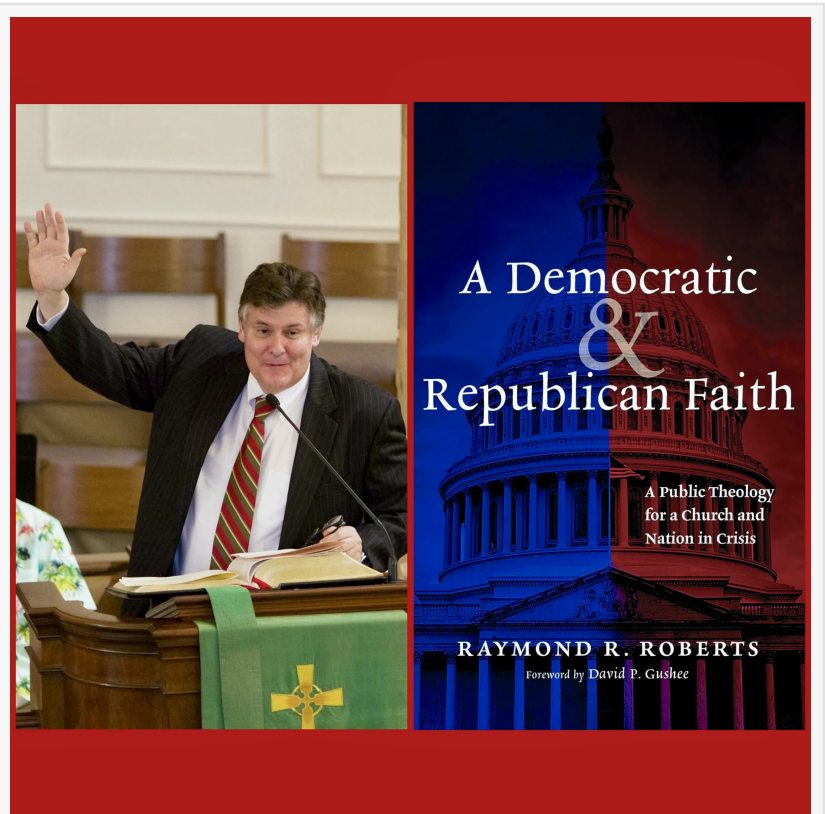
A Democratic and Republican Faith: A Public Theology for a Church and Nation in Crisis (April 27, 2026)

Amazon

<https://a.co/d/04sHXZzY>

Barnes and Noble

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/a-democratic-and-republican-faith-raymond-r->



Dr. Raymond R. Roberts has been presenting the concepts in “A Democratic and Republican Faith” at churches and conferences around the country, and received an overwhelmingly positive response.

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Wipf and Stock Publishers

<https://wipfandstock.com/9798385251421/a-democratic-and-republican-faith/>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Raymond R. Roberts (Richmond, Virginia/ Short Pump) is a Pastor with 40+ years of experience, Professor of Health Ethics at University of Richmond, Author of "A Democratic and Republican Faith: A Public Theology for a Church and Nation in Crisis" (Wipf and Stock, April 2026) and a Musician, Singer, and Songwriter. Roberts is also the Author of "Whose Kids Are They Anyway: Religion and Morality in America's Public Schools" (2002) and a Substack blogger (@raymondrroberts). In addition, Roberts previously served as Head of Staff at River Road Presbyterian Church (Richmond, VA), The Presbyterian Church (Westfield, NJ), Grace Presbyterian Church (Jenkintown, PA), and Amherst Presbyterian Church (Amherst, VA). Roberts received a Ph.D. in History and Theology from Union Presbyterian Seminary and is a 30+ year member of the Society of Christian Ethics. In addition, Roberts is songwriter, guitarist, and singer in the band Reckless and Wild, and co-wrote the song "Let Freedom Ring." Roberts' work has been featured on WRVA 1140AM, The Presbyterian Outlook, The National Law Review, Midwest Book Review, The Thought Atlas Podcast, Zooming In at The UnPopulist, and more.

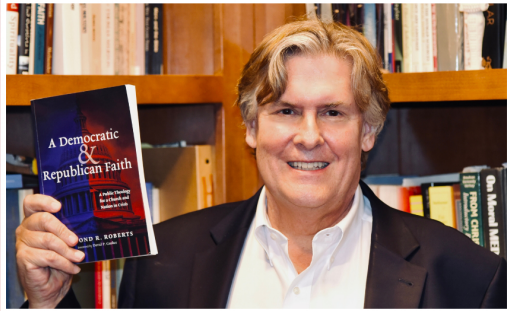
<https://raymondrroberts.org>

Liz Kelly

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EDUCATION HOUR**

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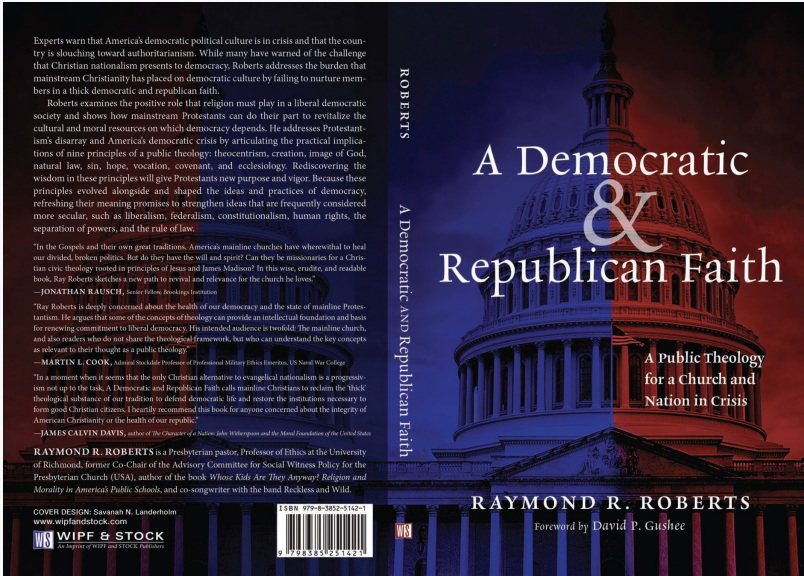
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FERGUSON, MO 63135**

To help others find higher ground, Roberts will discuss the 9 principles featured in his public theology, on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at 10:00AM at Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery Assembly's Education Hour in St. Louis, Missouri.



Experts warn that America's democratic political culture is in crisis and that the country is slouching toward authoritarianism. While many have warned of the challenge that Christian nationalism presents to democracy, Roberts addresses the burden that mainstream Christianity has placed on democratic culture by failing to nurture members in a thick-democratic and republican faith.

Roberts examines the positive role that religion must play in a liberal democratic society and shows how mainstream Protestants can do their part to revitalize the cultural and moral resources on which democracy depends. He addresses Protestantism's disarray and America's democratic crisis by articulating the practical implications of nine principles of a public theology: theocentrism, creation, image of God, natural law, sin, hope, vocation, covenant, and eschatology. Rediscovering the wisdom in these principles will give Protestants new purpose and vigor. Because these principles evolved alongside and shaped the ideas and practices of democracy, refreshing their meaning promises to strengthen ideas that are frequently considered more secular, such as liberalism, federalism, constitutionalism, human rights, the separation of powers, and the rule of law.

"In the Gospels and their own great traditions, America's mainline churches have wherewithal to heal our divided, broken politics. But do they have the will and spirit? Can they be missionaries for a Christian civic theology rooted in principles of Jesus and James Madison? In this wise, erudite, and readable book, Ray Roberts sketches a new path to revival and relevance for the Church in America."

—JONATHAN RAUNCH, *Senior Editor, Christianity Today*

"Ray Roberts is deeply concerned about the health of our democracy and the state of mainline Protestantism. He argues that some of the concepts of theology can provide an intellectual foundation and basis for renewed commitment to liberal democracy. His intended audience is a twofold: the mainline church, and also readers who do not share the theological framework, but who can understand the key concepts as relevant to their thought in a public theology."

—MARTIN L. COOK, *Editor-in-Chief, Christian Ethics*

"In a moment when it seems that the only Christian alternative to evangelical animism is a pragmatism not up to the task, *A Democratic and Republican Faith* calls mainline Christians to reclaim the 'thick' theological substance of our tradition to defend democratic life and restore the institutions necessary to form good Christian citizens. I heartily recommend this book for anyone concerned about the integrity of American Christianity or the health of our republic."

—JAMES CALVIN DAVIS, *author of The Character of a Nation: John Witherspoon and the Moral Foundation of the United States*

RAYMOND R. ROBERTS is a Presbyterian pastor, Professor of Ethics at the University of Richmond, former Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy for the Presbyterian Church (USA), author of the book *Whose Kids Are They Anyway? Religion and Morality in America's Public Schools*, and co-songwriter with the band Reckless and Wild.

COVER DESIGN: Savannah N. Linderholm
www.wipfandstock.com
WIPF & STOCK
An imprint of WIPF and STOCK Publishers

ISBN 978-1-85151-512-1

**A Democratic
&
Republican Faith**

**A Public Theology
for a Church and
Nation in Crisis**

RAYMOND R. ROBERTS
Foreword by David P. Gushee

The Presbyterian Outlook chose "A Democratic and Republican Faith" book by Dr. Raymond R. Roberts as a Book of the Month.

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