The Mennonite Church USA, a Christian denomination of approximately 97,000 people, is on the verge of dissolution due to the threat of departure from numerous conservative congregations who resist a growing Mennonite movement towards LGBTQ inclusion. For Mennonites, as for many U.S. Christians, attitudes on sexual and gender diversity indicate deep theological divisions over fundamental beliefs about God, Jesus, and sin. Denominational leaders charged with the task of balancing these competing claims to truth rely on theologically-infused diversity management practices that subtly define what counts as acceptable diversity and what belongs in the denigrated, worldly category of “divisive politics.” Drawing on a combination of ethnographic work and close readings of church documents, this paper examines the Mennonite Church USA as an institution engaged in an increasingly desperate project of self-preservation.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH**

12pm, Sewall Hall 570
Rice University

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