



# REACH

Volume 39, Number 3 Summer 2009

Join Us for the 2009 REA:APPRRE Annual Meeting  
 Sunday, Nov. 22—Tuesday, Nov. 24  
 Crowne Plaza Dallas—Addison (Near The Galleria)

[www.cpgalleria-nr.crowneplaza.com](http://www.cpgalleria-nr.crowneplaza.com) (see page 12)

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

(click [here](#) for full theme description)



Based on an original artwork by Exper Giovanni Rubatelli—  
[exper.3drecussions.com](http://exper.3drecussions.com)

**Dallas** offers a blend of Southern hospitality, cosmopolitan flair, Old West charm, and cultural/ethnic diversity. Centrally located in the United States, it's a convenient travel destination for our far-flung members. It is famed for restaurants (especially those featuring barbeque and Tex-Mex cuisine), cultural and sporting events. It has pleasantly mild weather (mid-60s Fahrenheit high temperatures) in late November. And with its slogan—"Live large. Think big."—it challenges us to expand our praxis of religious education in dialogue with theology.

We have many special events planned for our meeting. The [plenaries](#) promise to be thought-provoking. We will honor the esteemed scholar and friend of religious education, Dr. **James Fowler**, with the [Harper Award](#). Technology will aid our dialogue before, during and after the meeting, including a new [blog](#)! There will be our usual rich array of [break-out presenters and topics](#). And we'll learn more about interfaith and peace efforts from **local Dallas groups**. See the rest of this issue of REACH for full details.

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas in November!

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Brien, President-Elect and Program Chair

## PLEASE NOTE!!!

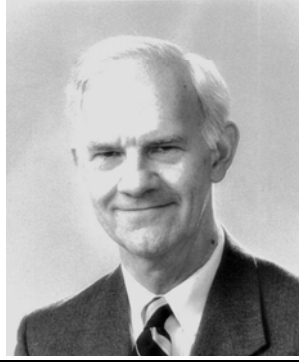
The dates for the Annual Meeting represent a significant change from the way we have been gathering for the past several years. Rather than a Friday, Saturday, Sunday schedule, our Dallas meeting begins on Sunday afternoon and ends shortly after Noon on Tuesday. This change reflects the traditional format for REA meetings in those years REA met jointly with APRRE. We trust the membership will find this alternative schedule a convenient one and hope these meeting days will encourage some members to attend who have been unable to participate with the weekend format. You will find [registration information](#) in this edition of *REACH*.

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## Special Program Features

### Opening Plenary: “Where Do We Stand, How Shall We Dance? Religious Education and Theology in Relationship”

Join three senior scholars—and our colleagues and friends—Charles F. Melchert, Gabriel Moran, and Anne Streaty Wimberly, for a plenary panel. We’ll learn from their reflections as to how they’ve taken a “stance,” and how they participate in the continuing “dance,” between theology and religious education. Mini-plenaries will follow, during which participants can join in lively group conversation with a panel member. (And watch for these three speakers prior to the meeting on our new Association [blog!](#))



**Charles F. Melchert, Ph.D.**  
 Currently teaching part-time at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Chuck has been a prolific scholar and beloved teacher in many settings, notably the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. His book, [Wise Teaching: Biblical Wisdom and Educational Ministry](#), has been influential in reclaiming the wisdom writings for religious education. He also served as APRRE Executive Secretary in 1994-2001.

**Gabriel Moran, Ph.D.**  
 Gabriel’s extensive and wide-ranging scholarly corpus includes topics such as revelation, education and morality, philosophy of education, and the act of teaching. A longtime professor at New York University, he has also taught in numerous other locations in the United States and international venues. His most recent book is [Believing in a Revealing God: The Basis of the Christian Life](#).

**Anne Streaty Wimberly, Ph.D.**  
 Anne is a longtime faculty member, and Executive Director of the Youth Hope-Building Institute, at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta. She is especially known for her influential book, [Soul Stories: African American Christian Education](#). She also publishes on topics such as Black youth, worship, and clergy family support. Anne is past president of APRRE.



### Plenary 2: “A Herd of Elephants in the Room: The Many ‘Religions’ in the Religious/Theological Classroom”

**Judith A. Berling, Ph.D.**

(Sponsored by the Forum on Religious Education in Academic Disciplines and Institutions)

While Stephen Prothero’s text on *Religious Literacy* focuses on what Americans don’t know about religion (content), Dr. Berling’s work on interreligious learning has been focused on developing understanding and facility for engaging in religious conversation/conversation about religion (an aptitude). In our pluralistic and complex contemporary world, religious conversations and conversations about religion are complex and multifaceted. Thus when we teach “religion,” we are actually preparing our students to engage in multiple sorts of interaction/conversation about many different facets or layers of religion. Dr. Berling will help us to untangle these facets or layers so that we can think more clearly about our educational task.

Judith Berling is Professor of History of Religions, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. She is the author of [Understanding Other Religious Worlds: A Guide for Interreligious Education](#). She is an internationally recognized scholar with many publications on East Asian religions, especially Chinese religions and spiritualities.

## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR REA MEMBERSHIP?

### RENEW ONLINE AT [www.religiouseducation.net](http://www.religiouseducation.net)



**Plenary 3: "Practicing in the Presence of Mystery: Responses to the Divine in Practical Theology and Religious Education"**

**Maureen R. O'Brien, Ph.D.**

The relationship between religious education and practical theology is controversial. Yet both are guided by assumptions regarding how God is active (or not) in the world, and seek to form—or, at least, inform—participants through practices of learning and conversation about that activity and desirable ways of cooperating in it. In this presentation, Maureen O'Brien will propose a perspective on divine mystery that can challenge facile and destructive ways of calling on God to justify our own choices, and instead sponsor faithful practices of theologizing and educating for personal, social, and ecological fullness of life. She will draw upon participants' insights from the pre-meeting blog and plenary conversations in shaping this address.

Maureen O'Brien, President-Elect of REA:APPRRE, is Associate Professor of Theology and Director of Pastoral Ministry at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. She has written a number of articles on topics in religious education, practical theology, and ministry education, with recent qualitative research on Catholic lay ministers published in the [International Journal of Practical Theology](http://www.internationaljournalofpracticaltheology.com)

**HARPER AWARD to Be Given to James W. Fowler**

REA/APPRRE is pleased to present the Harper Award to James W. Fowler. The Harper Award is named for and given in honor of William Rainey Harper, the first President of the University of Chicago and the convener of the first REA convention in Chicago in February of 1903. The award has been given intermittently since 1973 to persons whose work has provided a profound impact on the field of religious education. The first award went to Marshall McLuhan (communications) in 1973. Other recipients have been Elie Wiesel, Margaret Mead, Johannes Hofinger, Paulo Freire, Gabriel Moran and Maria Harris, Martin Marty, John Hull, and Randolph Crump Miller.

Dr. James W. Fowler is a graduate of Duke University and Drew Theological Seminary; he earned his Ph.D. at Harvard University in Religion and Society in 1971, with a focus in ethics and sociology of religion. Dr. Fowler pursued post-doctoral studies at the Center for Moral Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (1971-72). He taught at Harvard Divinity School (1969-75) and at Boston College (1975-76). In 1977 he joined the faculty of Emory's Candler School of Theology, and Emory named him the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Theology and Human Development in 1987. Dr. Fowler served as the first full-time director of the Center for Ethics at Emory from 1994 until 2005. His pioneering research and the resulting theory of faith development have earned him international recognition. His best-known work, *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Development and the Quest for Meaning*, a ground-breaking publication in 1981, is now a classic text in psychology, theology and religious studies courses. Other notable works include *To See the Kingdom: The Theological Vision of H. Richard Niebuhr*; *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith*; and *Faithful Change: The Personal and Public Challenges of Postmodern Life*. He is a minister in the United Methodist Church.

Fowler summarized his theory of faith development as follows: "Faith . . . may be characterized as an integral, centering process underlying the formation of beliefs, values and meanings that (1) gives coherence and direction to persons' lives, (2) links them in shared trusts and loyalties with others, (3) grounds their personal stances and communal loyalties in the sense of relatedness to a larger frame of reference, and (4) enables them to face and deal with the limit conditions of human life, relying upon that which has the quality of ultimacy in their lives . . . The stages aim to describe patterned operations of knowing and valuing that underlie our consciousness." (*Faithful Change* by Fowler, p. 56). This approach to faith has made a major contribution to psychology of religion, practical theology, religious education and religious studies.

The award will be presented during the banquet of the 2009 annual meeting in Dallas; the banquet will be held this year on Monday evening, November 23, 2009.

For a retrospective on faith development theory by James Fowler:  
[http://www.religioeducation.net/journal/archive/fowler\\_v99\\_4.pdf](http://www.religioeducation.net/journal/archive/fowler_v99_4.pdf)



## Highlighted Presentations by Dallas Interfaith Groups

Dallas is a richly diverse city and provides our Association a unique opportunity to witness interfaith religious education in operation. On Monday morning, from 10:00-11:15 A.M., those in attendance will have an opportunity to hear from two Dallas-area organizations that are practicing their commitments to interfaith dialogue and collaboration.

<p><b>Panel: “Making Friends Across the Faiths: Difficulties and Successes of the Peace Journey”</b></p> <p><b>Muslim, Jewish and Christian Women’s Dialogue Group of Dallas</b> (moderated by Isabel Docampo, D.Min. Group Co-Founder and Associate Professor of Supervised Ministry, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas). Five women from this group will offer reflections on their journeys in interfaith dialogue and cooperation.</p> <p>Funded by the Herman W. Wornom Project</p>	<p><b>Workshop: “Commonalities of Faith in Working for Peace and Justice: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Interfaith Collaboration”</b></p> <p><b>Presenter: Len Ellis, President, Board of Directors, Dallas Peace Center</b>, followed by a respondent and questions/discussion</p> <p>Co-sponsored by the Forum on Religious Education in Public Life and the Global Community, and the Education for Peace and Justice Task Force</p>
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### Making Our Meeting Technologically Savvy

Remember those evaluation forms from previous Annual Meetings? One aspect of our common work that has been mentioned frequently as needing more attention is making more use of technological resources. The REA Board has heard those suggestions and will respond to this interest during the Dallas meeting in the following ways:

**Blog:** We will begin our considerations of the meeting theme through our new REA:APPRRE [blog](#). Contributors will be Maureen O’Brien and the participants in Plenary #1. Look for their thought-provoking posts and add your own comments from now through the meeting, and beyond!

**Technology Workshop: Blogging 101:** Ever wonder what the fuss is about blogs? And whether they can function as a scholarly resource? This workshop will introduce you to using a new reader and RSS to read blogs. We’ll “show and tell” some useful blogs for scholarly work and, if there’s time, discuss some ways to use blogs in teaching and learning. Presented by Mary Hess, REA/APPRRE Vice-President and expert in the use of technology in religious education.

**“Taped-and-Typed” Presentations:** The plenaries will be videotaped and uploaded to our Association website. We will also have typed notes from the opening “mini-plenaries” uploaded for further reading and blogging during the meeting.

**Hotel Hotspot:** The plenary room will be a Wi-Fi hotspot for your use on Sunday and Monday.

### An Opportunity for Envisioning

The merger of REA and APRRE is now several years old. The Board of the new joint organization has reflected on the nature of the Association since the historic decision. The November meeting will provide a group process that will facilitate “envisioning” the mission and the future directions of REA. Join us for a significant session following the Monday evening Banquet and the presentation of the Harper Award as we combine our considerable creative energies to develop a shared vision of what REA can become!

### Exciting Worship As Well!

The interfaith and practical theology emphases of the Annual Meeting will be supported by creative worship as well as inspiring plenaries, workshops, colloquies, and papers. A team of REA leaders is planning a Tuesday morning worship experience that will highlight what we have learned and challenge us all to engage in a praxis of transformation.

**ENJOY A FREE EVENING IN THE DALLAS– FT. WORTH AREA  
SUNDAY NIGHT!**

# Schedule of Events

(Check program in your registration packet for locations and updates)

## **Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009**

6:00 P.M. REA:APPRRE Board Dinner and Meeting

## **Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009**

(Free Wi-Fi access will be available to members in the plenary room throughout the day.)

9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Registration

9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Book Exhibit

10:00 A.M.– Noon REA Board Meeting (if needed)

10:45 A.M.-Noon Technology Workshop: Blogging 101

12:00 Noon-2:00 P.M. Editorial Board Meeting, *Religious Education* Journal

2:00-3:30 P.M. Plenary #1 with Charles Melchert, Gabriel Moran, and Anne Wimberly: "Where Do We Stand, How Shall We Dance? Religious Education and Theology in Relationship," followed by discussion in Mini-Plenaries (to be posted on REA:APPRRE website for ongoing dialogue)

3:45-5:00 P.M. Break-Out Session #1 (see list of Sessions, beginning on page 7)

5:15-6:15 P.M. Denominational Caucuses

6:30 P.M. Reception and New Member Welcome (new members gather with Maureen O'Brien and Board members in reception area)

7:30 P.M. Ph.D. Dinner Forum

Free Evening!

*Grab a cab with friends and sample a meal and shopping at one of the numerous and varied eateries and The Galleria Mall, all within a 2-mile radius of the hotel, or go into the heart of Dallas. See your registration packet for more information.*

## **Monday, Nov. 23**

(Free Wi-Fi access will be available to members in the plenary room throughout the day.)

9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Registration

10:00-11:15 A.M.	Dallas Interfaith Groups Muslim, Jewish and Christian Women's Dialogue Group of Dallas Panel: "Making Friends Across the Faiths: Difficulties and Successes of the Peace Journey"  Len Ellis, Dallas Peace Center Workshop: "Commonalities of Faith in Working for Peace and Justice: Christian, Jewish and Muslim Interfaith Collaboration"
11:30 A.M.-12:45 P.M.	Women's and Men's Luncheons
1:00-2:15 P.M.	Break-Out Session #3 (see list of Sessions, beginning on page 7)
2:30-3:45 P.M.	Plenary #2, Judith Berling: "A Herd of Elephants in the Room: The Many 'Religions' in the Religious/Theological Classroom"
4:00-5:00 P.M.	Task Force Meetings
5:15-5:45 P.M.	Reception
5:45-8:00 P.M.	Banquet and Presentation of Harper Award, followed by Envisioning Session

**Tuesday, Nov. 24**

9:00-9:45 A.M.	Worship
10:00-11:00 A.M.	Plenary #3, Maureen O'Brien: "Practicing in the Presence of Mystery: Responses to the Divine in Practical Theology and Religious Education"
11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.	Business Meeting
12:15 P.M.	Adjournment

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN DENVER!!!!**

**REA:APPRRE Annual Meeting Program Schedule**  
**THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**  
**RELATIONAL, PRACTICAL AND INTERFAITH DIMENSIONS**  
**CROWNE PLAZA DALLAS—ADDISON**  
**November 22-24, 2009**

**Sunday, November 22**

**Session One (Sunday afternoon, 3:45-5:00 P.M.)**

RIG 1.1	Leona English, "Whither a Post-Structural Feminist Adult Education?"	Ina ter Avest, "Gendered Subjective Theologies"
RIG 1.2	Julie Lytle, "Virtual Incarnations: An Exploration of Internet-mediated Interaction as Manifestations of the Divine"	Daniella Szupan Jerome, "Re-engaging Avery Dulles' Theology of Revelation in the Context of Using Internet-Mediated Communication in RE"
RIG 1.3	Therese Ratliff, "Educating Toward a 'Spirituality of Dialogue': Theological Foundations, Hermeneutical Invitations, Pedagogical Directions"	Hosffman Ospino, "Theological Horizons for a Pedagogy of Accompaniment"
RIG 1.4	Marc Swartvagher, "The Place of Religious Education in the 'Senior Age' of Adult Development"	
COL 1.1	Brad Rothrock, "Theology, Philosophy, and Catholic Religious Education: Reengaging the <i>Preambula Fidei</i> "	
COL 1.2	Claire Bischoff, "(Body) Image Is Everything: Exploring Female Faith Identity"	

**Monday, November 23**

**Session Two (Monday morning, 8:30-9:45 A.M.)**

RIG 2.1	Judith Ann Brady, "Gustavo Gutierrez: Liberation for All"	Valerie Torres, " <i>La Familia</i> as <i>Locus Theologicus</i> and Religious Education in <i>Lo Cotidiano</i> [Daily Life]"
RIG 2.2	Lucinda Nolan, "Edward Farley on Church Education: An Analysis and Critique"	John Elias, "Theology and Education: Insights from a Wabash Research Study Participant"

RIG 2.3	Evelyn Parker, "Emancipatory Hope Re-Loaded"	Annie Lockhart, "No Longer: Galatians 3:26-29 as a Liberative Ecclesiology and Foundation for Religious Education with and for Working Class Girls of Color"
RIG 2.4	W. Alan Smith, "The Fabric of Her Name"	
COL 2.1	Cate Siejk, "New Responses to Enduring Questions in Religious and Theological Education"	
COL 2.2	Jana Struckova, "The Ministry of the Kitchen Table: The Embodied Context of Faith Formation"	
<b>Session Three (Monday afternoon, 1:00-2:15 P.M.)</b>		
RIG 3.1	Richard Rymarz, "Religious Education in Catholic Homeschooling Families"	Elizabeth Nolan, "Pleasures and Pitfalls of Interfaith Education in Secular Schools in Australia"
RIG 3.2	Bert Roebben, "The Wind Blows Where It Wishes... Towards a Pneumatological Religious Education"	Joseph Draper, "God and Evolving Consciousness"
RIG 3.3	Russell Dalton, "Forming Theology Through Options, Actions and Reflection"	Timothy O'Malley, "Educating for Faith Appropriation in a Pluralistic Context: The Theological Methodologies of Shared Christian Praxis and Christian Practices"
RIG 3.4	Dori Baker and Katherine Turpin, "Crossing Borders: How Interfaith Practices Shape Young Leaders for the Church"	Randy Litchfield, "Social Learning, Knowledge Commons, and Communities of Practice in Graduate Theological Education"
COL 3.1	Michael Lee, "Mentoring Adolescents in Faith: An Ethnographic Inquiry into U.S. Latina/o Catholic Adults' Evangelization Practices in Los Angeles, California"	
COL 3.2	Deborah Court, "When Young Children's Faith Meets Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development"	
COL 3.3	Sandra Cullen, "The Changed Landscape of Second-Level Religious Education in Ireland: Considering the Implications for the Initial Teacher Education of Religious Educators"	

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Religious Education Association is over 100 years old? The Association was founded in Chicago in 1903 under the direction of a leadership team that included William Rainey Harper and John Dewey.
- Our excellent journal, *Religious Education*, is also over a century old with the first issue of the REA Journal appearing in 1906.
- The excellence of our journal is recognized by a very high rating among international journals: a **B** rating; we expect to achieve the **A** rating very soon!
- The journal has expanded to five volumes per year to better serve the needs of the REA and the discipline of Religious Education.



## PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

### SESSION ONE, FRIDAY 3:45-5:00 P.M.

**RIG 1.1 Leona English**— “Whither a Poststructural Feminist Adult Education?” This RIG paper addresses the question of whether poststructural feminism is a viable theoretical framework from which to discuss and inform the practice of adult religious education. Building on a substantive body of theory in the social sciences, especially that emerging at the confluence of feminism, education and poststructuralism, the author explores the possibilities and implications of adult religious educators embracing such a theory and practice.

**Ina ter Avest**— “Gendered Subjective Theologies” Qualitative as well as quantitative methods are used in the European ERDCo-research on teenagers’ subjective theologies. The data give us an insight in teenagers’ (boys and girls) subjective theologies: contributing to dialogue or a factor of conflict. What is needed is a dialogue on different gendered practices, and by consequence the different subjective theologies on religion’s role in education and society. We present a model for classroom conversations, accounting for (gendered) diversity in subjective theologies.

**RIG 1.2 Julie Lytle**— “Virtual Incarnations: An Exploration of Internet-mediated Interaction as Manifestation of the Divine” One of the most widespread critiques of Internet-mediated interaction is the disembodied nature of online relationships. Citing fears of engagement with others who are misrepresenting themselves, many argue that computer and internet-mediated communications should not be incorporated into religious education and faith formation offerings. The paper identifies the essential communicative and expressive aspects of physical relationships and explores the potential of internet-mediated interaction to manifest the Divine.

**Daniella Szupan Jerome**— “Re-engaging Avery Dulles’ Theology of Revelation in the Context of Using Internet-mediated Communication in Religious Education” In his analysis of the theology of revelation, Avery Dulles conceptualized revelation as symbolic communication, with a fourfold structure of participation, transformation, influence on action and behavior, and new awareness. This paper re-engages Dulles’ theory of revelation as symbolic communication in the general context of internet-mediated communication, and the particular context of communities of faith using the internet as a medium for religious education.

**RIG 1.3 Therese L. Ratliff**— “Educating Toward a ‘Spirituality of Dialogue’: Theological Foundations, Hermeneutical Invitations, Pedagogical Direction” To be truly effective, dialogue in communities of faith must be more than tactics or strategies for community management. Fostering a ‘spirituality of dialogue’ is a unique contribution that religious education can offer faith communities, providing a concrete locus for the interplay and mutual enrichment of theological inquiry and religious education.

**Hosffman Ospino**— “Theological Horizons for a Pedagogy of Accompaniment” Educating Christians in pluralistic contexts requires intentional pedagogies that lead educators to ‘walk with’ people in their particular circumstances while empowering them to ‘walk toward’ a life-giving encounter with God and others. This paper explores the theological concept of accompaniment in dialogue with various contemporary thinkers reflecting on the theology of pastoral care. The paper sets the horizons for what I call a pedagogy of accompaniment.

**RIG 1.4 Marc Swartvagher**— “The Place of Religious Education in the ‘Senior Age’ of Adult Development” This paper argues that the ‘Adulthood’ stage of life is expanding and presenting the Christian Churches with new challenges and opportunities to be relevant in the world today. The age bracket of 65 to 80 years is a new group within the traditional life cycle of human development that is increasingly open to personal fulfillment and spiritual transformation.

**COL 1.1 Brad Rothrock**— “Theology, Philosophy, and Catholic Religious Education: Reengaging the *Preambula Fidei*” For educators in Roman Catholic high schools, religion textbooks stand at the intersection of theology and religious education. Bringing theological articulations into the classroom, the majority of religion textbooks nevertheless assume a common ground of reference for understanding concepts such as existence of eternity. Pointing to the link between faith and reason advanced within the Catholic tradition itself, I argue that today there is a glaring lack of attention to the underlying philosophical foundations within which the concepts and beliefs of faith are construed as meaningful.

**COL 1.2 Claire Bischoff**—“(Body) Image is Everything: Exploring Female Faith Identity” Serene Jones suggests that Christian doctrines function as dramas whose scripts people of faith perform. The doctrine of creation, particularly feminist explorations of our status as *imago Dei* and *imago Christi*, offers young women an alternative script for female identity to the cultural equation of femininity with beauty perfection. Through “(Body) Image Is Everything,” a curriculum I have developed and will test with two research groups, young women explore their female faith identities and are introduced to *imago Dei* and *imago Christi* theology.

## **SESSION 2, MONDAY 8:30-9:45 A.M.**

**Rig 2.1 Judith Ann Brady**—“Gustavo Gutierrez: Liberation for All” This paper proposes that Gustavo Gutierrez, a founder of liberation theology, who accepts and loves the poor in Latin America can challenge Christians in the USA to welcome the poor and to walk in solidarity with those experiencing trying economic times. The methodology is literature-based: the works of Gustavo Gutierrez explore both the plight and the power of the poor and are a source of wisdom for addressing poverty in the USA to do a theological analysis to benefit pastoral and educational ministries.

**Valerie Torres**—“*La Familia as locus theologicus* and Religious Education in *lo Cotidiano* (Daily Life)” Latinos are deeply religious, and their way of expressing and experiencing God and life is different from that of the U.S. dominant culture. With the importance of family, community, and the belief that God is actively present in daily life in a Latino context, this paper will address the conference theme by exploring the interplay between *la familia as locus theologicus* and religious education in *lo cotidiano* (daily life.)

**RIG 2.2 Lucinda Nolan**—“Edward Farley on Church Education: An Analysis and Critique” Many theologians over the years have offered analyses and reflections on both general education and church education. Edward Farley is a contemporary theologian who has shown great interest in both theological and church education. Farley has become an important voice in the development of practical theology through much of his later work. The paper will analyze Farley’s practical theology of ecclesiality and offer a critique of its implications for religious education.

**John Elias**—“Theology and Education: Insights from a Wabash Research Study Participant” The author was among a select group of “highly effective” college professors of religion and theology to participate in a research project sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in 2004. The paper consists of reflections upon that significant learning experience. Among the topics to be addressed are: the continuing tensions between theology and religious studies as well as theology and religious education; the current interest in the importance of teaching and learning to teachers of theology; the challenges of bringing the learner to God and God to the life of the learner; and finally, the significant contributions religious education has for the teaching of theology.

**RIG 2.3 Evelyn Parker**—“Emancipatory Hope Re-Loaded” This paper revisits the idea of emancipatory hope, which is defined as the expectation of the transformation of hegemonic relationships and acknowledgement of personal agency in God’s vision for human equality. Youth who embody emancipatory hope respond to life and its injustices, inconsistencies, ambiguities, and paradoxes through a “way of knowing” that unites their spiritual identities with their human activities against economic, political, and racial dominance. Cultural studies theory and ethnographic method is central to the re-evaluation of the concept of emancipatory hope.

**Annie A. Lockhart**—“No Longer: Galatians 3:26-29 as a Liberative Ecclesiology and Foundation for Religious Education with and for Working Class Girls of Color” Galatians 3:26-29 argues that within the people of God, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” This baptismal formula serves as a liberating ecclesiology, a body of Christ that is no longer distinguished by race, class, or gender. Arguing alongside Brad Braxton that this move is not the removal of difference, but the removal of dominance, this RIG will explore the theological implications of this liberative baptismal formula and its relation to religious education and the formation of a group that falls under the entirety of the formula— working class girls of color.

**RIG 3.4 W. Alan Smith**—“The Fabric of Her Name” The women of Pamplona Alta, Peru have escaped poverty and dehumanization in the slums around Lima by organizing themselves into collectives that make colorful fabric art. The paper uses a hermeneutic of transformation to examine the ways this form of art helps transform this community.

**COL 2.1 Cate Siejk**— “New Responses to Enduring Questions in Religious and Theological Education” This presentation is a response to questions raised about the relationship of theology and religious education posed by Norma Thompson thirty years ago. The response is based upon the experience of teaching undergraduate theology courses shaped by feminist theory and theology.

**COL 2.2 Jana Struckova**— “The Ministry of the Kitchen Table” This presentation introduces a family-based approach to the Christian formation of youth, centered around the metaphor of kitchen table fellowship which represents an embodied context for the transmission of faith tradition. Story will be used as a vehicle for talking about faith, the conversational patterns between youth and their parents, and show how these lead to engaging youth with the biblical narrative.

### **SESSION THREE, MONDAY 1:00-2:15 P.M.**

**RIG 3.1 Richard Rymarz**— “Religious Education in Catholic Homeschooling Families” This paper will be focused on Catholic parents in Alberat who have chosen to homeschool their children, despite the presence of a fully funded Catholic school system. In particular, it will examine how parents pass on beliefs, values, and culture in a homeschooling context. It will be concerned with religious education in the broad sense of the term and explore how parents apply their theological vision to educational questions, especially religious education.

**Elizabeth Nolan**— “Pleasures and Pitfalls of Interfaith Religious Education in Secular Schools in Australia” Building from the work of Ninian Smart (Lancaster) and Michael Grimmit (Birmingham) in the UK in the early 1970s, the Queensland Religious Education Curriculum Project team developed curriculum resource materials and conducted pilot schemes in different schools of Queensland, Australia in the late 1970s and 1980s. The principles, pitfalls, and the pleasures and possibilities of interfaith teaching especially in secular schools will be discussed as well as references to some curricula developments for church-related schools in Australia.

**RIG 3.2 Bert Roebben and Siebren Miedema**— “The Wind Blows Where It Wishes... Towards a Pneumatological Religious Education” In this paper we investigate the different possibilities of a renewed theological reflection on the working of the Spirit within the framework of religious education. In contemporary practical theology and RE (in praxis and theory) elements and even building blocks can already be found for a contemporary pneumatological RE. Five selected contributions are presented, discussed in depth and, reframed in the light of modern theology.

**Joseph Draper**— “God and Evolving Consciousness” This paper traces the changing notion of God by correlating it to powerful changes in human mental complexity from antiquity to the present on behalf of better understanding how to engage the learning edge of contemporary faith communities. It describes and explains five distinct orders of mental complexity that reveal how humans differently hold God as object.

**RIG 3.3 Russell Dalton**— “Forming Theology Through Options, Actions and Reflection” Religious education may shy away from intentional instruction in theology to avoid indoctrinating their members. This paper recommends that religious educators present their congregations with a variety of theological beliefs from their own traditions and others as a way of generously granting permission to consider a variety of approaches and, in a variation on Thomas Groome’s Shared Praxis approach, help their congregations reflect on the embedded theological belief that exist in their own practices.

**Timothy Patrick O’Malley II**— “Educating for Faith Appropriation in a Pluralistic Context: The Theological Methodologies of Shared Christian Praxis and Christian Practices” In the twentieth century, religious educators have emphasized the necessity of appropriating faith. Two contemporary approaches to faith appropriation include Thomas Groome’s shared Christian praxis and Dorothy Bass and Craig Dykstra’s Christian practices. This essay examines the theological presuppositions of these two approaches to faith appropriation.

**RIG 3.4 Dori Baker and Katherine Turpin**— “Crossing Borders: How Interfaith Practices Shape Young Leaders for the Church” Disciplined engagement in interfaith conversation and action provides young people with a better sense of the commitments and understandings inherent in their own religious traditions. In this light, interfaith action can be understood as a formational Christian practice. This paper, which is one chapter in a larger research project, explores two congregations engaging in practices of interfaith action with particular attention to the ways in which they educate their youth through these practices.

**Randy Litchfield**— “Social Learning, Knowledge Commons, and Communities of Practice in Graduate Theological Education” Several contemporary developments with epistemological dimensions are converging to significantly reframe religious education and graduate theological education. These developments include the reconsideration of how knowledge is

“legitimated” in postmodern epistemology, the increased influence of constructivist epistemology, the evolution of Web 2.0 with its social learning and networking, and the emergence of “commons” as a construct for understanding knowledge.

**COL 3.1 Michael G. Lee**— Addressing a gap in the literature, this ethnographic research project inquires into U.S. Latino/a adults’ practices of mentoring U.S. Latino/a adolescents in faith. For these adult, what are the theological roots of their practices of mentoring youth? What are their operative definitions of evangelization in the U.S. context given the experience of immigration, assimilation, and the ongoing Hispanicization of U.S. Christianity?

**COL 3.2 Deborah Court**— “When Young Children’s Faith Meets Vygotsky’s Zone of Proximal Development” This presentation offers stories, concepts and questions of young Israeli children about God. These stories will illustrate, among other things, the purity and innocence of children’s faith, which is largely untroubled by fact. Using Vygotsky’s notions of children’s spontaneous concepts and a more mature development of concepts in the “zone of proximal development” the presentation will consider how religious educators can help young people acquire theological knowledge while nurturing the precious flame of faith.

**COL 3.3 Sandra Cullen**— “The Challenged Landscape of Second-level Religious Education in Ireland: Considering the Implications for the Initial Teacher Education of Religious Educators” This paper reflects upon the changing nature of religious education within the second-level school system in Ireland and its implications for the initial teacher education of religious educators. A state sponsored curriculum for Religious Education at second level in Ireland will be examined through the lens of a concern for the implications of the theological underpinnings of the curriculum for the initial teacher education of those preparing to be religious educators.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

**The Crowne Plaza Hotel North Dallas-Addison** is in the city of Addison and near the well-known Galleria Mall and numerous restaurants and other shopping areas. When making your travel plans, you may fly in to either Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport or Dallas’ Love Field (which is served by Southwest among other airlines.) The hotel does not have a courtesy van to the airport. However, both Yellow Checker Shuttle and Super Shuttle provide easy shuttle services to both airports at a reasonable rate. Taxis are another option and may become a reasonable choice if you arrange to share a ride with others. Be certain you specify the North Dallas-Addison hotel, located at 14315 Midway Road, Addison, TX 75001 since there are other Crowne Plaza properties in the Dallas area.

All rooms at the Crowne Plaza will be available for the rate of \$89, single or double occupancy. To make your reservation for the Annual Meeting, you may call reservations at 972-980-8877, then select 1 for reservations. Identify your group as the Religious Education Association group, or use the group code **RGE**. If you wish to reserve a room online, go to

[www.cpgalleria-nr.crowneplaza.com](http://www.cpgalleria-nr.crowneplaza.com). Then:

- On the left-hand column of the Home page, click “Check Availability”
- Click on Calendar dates
- Enter the three-letter Code **RGE**
- Click on “Check Availability” and follow the prompts listed there

The REA Board held its Spring planning retreat at the hotel and the staff is friendly (it is Dallas, after all!) and helpful. There are numerous choices for restaurants and “watering holes” nearby for your free time.



# Religious Education Association

An Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education

## 3 Easy Ways to Register

The **deadline** for early registration is **October 15, 2009**

Online Registration ends November 15 (at an increased rate)

Online:  
[www.religioeducation.net](http://www.religioeducation.net)

Fax:  
(863) 680-4357

Mail:  
Religious Education Association  
1107 Waterfall Lane  
Lakeland, FL 33803

### Registration Fee

#### EARLY Registration

Student \$75  
Emerita(us) \$95  
International, \$115  
Regular (General) \$150  
non-member \$185

On-site Registration  
\$200

#### LATE Registration

\*\*After October 15 the Registration Fee increases to \$200 for ALL registrants.

Your 2009 Annual Meeting Registration includes:

Monday Banquet  
Conference CD  
Monday Lunch  
All Sessions and Plenaries

## 2009 Conference Registration

**Theology and Religious Education:  
Relational, Practical, and Interfaith Dimensions  
November 22-24, 2009**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel (near the Galleria in Addison), Dallas, TX**

In the middle of the twentieth century (1950), Randolph Crump Miller wrote that theology should stand in the "background" of Christian education, with faith and grace in the foreground; and, of course, he was famous for naming theology as the "clue." Thirty-two years later, he continued to challenge religious education theorists to take their own stands on two key questions: "(1) What theology can provide the background for religious education? (2) What should be the relation between theology and education?" (Miller 1982, 30)

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, is 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.

**Please enter your name and contact information below to register:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_ Professor \_\_\_\_ Practitioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Events:

- Pre-Conference Technology Workshop
- Opening Plenary

Meeting registration does not include REA membership dues or Hotel accommodations

If you would like a hardcopy of conference proceedings you will be assessed an additional fee of \$10

**Confirmations**

Please note: you should receive a confirmation receipt via email when paying on-line. Please print it for your records. Additional confirmations will be granted upon request.

**Payments**

Participants may pay by credit card or check. Make check payable to REA. For accounting purposes our Federal Tax ID number is 13-1678636.

**Cancellations**

There will be no refunds for cancellations made after November 1, 2009. Substitutions may be made without penalty.

**Questions**

Contact Dr. Maureen O'Brien, President-Elect at [obrien@duq.edu](mailto:obrien@duq.edu)

Or  
W. Alan Smith, Executive Secretary at [reaappr@msn.com](mailto:reaappr@msn.com)

Sunday Block 1 (Please select top 3 choices by RIG ,COL, or WKS code)

PhD Dinner Forum (Please note: there may be an additional charge for this luncheon)

Monday, Block 2 (Please select top 3 choices by RIG , COL, or WKS code)

Monday, Block 3 (Please select top 3 choices by RIG , COL, or WKS code)

Luncheon (Women, Men)

If you have special dietary needs please indicate preference (None, Vegetarian, Kosher)

Monday Plenary

Banquet & Envisioning Session

Tuesday Presidential Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Task Force

Yes, I would like a hardcopy of conference proceedings for the additional fee of \$10

Yes, I would like to make an additional donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ dollars to the \_\_\_ Harper fund \_\_\_ Wornam fund \_\_\_ General operational budget

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

**Total Amount Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check (Please make payable to REA)

Credit Card #  Expiration date (mo/yr):

Please note: credit card information must match name and address on registration form. **We only accept Visa and MasterCard!**

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Payment Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_