



REACH

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Winter 2010

Message from the President

Dear REA:APPRRE Members,

Greetings, and Happy New Year! We had a lively and thought-provoking annual meeting in November in Dallas. In plenaries and breakout sessions, we probed the theme of "Theology and Religious Education" in its relational, practical and interfaith dimensions. Topics included the use of narrative theology in RE, pneumatological RE, the interplay between the Latino family as *locus theologicus* and religious education in *lo cotidiano* (daily life), the challenges of interreligious teaching and learning, Internet-mediated interaction as manifestation of the Divine, and many others. (Log into our Members-only section at <http://www.religiouseducation.net/signin.aspx> to read the research papers.) We were also privileged to learn from two local Dallas groups about their efforts in interfaith dialogue and peacemaking. Conversation was rich and rewarding. A further highlight was the opportunity to present James Fowler with the William Rainey Harper Award, honoring his invaluable contributions to RE through his scholarship and the living legacy of his many students.

Notes from the mini-plenary discussions with Chuck Melchert, Gabriel Moran and Anne Streaty Wimberly are now posted on our website at http://www.religiouseducation.net/NewWebsite/membership/membership_services2.aspx. You must be logged in as a member to access these discussions. We also plan to post links to the videotaped plenary presentations by the end of February. Fortified by these resources, the conversations on "Theology and Religious Education" can continue on our 2009 meeting blog, found at <http://reaapprre2009.blogspot.com/>. Please join in!

At the Dallas meeting, our outgoing President, Carol Lakey Hess, also led us in an "Envisioning Session" to draw forth our perceptions of the benefits of our organization, the significant challenges facing REA:APPRRE, and suggested themes for future meetings. Thank you for the passionate thinking that you brought to this exercise! The summaries from table discussions have been collated and are now posted on our website in the Members-only section (log in at <http://www.religiouseducation.net/signin.aspx>).

While the Envisioning notes show a healthy diversity of viewpoints, they are virtually unanimous in highlighting the value of the annual meeting for networking and profes-

2010 Membership Dues

Membership in the REA runs operates on a calendar year, not the academic year. With that being said, 2010 Memberships are now due! Refer to www.religiouseducation.net for an online membership-renewal form. All continuing members should have received a membership renewal form in the mail in December or January as well. If you would switch to a calendar year renewal, we can keep better track of you! We look forward to your participation in REA in 2010!

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Special points of interest:

- Membership forms are available at www.religiouseducation.net
- Send member updates (promotions, tenure, new positions, retirements, publications, projects) to: reaapprre@msn.com
- Send special event notices to: reaapprre@msn.com
- 2009 Proceedings available at www.religiouseducation.net

SEARCH BEGINS FOR REA LEADERSHIP

REA has begun a search for a new Executive Secretary and a new Networking Coordinator. The full job descriptions for these important leadership posts can be found on pages 12-15. The REA Board welcomes nominations for both positions.

sional affirmation of members' RE identity and scholarship, along with the open and "stretching" conversations that take place during the conference. Some important issues raised included the future of the association in a time when RE and our own institutions are undergoing significant changes; the appropriate representation of "academics" and "practitioners" and their interests at meetings (recognizing the inadequacy of this language!); and the competition for limited time and financial resources when our members weigh their participation in REA:APPRRE in relation to other organizations with similar interests.

Our Board members will consider this data carefully when we gather in early March for the annual retreat. We also want your evaluations of the Dallas meeting, so if you haven't done so, please complete the online form at http://www.religiousscholarship.org/events_calendar/conference_evaluation.html. Your input is crucial to improving our gatherings!

A significant change and challenge is upon us in 2010, as we inaugurate searches for both our Executive Secretary and Networking Coordinator positions. We warmly thank Alan Smith and Sybrina Atwaters for their dedicated service over the past 3-plus years, and wish them well in new endeavors. You will soon receive the announcement of the two position descriptions and information regarding application. If you have interest and expertise appropriate to either of these crucial roles, please consider applying.

I look forward to learning from you as I begin my year as president, and welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Many thanks for your energy and commitment to REA:APPRRE!

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Brien (obrien@duq.edu), 2010 President

2010 Annual Meeting Theme

In the flow: Learning religion and religiously learning amidst global cultural flows

November 7-9, 2010

Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Our theme for the 2010 annual meeting is "In the flow: Learning religion and religiously learning amongst global cultural flows." We won't know the precise shape of our program for a few months yet, but here are some of the questions we hope to address.

What does religious education look like—and what could it look like—in a world of global cultural flows? What is "religious identity" when hybridization and bricolage are powerfully descriptive terms?

What do understandings of culture that emerge from cultural studies contribute to how we support learning about religion, and religiously learning (that is, sacred study, faith-ful engagement, spiritual attentiveness, etc.)? What do new understandings of media cultures contribute to such learning?

In a world in which political processes and media processes can seem to have more explanatory and persuasive power than religious processes, what does it mean to educate for faith and in faith? What kind of religious identity ought we to be striving for in a world in which some forms of religious identity produce more, and more painfully stark, conflict? How do we understand religious traditions in the midst of global political shifts?

What does it mean to be religious in a world in which our prior assumptions may no longer work? What is the mission of religious education in faith communities that seems to be falling apart? What is trying to be birthed in our midst?

What kinds of learning community are needed for a mission of providing room and voice for spirit in a world of globalization? How is religious education an umbrella for the variety of things going on? What is the academic trajectory of our field today?

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN DENVER!!!!

— Mary Hess, REA President-Elect and 2010 Program Chair

Questions and comments about the theme and offers to assist in the design of the meeting may be directed to President-Elect, Dr. Mary Hess. Email: mhess@luthersem.edu

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LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING

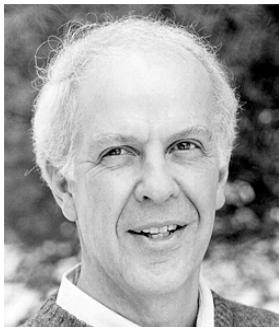
Please forward updated information about your recognitions, publications, promotions, job changes, or other announcements you wish to share with the membership of the REA to Alan Smith at reaapprre@msn.com. The Executive Committee and the Board are especially interested to begin assembling a comprehensive list of books and significant articles that have been published by our members in the recent past that we can make available as a resource for our membership. So, don't be shy! Tell us what you have been doing in the past year and we will become another social networking outlet for your accomplishments!

REA Board Retreat

The REA Board will hold its annual Board Planning Retreat at the Renaissance Denver Hotel March 5-7, 2010. The agenda for the meeting will include a review of the 2009 Annual Meeting in Dallas, attending to the financial business of the Association, reviewing the Call for Papers for the 2010 Denver meeting, and—especially—beginning the planning process to make the 2010 meeting an event to remember for our members. As one can tell from the information provided about the Annual Meeting in this issue of *REACH*, the theme for the meeting is an exciting and timely one and we have already scheduled some significant opportunities for our time together. Once again, the Board has chosen to meet in retreat at the hotel that will be hosting the Annual Meeting. The experience of holding the 2009 Planning Retreat at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dallas proved to be a positive one, allowing the members of the Board to experience first-hand the hotel layout and meet with the on-site staff who will be hosting the Association as a whole in November.

The Spring issue of *REACH* will include a report on the Board Retreat and its results. If you wish to offer suggestions of items the Board might wish to add to its agenda during the March Retreat, please send those ideas to Maureen O'Brien at obrien@duq.edu or to Alan Smith at reaapprre@msn.com and we will make every effort to accommodate your suggestions in the most appropriate ways.

HARPER AND WORNOM AWARDS FOR 2010 ANNOUNCED



Parker J. Palmer to receive 2010 William Rainey Harper Award

Parker J. Palmer, whose influential books, articles, workshops, and seminars have raised anew a focus on the inner, spiritual lives of those who teach, has been selected to receive the 2010 William Rainey Harper Award

from the REA. Parker's books include *To Know as We Are Known: Education as a Spiritual Discipline* (1980), *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring* (1990), and *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life* (1998).

A graduate of Carleton College, Palmer attended Union Theological Seminary in New York before pursuing graduate work in sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, from which he received his Ph.D. degree. He had been on the faculty of several colleges and universities and currently spends his time as an in-demand speaker, writer, and workshop leader. A co-founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, which is based on his work in *The Courage to Teach*, Palmer has helped keep the topic of teaching and spirituality a constant theme in educational circles, both secular and religious.

The William Rainey Harper Award is presented by the Religious Education Association to individuals whose public and scholarly work has made a significant impact on the theory and practice of religious education. The list of previous recipients, which can be found in the REA:APPRRE Web site at www.religiouseducation.net in an article on the history of the organization, has recognized distinguished educators, psychologists, theologians, philosophers, and sociologists like Margaret Mead, Marshall McLuhan, Gabriel Moran and Maria Harris, Paolo and Elsa Freire, Martin Marty, and the 2009 recipient, James W. Fowler.

The REA is delighted to announce that Dr. Palmer has made plans to join with us during our Annual Meeting at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, November 7-9, 2010. The presentation of the Harper Award to Parker Palmer will be one of the signature events of our time together in Denver, and one worthy of a great celebration by our membership. Please make plans now to join us as we honor the work of this internationally known leader.



IFYC to Receive 2010 Herman Eskridge Wornom Award

The **Interfaith Youth Core**, which has worked to build relationships among Youth based on shared values, hospitality, mutual respect, and religious pluralism, will be honored during our Annual Meeting in Denver by receiving the initial Herman Eskridge Wornom Award. In a world that focuses on political, ideological, and theological differences, the IFYC has engaged Youth from multiple faith traditions through networking, public advocacy programs, leadership training, and service projects. Public events sponsored by IFYC at the end of 2009 alone include a two-day Summer workshop on religious pluralism for educators in Chicago, addresses in California and Delaware on the work of IFYC, and an interfaith concert in Chicago.

Several participants in the 2008 REA:APPRRE Annual Meeting in Chicago had an opportunity to witness some of the work of the IFYC first-hand when the REA's Peace and Justice Task Force arranged a pre-meeting event at IFYC's Chicago headquarters. IFYC has received international recognition for its outstanding work with Youth around the world. Its founder and executive director, Eboo Patel, was identified by U.S.A. Today as one of America's Best Leaders in 2009 and has been selected as a member of the White House Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The IFYC also met with Britain's Tony Blair in 2009 to launch a "Faith Acts Fellowship."

The Herman Eskridge Wornom Award was created by the REA in 2008 to honor Wornom's service as the Association's General Secretary from 1952-1970. The award is to be given to organizations whose public work has contributed to the field of religious education in a meaningful way. It is clear the IFYC is a worthy choice to receive the first Herman Eskridge Wornom Award. Like the Harper Award, which will be presented to Parker Palmer, the recognition of the IFYC will be an event you will not want to miss and will serve as a true highlight of the November Annual Meeting in Denver.

**BE SURE TO JOIN WITH THE REA TO RECOGNIZE THESE OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTORS TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!!!!!!**

POSITION OPENINGS

A regular feature of *REACH* as well as our Web site is an updated listing of professional positions in Religious Education that may be of interest to our membership. We invite those who are aware of openings in congregational, professional, or academic settings to forward those announcements to www.reaappre@msn.com for ongoing postings on the Web site and in each issue of *REACH*.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor of Christian Education and Director of The Asian American Ministries Center Union Theological Seminary-PSCE, Richmond, VA

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA), seeks a Professor of Christian Education and Director of the Asian American Ministries Center for a two year non-tenure track term, with possible one year contract extension. The person is competent to teach master's level subjects across the field and enthusiastic about teaching in both hybrid distance learning and traditional residential programs. He or she holds a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in Christian Education or a comparable field, demonstrates excellence as a teacher and scholar, and has experience with online educational technologies. The person possesses administrative and interpersonal skills necessary to serve as a resource, mentor, and liaison with Asian American students and congregations. She or he aspires to personal integrity and authentic Christian faith, is collegial with other faculty and staff and witnesses to the Presbyterian Church and the wider theological community the vitality of Christian education studies and Asian American ministries leadership at Union-PSCE.

Appointment is at a rank and salary commensurate with educational preparation and professional attainments. Review of applications will begin March 1, 2010. Send letter of application, CV, and four letters of reference to aswofford@union-psce.edu or Search Committee, Academic Dean's Office, Union-PSCE, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227. Electronic applications encouraged. Visit our website for full job description at <http://union-psce.edu>.

Faculty of Theology University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Ontario

The Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Michael's College invites applications for a tenure-track position in Religion and Education at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, depending on qualifications and experience. Requirements: A doctorate in education or theology and a master's degree or expertise in the other discipline. The successful candidate will have demonstrated ability in teaching, research, and publication. S/he will be expected to provide innovative leadership in the programmes of the Faculty of Theology especially but not exclusively for the Master of Religious Education (MRE) and Master of Arts in Catholic Leadership (MACL) degrees. We are looking for a candidate with the energy and desire to make a substantial contribution to the continued enhancement of the Faculty of Theology, its academic programmes and its students. For the successful candidate the opportunity exists for supervision of doctoral students.

St. Michael's is a Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology, founded by the Basilian Fathers, located in the Toronto School of Theology, an ecumenical federation of theological schools affiliated with the University of Toronto, and is strongly committed to promoting theological research and publication in the Catholic tradition. It prepares men and women for various forms of pastoral and academic ministry in the Church. The Faculty welcomes applications from all qualified men and women; however, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants.

Starting Date: Negotiable Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference, either by post or electronically, to: Chair – Religion and Education Search Committee, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College ,81 St Mary Street Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 1J4 ,mario.dsouza@utoronto.ca Application review will begin on 15th February 2010, and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant or Associate Professor (tenure-track), Religious Education Boston University School of Theology

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY invites applications for a full-time tenure track faculty position in Religious Education, at

the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. The candidate should hold a Th.D., Ph.D., or other appropriate, equivalent degree in Theology or Religion with a specialization in Religious Education. Candidates should have a research record and agenda that engages and contributes to scholarship in theological, religious, and/or educational studies. They should be committed to the School's mission of preparing leaders for diverse forms of ministry in religious communities, schools, and faith-based organizations. They should also be committed to teaching doctoral students for the professoriate and other forms of scholarship within the interdisciplinary context of a research university. Boston University expects excellence in teaching and research and is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse faculty and staff committed to engaged scholarship in a multicultural environment.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, statement of teaching and research plans, a major publication sample, and three professional references (sent separately), should be sent to the Religious Education Search Committee, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 110, Boston, MA 02215. E-mail and FAX applications will not be accepted. Review of applications will begin October 26 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. Boston University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and underrepresented minority candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Faculty Position, Interreligious Education
Claremont School of Theology

Claremont School of Theology wishes to welcome to our faculty a creative and productive scholar and teacher in Interreligious Education, preferably a person who has experiential grounding in a tradition other than Christianity. The position is full-time and tenured/tenure-track (rank open). Responsibilities include teaching and advising in M.Div., M.A., D.Min., and Ph.D. programs; research and scholarship; service to the School; and service to the profession, religious communities, and other contexts. Applicants should have a Ph.D. or Th.D. (doctoral candidates will be considered), teaching experience, a record of scholarship, and practical experience in interreligious education and dialogue. The successful candidate will be able to teach interreligious education and religious formation at the master's level, prepare students for ministerial vocations, and provide academic guidance for doctoral students in religious education. Further, the successful candidate will enjoy engaging religious and cultural diversity, and will strive with us to explore, for example, issues related to colonialism, race/racism, gender/sexism, globalization, sexual identity, and interreligious dialogue.

Claremont School of Theology is an ecumenical and interreligious institution that seeks to instill students with the ethical integrity, religious intelligence, and intercultural understanding necessary to become effective in thought and action as spiritual leaders in the increasingly diverse, multi-religious world of the twenty-first century. Faculty, staff, and students represent several religious traditions, more than thirty Christian denominations, and a rich ethnic and international diversity. We seek a scholar-practitioner who will work collegially with us as we continue to form the School into an interreligious university (see www.cst.edu/UniversityProject for a description of the "university project"). Rank and salary will be determined by qualifications and experience.

Application Process: The position is available July 1, 2010, pending budgetary approval. Evaluation of applications will begin October 1, 2009, and the position will remain open until filled. Applicants are requested to send a letter of application, vita, one article or book (or dissertation) chapter, one course syllabus or course design, and the names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of 3-5 references to Dean Susan Nelson, Claremont School of Theology, 1325 North College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. www.cst.edu. AA/EOE.

Executive Secretary and Networking Coordinator Positions

The Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education The Religious Education Association: Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education is seeking qualified persons to fill two part-time, stipend positions: Executive Secretary and Networking Coordinator. Any REA:APPRRE member who wishes to apply may submit a letter of application and a resume (with contact information for 3 references) to the chairs of the respective search committees. Email submissions are preferred; please send attachments in MS Word or PDF format.

Executive Secretary Search Chair: Dr. Maureen O'Brien, REA:APPRRE President Dept. of Theology, Duquesne University 600 Forbes Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15282 Phone: 412-396-6528 Email: obrien@duq.edu

Networking Coordinator Search Chair: Dr. Mary Hess, REA:APPRRE Program Chair/President-Elect Luther Seminary 2481 Como Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105 Phone: 651-641-3232 Email: mhess@luthersem.edu

The search committee chairs will also accept recommendations from individual members for possible applicants, and will contact

Position Description
REA:APPRRE Executive Secretary

Major Responsibilities

1. Administers all aspects of the association and oversees daily operations
2. Plans and implements all aspects of the Annual Meeting in collaboration with the Program Chair, Networking Coordinator, Program Committee and Call for Papers Committee (including advance contracting with hotels, program planning, hotel physical arrangements and food, registration, etc.)
3. Edits and, in collaboration with the Networking Coordinator, publishes the quarterly REACH newsletter for members
4. Attends all Board meetings as ex officio member; serves as "institutional memory" for members through providing ready access to organization information; participates in and initiates discussion and action in critical areas as needed; and implements Board decisions in collaboration with the Board and President. Works with Board to develop future visions and set future directions for the association.
5. In collaboration with the Networking Coordinator, ensures that all association information is up to date and easily accessible to members through website, mailings, etc.
6. Under the direction of the Treasurer, proposes annual budget; files federal tax return; arranges for regular financial audits and prepares monthly reports; and reviews and executes hotel and other contracts with the Program Chair, President and Treasurer
7. In collaboration with the Networking Coordinator, collects, monitors and responds to feedback, inquiries and suggestions from members and visitors received via the website and other sources
8. In collaboration with Taylor and Francis and the Networking Coordinator, maintains mailing and membership lists
9. In collaboration with the editor of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, works to establish and follow through on agreements with publisher of journal.
10. Maintains affiliations with other organizations as determined by the Board

Qualifications

1. High degree of self-direction and administrative competence, including ability to organize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously over varied periods of time.
2. Ability to manage and produce organizational information through the use of computer databases and other technological resources.
3. Advanced degree, professional experience and commitment in the field of religious education, and ability to promote and support the goals of the association
4. Ability to collaborate and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with officers, Board, other staff, members and other organizations

Accountability

Accountability procedures for this position will be determined upon review of candidates, with reference to concurrent candidate reviews for the position of Networking Coordinator.

Contact

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Dept. of Theology, Duquesne University
600 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15282 Phone: 412-396-6528 Email: obrien@duq.edu

them to invite their application. Committees will begin reviewing applications on February 1, 2010, and will continue to do so until the process is completed. The target date for hiring for both positions is June 1, 2010.

Procedures The search committees will communicate with applicants to schedule interviews by phone or videoconference calls. In accordance with REA:APPRRE By-laws, the committees will then bring their recommendations for the respective positions to the Board of Directors. The Board will make the appointments and report these results to the entire membership. Further Information see separate job description. See also REA:APPRRE By-Laws (Article VI, sections 1 and 3; see http://www.religiouseducation.net/Org/By_Lawsrev09.pdf)

Position Description
REA:APPRRE Networking Coordinator

Responsibilities

1. Designs, maintains, and manages the content of the REA:APPRRE website, including provision for secure and non-secure posting of intellectual property; compiles and maintains a process and procedures manual for these tasks
2. Handles technology needs for annual meeting: online registration, receipt and posting of conference papers on website, maintenance of relevant website information, negotiation with hotel A/V coordinator for provision of technology for presenters and board meetings, and online evaluation process
3. Receives and posts electronic publications and communications from Executive Secretary and Board (i.e., REACH newsletter, organizational announcements, events, updates)
4. Serves as liaison to other religious education organizational resources and websites, as well as information technology vendors and other web coordinators
5. In collaboration with the Executive Secretary, collects, monitors and responds to feedback, inquiries and suggestions from members and visitors received via the website
6. Attends all Board meetings as ex officio member, and implements Board decisions related to networking and technology in collaboration with the Board and Executive Secretary
7. Collaborates with Taylor and Francis and the Editor of *Religious Education* to establish and maintain online membership renewals and applications, and to maintain an online membership database that is accessible to members
8. Establishes and maintains electronic systems for online collaboration among Board, Forums and general membership (e.g., group emails, listserves and blogs)
9. Conducts annual review, evaluation and analysis of networking initiatives, particularly electronic, in collaboration with an advisory committee

Qualifications

1. High degree of self-direction and administrative competence, including ability to organize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously over varied periods of time
2. Professional experience and commitment in the field of religious education, and ability to promote and support the goals of the association
3. Discrete web design, implementation and networking technical skills
4. Ability to collaborate and communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with officers, Board, other staff, members and other organizations

Accountability

Accountability procedures for this position will be determined upon review of candidates, with reference to concurrent candidate reviews for the position of Executive Secretary.

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