

Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education

January 2002

2002 Meeting Theme

Leading with Hope: The Vocation of the Religious Educator

[Sheraton University City Hotel](#)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 1-3, 2002

From President Elect Anne Streaty Wimberly:

As professors and researchers in religious education, we rightfully give committed attention to a dual challenge. We focus on educating students for religious educational leadership in today's and tomorrow's world in tandem with engaging in research that uncovers concerns demanding religious educational response and new directions for religious educational theory and practice. We bring to this challenge our very selves— who we are, the stories of our lives, and our hopes for outcomes that are constructive and meaningful. Indeed, who we are is integrally connected to our distinctive vocation as religious leaders. From time to time, it is important, I believe, for us

to reflect critically on our image of ourselves, how we live out and negotiate the challenges of our distinctive vocation in the academy and in the world. It is important, I think, for us to consider what we bring to the practices of our vocation and to articulate what we dare hope for in this current age. A number of guiding questions come to mind:

- What is our image of ourselves as professors and researchers in religious education?
- What portrait would we paint of ourselves as we live out our distinctive vocation in the academy and in the world? What is the nature of the art by which we live and move, teach, lead, and learn in the classroom and among those in other disciplines?
- What of our biographies is infused in who we perceive ourselves to be? (e.g., our religious, denominational, social, ethnic cultural backgrounds, etc.).
- What is the role of spirituality in our definition of who we are?
- How do we see our vocation and the tasks connected to it in the present and coming age?
- What dare we hope for ourselves and those we lead/teach in this current age of change, unrest, and terrorism?
- By what internal or external guides do we address or negotiate demands arising in our professorial and research contexts as we interact with those we teach, with colleagues, with administration, or as administrators?
- How are we nourished in our vocation?

In addition, I propose that it is important for us to consider what and how we help those we teach to explore their religious educational identity, character, and spirituality. And, there is something to be gained by exploring types and methods of research that center on the nature and formation of the religious educator's identity. On the basis of these and the above statements, I am proposing as a working theme, "Leading With Hope: The Vocation of the Religious Educator."

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A Proposed Structure for Communal Participation

As a way of inviting all of the 2002 participants into communal reflections on the religious educator's vocation that are anchored in personal experience, I am suggesting a shift in the format that would take place in addition to the research interest groups and colloquia. I am suggesting a format in which the entire group would convene at round tables for 1 hour and 15 minutes in an opening session and for 1 hour and 15 minutes in a follow-up session around a case study focused on the theme, "Leading With Hope: The Vocation of the Religious Educator." The case study would be sent to APRRE members ahead of time. During the opening session, I "dream" a presentation on uses of the case study as a pedagogical model for reflection followed by a dramatization of the case study by selected participants. The session would conclude with table discussions around themes, ideas, personal identification, and feelings evoked by the drama for which I would give guidance.

In the follow-up session attended by all APRRE participants, I "dream" two short presentations (around 15 minutes each by individuals to be identified or by persons who volunteer) which would not respond to the case study, but would give some theological reflection on: (1) The nature of the religious educator's (and researcher's) identity that is called for in order to lead with hope in the present and coming age, and (2) The vocation of the religious educator (and researcher) in our current and coming age. The presenters would then invite the participants into a second round of table discussions in response both to their presentations and the case study in terms of what was evoked that gave insight and direction to thoughts on their own identity and vocation. The session would close with some group feedback.

In lieu of a formal presentation for the banquet, I am suggesting as an alternative a video of "Contexts of Hope: The Religious Educator's Vocation in Motion." I envision the video as a collage of clips which may be edited, for example, from one (or more) of the Youth Theology Institutes across the country, from APRRE members' classroom activities, from seminars at the Wabash Center, from community-based initiatives which highlight religious education in

the public sphere. **Clips of 15 to 20 minutes duration should be sent to**

Dr. Anne Wimberly
700 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

no later than May 1, 2002. More information will be forthcoming regarding this aspect of APRRE 2002.

For the closing plenary, I would like to share some of my own reflections on the title, "Daring to Lead With Hope: Religious Education Leadership in Prospect."

Questions about APRRE 2002 may be sent to:
awimberly@itc.edu

2002 Meeting Location and Schedule Information

Sheraton University City Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 1-3, 2002

The Sheraton University City Hotel is located on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The hotel has good facilities with a nice selection of restaurants, shops and services in the adjacent blocks. There is easy access to public transportation to downtown and the airport. Nightly room rates will run \$US109 (single), \$US119 (double) and \$US129 (triple).

You may find out more about the hotel on the web at www.sheraton.com/universitycity

The schedule for the meeting is being developed but here are tentative start and end times for your advanced planning. The Executive Committee will meet around 8:30 am on November 1st. A gathering reception is planned from 1:00 to 2:00 and the opening plenary at 2:00 on November 1st. We anticipate ending by noon on November 3rd. **Please plan to take in the entire program and if at all possible plan your departing flights late enough on November 3rd to stay through all of the last session.**

Watch the APRRE website (www.mtso.edu/aprre) for updates and links to Philly information!!

Call for Papers and Video Clips

The call for papers for the 2002 meeting will come with the March 2002 newsletter. In anticipation of that call you may wish to be thinking about contributions you can make to the meeting. **The tentative deadline to submit paper abstracts is May 8, 2002.**

The meeting theme serves to focus our attention upon a significant issue which is important for the membership to address collectively. Are there ways your research is significantly related to the theme or does the theme move you to conduct new research?

In addition to shared reflection on the theme, annual meetings are times to share research emerging from particular interests not related to the theme. Do you have important research in process or nearing completion that contributes to the field on its own terms? A limited number of Research Interest Groups and Colloquia will be held for topics not related to the meeting theme.

Please remember that presenting a paper at the annual meeting is a privilege of APRRE membership. Your July 2001-June 2002 membership dues must be paid in order for the Call for Papers Committee to consider your proposal.

In addition to papers, the 2002 meeting will use a video of "Contexts of Hope: The Religious Educator's Vocation in Motion." This video will be a collage of clips constructed from member contributions. Clips might include be from one (or more) of the Youth Theology Institutes across the country, from APRRE members' classroom activities, from seminars at the Wabash Center, from community-based initiatives which highlight religious education in the public sphere.

Clips of 15 to 20 minutes duration should be sent no later than May 1, 2002 to

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New APRRE Officers for 2001-02

The membership at APRRE General Business Meeting in Minneapolis elected the following persons to APRRE offices for the coming years. [Contact information](#) for these persons is available at on the website.

Vice President

Lorna M.A. Bowman was elected **Vice President** and will plan the Annual meeting for 2003. She is also currently Vice President of the Religious Education Association. Following almost fourteen years as Director of Religious Education Programs at St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in the Toronto School of Theology, Lorna became Academic Dean of Brescia College, University of Western Ontario, the only university-level college for women in Canada in July of 2001. Currently she serves on the Association of Theological Schools' advisory committee for Women in Leadership in Theological education.

Dr. Bowman holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto, an M.A., Ed.M and Ed.D. from Colombia University Teachers College as well as a M.Ed. from the University of Ottawa. Her academic study includes work in theology at St. Paul University, Ottawa and Union Theological seminary, NYC. Prior to joining St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in Toronto Lorna worked with the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program in New Orleans. Previously she worked in the area of formal and informal education in Canada, the United States and Zambia.

Lorna's area of research interest is women, religion and education. This includes a number of summers as scholar in residence at Casa Cornelia in Rome, and an oral history research project in Nigeria and Ghana. She also writes in the area of Catholic religious education in Ontario.

Executive Committee: Class of 2004

Dori Baker, a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, received her Ph.D. in religious and theological studies from Northwestern University. Her doctoral research was in the field of youth ministry and

contemporary theologies, with a focus on doing feminist theology with adolescent girls. She currently works as an adjunct scholar at Union-PSCE, Wesley Theological Seminary, and Ferrum College. She lives in Altavista, Virginia with her husband, Lincoln, and daughters, Erin and Olivia. Before moving to Virginia, she served churches in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, where she is an ordained elder. She is the author of several journal articles and an entry in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America.

Steve Kang is assistant professor of Christian Formation and Ministry at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. Some of the courses he teaches include culture and ministry, educational research, educational processes, and psychological and sociological foundations of education. During his undergraduate years at Cornell University, he published an article on the discovery of a new organic compound in the Journal of Organic Chemistry. His graduate training is in the areas of Theology and Religious Education from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Religion in Society and Personality from Northwestern University. He has pastoral ministry experiences with youth, young adults, family, and in church planting. He is married to Chris, and they have two children, Ashley and Andrew. They reside in Wheaton, Illinois.

Ronnie Prevost serves as Professor of Church Ministry in the Logsdon School of Theology of Hardin-Simmons University. He also serves the university as Coordinator of Special Academic Programs. He received his M.Div. and Ed.D. at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and has done additional study at Princeton Theological Seminary, the University of Alabama, the University of Kentucky, and Texas A&M University. Before coming to Hardin-Simmons in 1996, he had taught at Gardner-Webb College, Samford University, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastored Baptist churches in Mississippi and Alaska. He has written numerous professional articles and papers on religious education and first amendment/separation of church and state. He

contributed to the "Mercer Dictionary of the Bible" by Mercer University Press and "Forging a Better Religious Education for the Third Millennium" by Religious Education Press. He co-authored "A History of Christian Education" (1993 by Broadman & Holman) and authored "Evangelical Protestant Gifts to Religious Education" (2001 by Smyth & Helwys). He serves on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity in Abilene, Texas and is a trustee of the Moscow Theological Seminary in Russia. His wife, Peggy, teaches 3rd-4th grade math. He plays numerous musical instruments and plays banjo and harmonica with a country/western band called the Catclaw Creek Boys. His primary hobby is scuba diving of which he is a certified instructor with Scuba Schools International.

Executive Committee: Class of 2002

Tom Walters was originally scheduled to rotate off of the Executive Committee as part of the 2001 class. Because Vice President Lorna Bowman was a member of the Executive Committee at the time of her election, Tom Walters accepted an invitation to fulfill Bowman's term in the class of 2002.

Doctoral Student Representative

Cheryl Magrini is a doctoral student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She serves as Director of Children and Family Ministries at Glenview United Methodist Church in Illinois. Her dissertation research is an ethnography of children and their eucharistic experiences. She has published two articles on children and Eucharist with the United Methodist Church at the denominational worship website. *Sacramental Life* of the Order of Saint Luke recently published her article titled "Theological Reflections on George Tooker's 'Embrace of Peace' Through Baptismal Spirituality."



Report from the 2001 Meeting

Minutes of the 2001 annual business meeting are available on the APRRE website. As are some photos taken by Lawanda Smith. Overall the meeting seemed very successful. The following are offered for your information:

Meeting Evaluations: Despite uncertainties and anxieties in the aftermath of September 11th, we enjoyed a good attendance. We had 129 members at the meeting, which is down slightly from the ten year average of 142. Several strengths of the meeting were identified through the evaluations: content of plenaries and RIG/Colloquia, hotel, location, pre-registration and on-site registration, and access to papers on-line prior to meeting. Areas needing attention in future meetings were also identified: smaller and possibly fewer panels in plenaries, moderators for RIG/Colloquia, instructions for accessing on-line papers, and late papers. Naturally there are various other helpful suggestions that we received, but this summary covers the most common themes. A full transcription of comments and ratings has been circulated to the Executive Committee and is available to individual members on request.

Executive Secretary Near-Term Goals: During the Executive Committee and Business meetings, Randy Litchfield offered his near-term goals.

By the 2002 meeting:

1. Strengthen and expand the ways APRRE functions as a year-round professional network beyond the annual meeting. This is a significant issue for our future vitality. In any given year about 50% of members attend the meeting, so why should they renew if they are not coming? We have also been discussing for a number of years that our members belong to multiple associations and cannot afford to attend them all every year. One response is to make APRRE worthwhile whether attending meetings or not by alternative year-round resourcing and networking of members.
2. Finish developing the infrastructure to support year-round resourcing and networking. For now this will mainly be through the website but will include refinements of our member database and e-groups. Litchfield has received very positive responses to the information available on the website and the use of periodic emails to communicate

information between newsletters. Specifically the website potentially could expand to include resource links, syllabi sharing, papers (current meeting and archives), focused directory searches, doctoral student support (proposals, vitae, doctoral program info), links to members' web pages and institutions, support for post-meeting dialogue, on-line renewal and registration, etc. Attention should be given to the website's public relations look.

3. Negotiate the long-term institutional relationship between APRRE and the REA.

By the 2003 meeting:

1. Clarify APRRE's organizational role in the ecology of associations, institutions and agencies of which our members are a part.
2. Facilitate an overall assessment of the field of religious education. This would involve historical and contemporary analysis that could anticipate future agenda for the field. The theme for the 2002 meeting is a natural starting point for this goal and it leads into the 2003 centennial celebration of the REA.

Dialogue on REA-APRRE Relationship: The Religious Education Association (REA) and APRRE historically have had many areas of shared purpose, interest and membership. Because of this kindred relationship, the leadership of both groups have recommended to their respective memberships that a dialogue take place about the future of the APRRE-REA relationship. The following motion was presented and approved at the APRRE Business Meeting.

"It was moved by Lorna Bowman and seconded by Wenh-In Ng that the Executive Committee recommends to the membership of APRRE that a committee of three be established to enter into conversations with REA regarding a more formal relationship that advances our mutual benefit and that a formal motion be brought to the 2002 annual meeting for action. Carried." (from meeting minutes)

The membership approved the Executive Committee's recommendation that the APRRE representatives would be Leona English, Jack Seymour and Anne Wimberly.

A similar motion is being considered by the REA membership through a mail ballot. By spring of 2002 some possible directions for the relationship should be identified.

"Christian Educators of the 20th Century" Project: Kevin Lawson led a special session on this important project and invited APRRE members to become a part of the project. He encouraged people to nominate influential Christian education leaders, who may be included in a web-based database providing biographical information to assist others in understanding the development of Christian education over the last 100 years. To date, 77 names have been received. Contact Kevin at kevin_lawson@peter.biola.edu for more information.

New Task Force Formed

During the annual meeting the Asian/Asian North American Religious Education Task Force was formed. The convener for 2002 is Alan Lai. He can be reached at alanfanly@aol.com for more information.

APRRE Newsletter Goes Electronic

At the annual meeting, support was given by the Executive Committee and the membership to have the APRRE newsletter primarily available in an electronic format. The electronic format makes the newsletter information more timely and less costly.

1. The newsletter will be sent to the distribution list by e-mail. The e-mail will have a version of the newsletter attached and also include a link to the newsletter on the APRRE website. Newsletters will always be available on the website.
2. Members for whom an electronic format is problematic may request that printed versions of the newsletter be delivered to them.

3. Members without e-mail will receive a printed version of the newsletter.

This is an important move for APRRE because it deals with a central means of our communication and interdependence. We do not want the medium to become a barrier. Please bear with us during this transition and offer feedback on how to help make the move smooth.

Three APRRE E-groups Started

Three groups within APRRE are helping the Association explore ways to support year-round collaboration and networking. The groups are using a combination of e-groups through Yahoo.com (principally an e-mail listserv) and a web page on the APRRE site dedicated to the group. The three groups are:

- [Children Task Force](#) (Karen-Marie Yust)
- [Technology as Methodology](#) (Cathy Zeph)
- [Doctoral Student Network](#) (Cheryl Magrini)

Member Services News

As Executive Secretary, one of my major goals is to strengthen member services throughout the year. The annual meeting is our most significant way of fulfilling our mission and maintaining our identity. However, year-round services are increasingly important because (a) projects continue after the meeting ends, (b) research and concerns not related to meeting themes needs support, and (b) members not attending the meeting need networking avenues. Here are some recently added services:

(1) Position Openings: This fall the Position Openings page listed eight separate searches.

(2) E-groups and Web Pages: Following the annual meeting experimental internet networking was set-up for three subgroups. Each sub-group has an e-mail listserv or e-group provided by Yahoo.com (this includes a Yahoo website to manage their distribution list). Each group also

has a web page on the APRRE website for posting documents more permanently, links to resources, and bibliography. This will become solely for current APRRE members.

(3) Syllabus Sharing: Several members have had their syllabi posted on the APRRE website this fall. This has tremendous potential as a shared resource in course preparation. Simply send syllabi to Randy Litchfield. This is solely for current APRRE members.

(4) Papers Presented at Annual Meeting: The full text of annual meeting papers will be posted on the website prior to the meeting and left available on the website afterwards. This provides the opportunity to read papers prior to travel and access to members unable to attend. The papers are posted as received by their authors--they have not been edited, revised or juried. This is solely for current APRRE members.

Please note an important change in an existing service--At the annual meeting, the membership agreed that the electronic newsletter would be the standard medium for the newsletter for reasons of timeliness and cost effectiveness. However, we do not want the medium to become an obstacle in sharing information! Members who need to receive the APRRE newsletter via postal service to their street addresses, need to contact Randy Litchfield with their request. Hardcopies of the newsletter will automatically be mailed by postal service to persons without e-mail addresses.

The website currently has the following features and needs your contributions to enhance content:

News

Newsletters and Position Openings

Membership

Information about APRRE and membership forms

Annual Meeting

Information about the theme, hotel, vicinity, transportation, summary of papers, full text of papers, ways to contact presenters

Working E-Groups

Topic, interest or project related groups supported by email and web pages specifically for each group

Resource Links

Links to resources suggested by members

Organizational Information

Contact information for officers, meeting minutes, policies, recurring dates, APRRE listserver at Boston College

APRRE Member Services (password required)

Member directory, call for papers, syllabus sharing, full text archives of papers from meetings, meeting registration rosters

Have you checked out the [APRRE website](#) lately? See an area you can contribute resources?

**REA Mini-Conference
March 2, 2002 in Atlanta**

Teaching and Learning Beyond Boundaries: Faith Communities and American Schools as Character Education Partners

A mini-conference sponsored by the REA in collaboration with the Interdenominational Theological Center, Candler, Columbia Seminary, Atlanta Metropolitan College, the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education, and APPLE Corps.

8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday March 2, 2002 in the Costen Lifelong Education Building, Interdenominational Theological Center, 700 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Southwest, Atlanta GA 30314.

The opening session topic is "The Character Education Imperative: The Whole Community's Responsibility" with Dr. Marcia Riggs (Professor of Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary) and Dr. Paul G. Organ (M.D., Adolescent Psychiatry). Dr. James Fowler (Director of the Center for Ethics in Public Policy and the Professions, Emory University) will address the topic "Forming Children of Character, Building Communities of Hope." The conference will also include two panels. One panel will be composed of public school principals, administrators from charter schools and Christian schools, and teachers addressing "What are We Doing?: The Shape of Character Education Today." A second panel including a principal, a chaplain and clergy will

deal with "Bridging Boundaries: Models for Faith Communities and School Partnerships."

The mini-conference is for church leaders; public, private, charter, and Christian school leaders and teachers; parents and community leaders; and seminary faculty and students. For more information contact Dr. Anne Streaty Wimberly at awimberly@itc.edu or (404) 527-7739.

Passings

In early November of 2001, Dr. James Loder, Mary D. Synnott Professor of the Philosophy of Christian Education at Princeton Theological Seminary died after suffering a brain hemorrhage. Notes to Arlene, Dr. Loder's wife, and the family can be sent to Carol Belles in the Chapel office at Princeton. She will forward them to the family. Several students and colleagues who are also APRRE members attended the memorial. Margaret Krych shared this report:

"...I attended the memorial service for Jim Loder and passed on the condolences of

APRRE. Arlene Loder was pleased that we had remembered and asked me to express her thanks. The service was a blessed time of joy and hope, and testimonies to Jim Loder, especially those from his daughters, were very moving. It truly was a celebration of the glory of God."

Back copies of Proceedings

APRRE is still offering a bargain basement sale of back copies of Proceedings!

We have supplies of both the 2000 and 2001 Proceedings. In the past we have charged \$35 plus shipping for copies.

But now, while supplies last, you can get one year's copy for \$15 including shipping. Order both 2000 and 2001 for \$25 including shipping!

Contact Randy Litchfield at rlitchfield@mtso.edu or 740.362.3364 **today!**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED