

Call for Papers

Theology and Religious Education: Relational, Practical, and Interfaith Dimensions

2009 Annual Meeting of the Religious Education Association
(An Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education)

November 22-24, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel (near the Galleria in Addison), Dallas, TX.

DEADLINE for Proposals is Friday, May 1, 2009.

Theme description from President-Elect Maureen O'Brien:

As religious educators, we are committed to the world's flourishing, and seek to embody a vision of the Divine, the human, and our place within a dynamically evolving creation. Our theologies, especially our understanding of how God is active in the world, are likely to shape our practices of religious education in major ways; yet, the converse may also be true. Thus we can hope to benefit from a renewed dialogue that highlights theology from the vantage point of our field of religious education.

In this REA annual meeting, I invite your consideration of the theologies that shape and are shaped by religious education today, with particular emphasis on the relational, practical, and interfaith dimensions of this theme.

- The relational: what is the nature of the intersection between theology and education? How is faith formed and expressed within religious communities, and how are religious traditions, doctrines, core teachings, and central practices treated educationally?
- The practical: how does the emerging understanding of "practical theology" as a vital sensibility for theology inform our understanding of religious education, and is religious education, in turn, a form of practical theology?
- The interfaith: how do the "theological" questions engaged by Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other religious educators translate sufficiently to allow conversation with one another, and what is at stake for us and our world in such a dialogue?

Papers, workshops, and colloquia to address the theme include such possibilities as:

- Ethnographic and other qualitative research studies that focus on the theological presumptions among participants and how those contribute to religious education practices.
- Studies of the impact of postmodernity on theology and how this affects religious education (e.g., its challenges to creeds, catechisms, and other compilations of the core beliefs of religious communities).
- Theologies in dialogue: models of religious education that are explicitly interreligious, and how theology shapes and is shaped by them.
- Practical theology vis-à-vis religious education: understandings of praxis, practices, and the theological "root metaphors" that influence these in our pedagogies.
- Diverse cultural expressions of religious beliefs and their impact on education.

- Re-engaging the work of prominent 19th, 20th and 21st century religious educators on theology to assess their value in our contemporary contexts.
- Exploring the political dimensions of our theologies in shaping our approaches to religious education, especially for the sake of transformation in religious community, academy, and society.

For the full program description for the annual meeting, visit <http://www.religiouseducation.net/>

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals:

Step 1: Once you have an idea of a topic that interests you, determine which type of proposal you wish to submit.

There are three types of presentations at the annual meeting.

Research Interest Group (RIG). A finished paper of approximately 3,000 words and of publishable quality is presented and discussed among a group of conference participants. If your proposal is accepted, the final paper must be submitted by **September 1** in order to be posted in the REA Annual Meeting *Proceedings* before the meeting.

Colloquium. Emerging research, research-in-progress that may lead to a publishable paper, or current practices and programs is presented to and discussed among a group of conference participants. Since this format is less formal than the presentation of a paper, conference participants come to hear a presentation and are then led in discussion. While the early submission of an outline is encouraged, it is not necessary.

Workshop. A highly interactive session engaging conference participants in scholarly and practical resources or approaches supporting the multiple practices of religious education. These sessions are facilitated and led by the presenter. They may increase awareness or enhance performance of specific religious education practices. The contexts for these practices vary widely and may include faith communities, classrooms, or other settings. While the early submission of an outline is encouraged, it is not necessary.

Step 2: Write your proposal. The proposal begins with a 150 word abstract. You then have an additional 800 words to make the case for your proposal. Proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- A. Relevance to the theme.
- B. Contribution to the advancement of the study and practice of religious education.
- C. Clarity and creativity.
- D. Diversity in the voice, context, and perspective of the proposal.

For a Research Interest Group proposal, please include your thesis, your method (e.g., literature-based, qualitative or quantitative research, historical, or insights from your community of practice), and a selected bibliography (e.g. two or three primary sources that ground your work).

For a Colloquium proposal, please include your main concepts or issues, your method for addressing the concepts or issues, the major sources grounding the research, and the current status of the research.

For a Workshop proposal, please include your context, the main concepts, issues and/or practices being addressed, the context for these practices (e.g. faith community, higher education, wider community, schools), and outline for the workshop, and resources presented and used.

Step 3: Submit your proposal. **Proposals must be submitted by Friday, May 1, 2009. All proposals must be submitted electronically through the REA website. Proposals sent by other means will not be considered.**

Instructions for submitting online proposals through the REA web site

- Go to <http://www.religiouseducation.net> .
- Under 'Membership Login' select "please login"
- Enter your membership email address and password (this is the email address and zip code you used to renew your membership in 2009; for further questions see FAQ)
- Hit "sign in"

You are now at the REA Membership Portal

- Go to '2009 Annual Meeting'
- Select 'Submit 2009 Proposal'
- This is the 2009 Annual Meeting Proposal page. It is important that you complete all applicable fields AND hit the "submit" button (rather than using the return key on your computer to submit).
- Once completing ALL information correctly on the Proposal Cover Sheet page AND hitting the "submit button" you will be directed to a second screen where you will be asked to enter additional identification information and your **800 Word** proposal.
- In order to ensure anonymity during the review process, please do not identify presenters, authors, or institution in the proposal field box
- After you have successfully entered ALL required information, you will receive a confirmation page.
- Please note: attempts to submit proposals in any other format (such as email attachments) will not be accepted for review.

Step 4: Notification of your proposal's acceptance status for the Annual Meeting will be sent by **Monday, June 1, 2009**.

If your proposal is accepted, guidelines for formatting the paper will be included in your notification. Research Interest Group papers are **due September 1, 2009 and should be sent electronically as a Word (doc or docx) or Adobe (pdf) file to W. Alan Smith, Executive Secretary at reaapprre@msn.com**. PAPERS NOT RECEIVED BY THAT DATE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE *PROCEEDINGS* AND WILL BE CANCELED FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM.

Participation requirements at the Annual Meeting:

- In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, you must be a current member of the association. You may join the association or renew your membership through the web site. All participants accepted to the program must be REA members and registered for the Annual Meeting.
- Persons may submit no more than two (2) proposals in response to the Call for Papers.

Audiovisual Requests:

The REA recognizes the importance of using digital equipment during presentations. However, the number of meeting rooms in which we can provide LCD projectors, DVD players, etc. will be limited, as will the number of rooms in which there is a wireless "hot spot". In order to accommodate "best practices" in presenting the significant work being done by our members, we will work hard to schedule presentations requiring such equipment together so we can keep our costs for the event at a responsible level. We cannot provide laptops. We encourage participants to bring personal or departmental LCD projectors and would appreciate your willingness to allow others to share in the use of that equipment if you are using your own projectors in a session. *There is a place to note audiovisual requests in the proposal submission process.*

- For additional questions about the Call for Papers, please contact Dr. Rodger Nishioka via email at Nishio-kaR@ctsnet.edu
- For technical questions regarding the online submission process, please contact Sybrina Atwaters via email at syat-wat@gatech.edu