

Contents

<u>REA-APRRE Reorganization News</u>	<u>Annual Meeting News</u>	<u>News</u>
Joint Reorganization Approved	2004 Meeting Theme	Travel Grant Contributors
A Message from the President	2004 Meeting Location	Valparaiso Project
Executive Secretary Search Report	Report from 2003 Meeting	Member News
Meet Lawanda Smith, New Exec. Sec.	Call for Papers-Venues	Call for Scholarly Updates
APRRE-REA Membership		Position Postings
APRRE-REA Websites and Newsletters	Toronto in 2005	
APRRE Officers for 03-04		

Renewing APRRE Membership

A big **THANK YOU** goes to all of you who have renewed their memberships or joined us for the first time this fiscal year. We currently have a total of 280 paid members in APRRE. At this time last year we had 305 paid members. We need at least 307 to meet our budget for 03-04.

If you have not yet renewed, there is still time to do so and we value your ongoing commitment to APRRE. Even though it is midway in our fiscal year, your renewal supports the administrative costs that we bear year round. It also gives you access to member-only services and makes you eligible to submit proposals to the Call for Papers committee for the 2004 meeting. If you misplaced your membership form, they are available on the website or you can contact Randy Litchfield at rlitchfield@mtso.edu.

Please note that the joint reorganization with REA will not impact memberships before the end of the current membership cycle that ends June 30, 2004. So, please do not let this delay your APRRE renewal.

REA-APRRE Joint Reorganization

REA-APRRE Joint Reorganization Approved

Copies of the "Design for a Joint Reorganization of APRRE and REA," dated May 23, 2003, and ballots were mailed in late September 2003 to people who were members during the 2002-03 membership year and new members in 2003-04. Ballots were returned to Randy Litchfield, Executive Secretary of APRRE for tallying. The results are:

<u>REA Members</u>		<u>APRRE Members</u>	
Ballots mailed:	475	Ballots mailed:	337
Ballots returned:	138	Ballots returned:	108
Percent return:	29%	Percent return:	32%
Yes:	135 (98%)	Yes:	105 (97%)
No:	2 (1%)	No:	2 (2%)
Abstain:	1 (1%)	Abstain:	1 (1%)

143 people received ballots as members of both REA and APRRE

The "Design for Joint Reorganization of REA and APRRE" remains available on both organization's websites.

As a result of this action, several initiatives will begin during 2004 that will culminate in a single organization functioning in January of 2005:

- A committee will begin work on revising the REA bylaws to reflect the "Design"
- A committee will begin nominating people for the new organizational structure
- A new Executive Secretary will take responsibility for REA and APRRE
- A plan to move to a single membership will be developed
- The APRRE and REA websites will be merged
- The APRRE and REA newsletters will be merged

A Message from the President--Lorna Bowman

A special thank you to everyone who made our annual meeting in Chicago last November such a success. With the REA we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Religious Education Association at our joint meeting. Together we found ourselves truly *Embracing the Past and Envisioning the Future*.

On the Saturday evening, APRRE and REA held their respective annual meetings. The decision to go ahead with the reorganization upon which we had voted by mail was affirmed at both meetings. Many APRRE members present were also REA members. At the annual meetings we discussed how we will move into the future with our new joint association in January 2005. In the social hour that followed one could sense the excitement and good energy about the decisions we have made and the directions in which we are moving.

We were very pleased to have Lawanda Smith present in Chicago. As of January 2004, APRRE and REA share an Executive Secretary in the person of Lawanda. (See the insert later in the newsletter.) Randy Litchfield has graciously agreed to continue as Executive Secretary with Lawanda until Ju1y, 2004.

For this time of transition, both the APRRE Executive Committee and the REA Board realized that it will be necessary to strike a joint nominations committee for the election of officers in anticipation of our November 2004 meeting in Denver. As President of both, APRRE and REA I was empowered, with other officers, to strike such a committee. This will enable us to elect new officers for the joint association at that time.

As you know, in the past, APRRE has chosen a Vice-President two years before an annual meeting to become President-Elect the year prior to the meeting. We did not do so this year. Rather, the joint nominations committee, consisting of representative officers of both APRRE and REA, will consult and then put a name or names before both the APRRE membership (and the REA Board) for the President-Elect as of November 2004 of the reorganized association. An e-mail ballot of the APRRE membership will be taken.

Additionally we will also strike a committee to write the bylaws for the new association. Thanks to the work of the REA-APRRE reorganization committee, much of the work for this task has been completed in the carefully crafted implementation plan. The bylaws, too, will be completed by a committee with representatives of both associations.

Recently someone remarked to me that APRRE is now one of the most contemporary academic associations in the world. For this gift, we have Randy Litchfield, together with Terri Litchfield to thank. This is a wonderful foundation upon which to build as we move into the future with the *Religious Education Association: An Association of Professors and Practitioners in Religious Education*.

Executive Secretary Search Report

The following report was presented at the APRRE Executive Committee, REA Board, APRRE business meeting, and REA business meeting. All groups accepted and affirmed the Search Committee's recommendation that Lawanda Smith become our new Executive Secretary. Lawanda will be the Executive Secretary for the reorganized association. Beginning in January 2004, Lawanda has taken responsibility for REA administration while Randy Litchfield continues his responsibilities for APRRE until June 30, 2004. As of July 1, 2004 Lawanda will assume responsibility for both APRRE and REA and the combined organization in January 2005.

The Recommendation of the Search Committee for APRRE's Executive Secretary:

In July 2003 the President of APRRE, Anne Wimberly, established a search committee to fill the position of Executive Secretary of APRRE being vacated by Randy Litchfield after three years of service. Members the committee were: Larry Huiras, Rebecca Davis, Chuck Melchert, Lucinda Huffaker and chair, Bob O'Gorman The committee organized and met by conference calls and, with the initial aid of Randy Litchfield, articulated the needs of the job and published a job description which was made available on the APRRE and REA websites. Additionally the committee, with Randy's aid, compiled a list of 30 names to whom we sent a special letter of invitation to apply. We entered into discussion with six people and two applied. We held one hour interviews by conference calls with both candidates, using a set of questions we had prepared covering 5 areas: Understanding of APRRE/REA, Understanding of the role of the Executive Secretary, View of the Future of the Relationships of REA & APRRE, Personal/Professional Qualities for the Job, Response to several specific issues, such as hotel negotiation experience. Additionally, the committee members contacted references that the candidates provided.

The committee found that the two persons who applied were exceptional candidates and worthy of recommendation. Both had excellent recommendations from outside sources. On the basis of the following characteristics, the committee recommended Lawanda Smith:

- 1) A depth of proven experience working with committees, organizing multiple activities, communicating with several publics, and serving church and academy.
- 2) Institutional context that will support administrative tasks and provide important consulting networks and resources, when needed.
- 3) A demonstrated capacity for the combination of organizational matters, concern with people, and academic acumen.
- 4) The special circumstance of participating in three worlds: a) academic involvement in religious education, b) work as a professional practitioner in the church in teaching and curriculum writing, and c) teaching religion in a public institution.

The committee judged that these strengths would serve APRRE and REA well as the Executive Secretary moves the organizations into one operation.

Bob O’Gorman,
Chair of the Executive Secretary Search Committee

Meet Lawanda Smith, New Executive Secretary

Since my years as a doctoral student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, participation in the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education has been enriching and challenging. Every year I have grown by participating in research interest groups and task forces at the annual meeting, and I value the friendship and support of colleagues in APRRE. Thus, it is a great honor to be offered the position of Executive Secretary of APRRE and REA, particularly at this exciting junction in the history of the two organizations.

For the past eight years, I have called Alexandria, Louisiana home. In 1995, I earned an Ed.D. from Southern Seminary, where I also earned a Master of Divinity in Christian Education. In addition, I hold a Master of Arts in English from Louisiana Tech University and a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from Louisiana College. Presently, I am Assistant Professor of Religion and English at Louisiana State University Alexandria, a campus of 3000 undergraduate students.

Congregational life is also a significant part of my profession. An ordained minister, I am an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Alexandria, Louisiana, and I have spoken frequently in congregations of different faith traditions. In addition, I have written adult religious education curriculum material for *Formations*, published by Smyth and Helwys. My dream for the Religious Education Association—professors, researchers, and practitioners in religious education—is that together the members of APRRE and REA will continue to encourage and challenge each other as we embrace diversity and build bridges to expand our support of religious education in all its dimensions.

APRRE-REA Membership

The joint reorganization will be implemented by REA revising its bylaws to reflect the joint reorganization design and APRRE members becoming REA members. During the first part of 2004, Ted Brelsford, Barbara Anne Keely, Lawanda Smith and Randy Litchfield will be working with Taylor and Francis to develop a plan that transitions APRRE members into being REA members. Taylor and Francis is the publisher of the journal Religious Education and handles memberships for the REA. REA membership includes a subscription to the journal. This plan will be in place prior to when the current APRRE membership cycle ends on June 30, 2004. The plan will address dues levels and making the membership cycle run from January to December. Having the membership cycle on a calendar basis matches the volume period of the journal and the financial budget calendar. One transition option under consideration is offering a one-time 18 month membership running from July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005.

Again... please remember that membership changes will not be implemented until July 1 AT THE EARLIEST. If you have not already done so, APRRE members need to renew for 2003-04!!!

Combining APRRE and REA Websites and Newsletters

A very important part of implementing the joint reorganization of REA and APRRE involves the way we communicate with members. Two channels for this communication are the website and the newsletter. As we address issues related to the website and newsletter, we are including people with responsibilities for the journal, *Religious Education*, as well so the three can be treated as a system. People involved thus far in this task include: Larry Huiras, Mary Hess, Leona English, Ted Brelsford, Lawanda Smith and Randy Litchfield. Questions and comments about this work can be sent to Randy Litchfield (rlitchfield@mtso.edu).

One of the first noticeable events in the joint reorganization will be a common website. We hope to have this up by February 2004. Initially the site will combine the existing static content of the REA and APRRE sites. By the summer of 2004 we plan to incorporate on-line membership, on-line meeting registration, collaboration tools, and expanded resource content. The working group is also discussing long-term issues such as features that would expand the site into an open source for religious education materials. When the new site is launched you will receive an email inviting you to visit!

Another early sign of the joint reorganization will be seen in the newsletter. We will be moving to a common newsletter by either the March or June 2004 editions. The REA newsletter is entitled "REACH" and we will likely keep that name. We will continue with the types of news and information typically in the APRRE newsletter. With the combined newsletter, REACH, members will also receive a wider range of content. Historically REACH has included short articles and more resourcing on religion and education than the APRRE newsletter. The newsletter will maintain its electronic format.

APRRE Officers for 2003-04

Because of the approval of the membership to move forward with implementing the joint reorganization with the REA, new officers were not elected. The officers of APRRE for 2003-04 are:

President: Lorna Bowman (also President of REA)

President-Elect: Bob O'Gorman

Past President: Anne Streaty Wimberly

Recording Secretary: Bill Lord

Executive Committee: Dori Baker, Rebecca Davis (student representative), Diane Hymans, José Irizarry, Steve Kang, Ronnie Prevost, and Kieran Scott.

[Contact information](#) for these persons is available on the website.

Thanks to Wenh-In Ng, Jerome Berryman, Mary Hess, and Lucinda Huffaker for their service on the Executive Committee as their terms end!

Annual Meeting News

2004 Meeting Theme

Contextual Pedagogies: Teaching Context as Religious Text

November 5-7, 2004

Brown Palace-Comfort Inn complex in downtown Denver, Colorado

A joint meeting of the Religious Education Association (REA) and APRRE

Religious education has been understood as a profession standing at a fork in the road facing “faithfulness to the ancient and honorable paths of the *fathers*” on the one hand, and the knowledge required for contemporary religious living on the other.¹ Faith communities and the world demand accountability for both an *authentic and usable* knowledge -- knowledge to help persons understand and respond to spiritual experiences. Much of the debate at APRRE and REA over the past years has centered on which road to take. Educators with a pastoral focus may downplay the ancient text and those with an academic focus may believe that the present context is not their major concern.

In teaching, the text is typically understood as a book containing the gathered wisdom of a scholar, or a community, that a teacher uses to help students enlighten their experience. The context, on the other hand, can refer to the setting or times in which a particular text was produced. Context can also mean the *present reality*: the places from which students come -- the influences of community surroundings, racial background, family structure; and places to which they will go -- faith communities and neighborhoods in conflict, atomized societies, pluralistic worlds. Here teachers help students both gain and use the knowledge that no “text” may yet contain.

Perhaps, the challenge of our theme can be captured in the wit and wisdom of Yogi Berra: “*When you come to a fork in the road, take it.*” Relating text and context calls us to teaching practices that, in David Tracy’s words, engage a “mutual critical correlation between an interpretation” of the religious experience and the contemporary situation.² This means reading the texts with a commitment to the poor and marginalized in their contexts, teaching -- *context as religious text*.

The issues of text and context, while not phrased in these words, have been the focus for REA and APRRE in past discussions of “theory and practice.” In Denver we can take a next step with a critical study of religious educators’ **teaching practices** (*contextual pedagogy*) connecting students’ learning to the contexts of life and also connecting the realities of present life to a reinterpretation of the texts. Our aim is a more dynamic teaching in religious education promoting its enhancement to benefit communities of faith and the broader public.

Questions and comments about the theme and offers to assist in the design the meeting may be directed to President-Elect, Bob O’Gorman e-mail: rogorma@luc.edu

¹ James Gustafson quoted in Donald Schön. *The Reflective Practitioner: How Professionals Think in Action* (New York: Basic Books, 1983), p.81.

² Don S. Browning. *Practical Theology: The Emerging Field in Theology, Church, and World* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1983), p. 61.

2004 Meeting Location

Brown Palace-Comfort Inn Complex
Downtown Denver

Brown Palace Hotel (meeting rooms)
321 17th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Comfort Inn Downtown (guest rooms)
401 17th St.
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Brown Palace-Comfort Inn complex will offer meeting registrants the best of everything! Sessions will take place in the elegant and historic Brown Palace Hotel. The Brown Palace has earned a four-diamond award from AAA and “best business hotel” by Fortune Magazine. Within its long history (and with guests like Eisenhower, Churchill and the Spice Girls) there are also many fascinating stories to discover. Our guest rooms will be in the Comfort Inn, which is across the street from the Brown Palace and connected by a second story walkway. The guest rooms are very nice and have great views of the city and the mountains. By using the Comfort Inn we will have access to great facilities at an affordable cost.

The Brown Palace-Comfort Inn complex is one block from the 16th Street Pedestrian Mall and within walking distance of the Colorado Convention Center, the State Capitol building, the Denver Mint, and historical Larimer Square. Denver's Botanical Gardens, Six Flags-Elitch Gardens Amusement Park, the Children's Museum, the Denver Zoo, Ocean Journey Aquarium, and the Museum of Natural History are within 10 minutes of the hotel. Coors' Field (Colorado Rockies), Pepsi Center (Colorado Avalanche and the Denver Nuggets), and Invesco Stadium (Denver Broncos) are each a five-minute drive. Everything is a fairly easy walk or a short public transit trip.

The guest room rate at the Comfort Inn is \$99 per night and this includes a nice continental breakfast. A small block of rooms is also available in the Brown Palace at \$139 per night, including continental breakfast. The reservation cut-off date will be October 15, 2004. Following this cut off date, guestrooms are subject to availability and the hotel's prevailing room rates.

You may find out more about the hotels on the web:

Brown Palace www.brownpalace.com

Comfort Inn Downtown Denver www.choicehotels.com/ires/hotel/CO057

Report from the 2003 Meeting

The joint 2003 meeting with the REA was a great event, enjoyed by 165 participants. The REA's centennial was celebrated in grand style and a shared future, full of opportunity, was embraced.

Anne Streaty Wimberly (President of REA and APRRE) was the master of ceremonies at the banquet celebration. Guests were welcomed by Don Mayne (Chairperson, North American Interfaith Network), Patrice Rosner (Associate General Secretary for Education, National Council of Churches), and Lorna Bowman (then President Elect, APRRE). Members of the REA Board and APRRE representatives shared in a cake cutting ceremony followed by a ritual of celebration led by Bill Lord and When-In Ng. “Each Seeking Faith,” a song commissioned for the REA's centennial was performed by an ensemble of REA and APRRE members led by Ron Anderson. The lyrics of “Each Seeking Faith” are by Brian Wren and the musical setting is by

Susan Heafield. Martin Marty (Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago) delivered the keynote address entitled "The REA Mission: Treating Pluralism with a Singular Focus." The finale of the banquet was the presentation of the William Rainey Harper Award to Gabriel Moran and Maria Harris by Gloria Durka.

The plenary sessions were well received. They addressed issues facing the field as we move into the future, multi-faith learning, visions and promises of a multi-cultural future, the future of the journal Religious Education, and assessment of the past in anticipation of the future. Participants reported that the Research Interest Groups, Colloquia, and Resourcing Workshops were stimulating, engaging and challenging (papers remain available to members on the APRRE website). Saturday following the REA and APRRE business meetings (minutes posted on the website), the REA celebration continued with an open reception. The weekend culminated with Lorna Bowman's presidential reflection, "Transcending Boundaries," and a closing ritual led by Bobbie Nelson and colleagues from Meadville-Lombard Theological School. All of the general sessions were videotaped.

Throughout the meeting, from the banquet to plenaries to breakout sessions to business meetings, there was a very positive and collegial spirit. That spirit was grounded in affirming a wonderful history and expressed in optimism and hope for our shared work in the future.

Toronto is designated as the host city for the 2005 meeting

2004 Call for Papers and Venues for Presentation

The call for papers for the 2004 meeting will come with the March 2004 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 and presentation proposals is May 12, 2004.**

As you consider submitting a presentation proposal, be mindful about your topic and the best meeting venue for it.

Topic... The meeting theme serves to focus our attention upon a significant issue that is important for the membership to address collectively. Are there ways your work 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 work 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?

Presentation Venue... In recent years our main meeting venues have been plenaries, research interest groups, colloquia, resourcing workshops, and task forces. Plenary sessions address the meeting theme and are intended for all meeting registrants. They are planned by the President Elect who extends invitations to any persons that might be involved. Research Interest Groups are for work that is well developed and presented in formal papers that are within one revision of being of publishable quality. Research Interest Group presenters are paired and present their work in a session with a group of up to 25 members. Doctoral students submitting proposals for research interest groups will be asked for a letter of reference/support from a faculty member in

APRRE indicating ability to present in this venue. Colloquia sessions are less formal than Research Interest Groups but provide a very important arena for sharing emerging research, research-in-progress, or practices and programs that do not readily lend themselves to formal papers. These sessions may have a higher limit on number of participants in a session. The Call for Papers committee reviews and decides on proposals for the Research Interest Groups and Colloquia. Resourcing Workshops are presentations of scholarly and practical resources or approaches supporting the multiple practices of religious education. These sessions may seek to increase awareness or enhance performance of specific religious education practices. Task Forces are groups who agree to stay together and to continue to work on certain issues over a period of several years. Presenters are chosen by each task force or by conveners.

We have experienced a trend in recent years where most proposals are submitted for Research Interest Groups, seemingly to the avoidance of Colloquia. Please consider carefully the status and nature of your work and choose a venue for your proposal that fits best. Both venues make significant public and scholarly contributions.

Please remember that presenting at the annual meeting is a privilege of membership. **Your July 2003-June 2004 membership dues must be paid in order for the Call for Papers Committee to consider your proposal.**

“Contextual Pedagogies: Teaching Context as Religious Text” Questions, Topics, Issues to Explore in Considering a Paper or Presentation

This theme offers us two fundamental *questions* to ponder:

- What **teaching strategies** do we employ to help students correlate the text we are teaching and the context they represent?
- What are the **contexts** that impact our teaching?

As we engage contextual pedagogies we have a wide range of *topics* to explore:

- Descriptions of contextual teaching – case studies where these dynamics of contextualization are alive in our present teaching practice
- How to cultivate our students’ capacities to be present to their community’s situation and environments:
 - Developing students’ learning skills to hear and describe the reality of present experience;
 - Honing students’ ability to interpret the community’s realities in relation to scripture, tradition and vice versa;
- How contextual pedagogies open students to disenfranchised voices (especially the poor, people of color and women) that may not be represented in the reflections of the classical texts or in the power and social structures of contemporary contexts.
- How “communities of faith” set the focus by which religious educators determine their curriculum and teaching -- the interplay of religious and public contexts in our teaching
- Teaching as shaping/influencing our contexts and the contexts of others
- Exploring models of contextualization in religious education curricula

Some of the *issues* at stake include:

- Just how we understand the word “context” in religious education

- Comparison of contextual pedagogies with more classical pedagogies: What makes contextual pedagogies distinctive
- Examining where religious educators stand in the interplay of religious community and public life.
 - Discovering what moves a religious educator towards contextual teaching
 - Preparations for this move
 - Obstacles teachers face in undertaking such teaching
 - Change strategies necessary for teachers to make a commitment to contextual teaching practices,
 - Assessment of student learning in contextual teaching
 - Learning how communities of faith teach us to teach
 - Satisfaction level of students, parents, and churches with contextual teaching
- "Texts" as individuals and/or faith communities; Teaching these "texts" with integrity and not violation

News

Travel Grant Contributors

Thank you to the following members who have generously contributed this year to the APRRE Travel Grant Fund. Their combined contributions total US\$1,590. You are invited to join this noble group through a donation of your own!

Thaddeus J. Abraham, Janet T. Arbesman, Helen A. Archibald, Dori L. Baker, Christine (Tina) E. Blair, Helen M. Blier, Theodore Brelsford, Robert L. Browning, Fernando A. Cascante, Wayne A. Cavalier, O.P., Margaret Ann Crain, Faustino Cruz, Susan E. Davies, Kathy L. Dawson, Gloria Durka, John Elias, Burton Everist, Charles R. Foster, Peter Gilmour, Thomas H. Groome, Mary E. Hess, Michael Horan, Dwayne Huebner, Sookyung Hwang, Diane J. Hymans, José R. Irizarry, Paulette Isaac, Byron H. Jackson, Susanne Johnson, Boardman W. Kathan, Rune Larsson, Laura B. Lewis, William D. Lord, Taylor McConnell, C.F. Melchert, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Marie L. Murphy, G. A. Wenh-In Ng, Lucinda A. Nolan, Maureen R. O'Brien, Robert T. O'Gorman, G. Alan Overstreet, Janet W. Parachin, Evelyn L. Parker, Marian R. Plant, Jack G. Priestley, Anabel C. Proffitt, Bert H.M. Roebben, Donald T. Russo, Stephen A. Schmidt, Ruby J. Schroeder, Dayle H. Scott, Jack L. Seymour, Yolanda Y. Smith, Sophia Steibel, Nelson T. Strobert, Joseph A. Tarrillion, S.M., Norma H. Thompson, Addie L. Walker, SSND, Sharon R. Warner, Janet L. Weathers, Susan E. Willhauck, Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Kathy Winings, Catherine P. Zeph.

The Valparaiso Project

The Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith sponsors two grant programs: **Practice Grants** for congregations, educators, and agencies (up to \$10,000) -- see www.practicingourfaith.org. Application deadlines for 2004 are March 1, June 30, and October 15. **Challenge Grants** for teams of youth and adults (up to \$2,000) see www.waytolive.org. Application deadlines for 2004 are February 20 and September 15. Religious educators who are teaching youth ministry courses are encouraged to promote the Challenge Grants Program with their students. Contact Don Richter (donricht@bellsouth.net) with any questions.

Member News

From **Sue Davies**... "Thank you, and all the folks at the APRRE meeting, for the card. It gave me a wonderful, warm, supported feeling. Part of the amazement of this whole experience has been depth of the prayer support I have received. This was the first surgery ever for me, and thus the first time I've been the focus of such strong and extended prayer. I have felt it in my body and in my spirit in ways I had never known. Please send my gratitude to the APRRE folks, and know that I'll be there next year with bells ringing and great joy. Blessings and peace."

Dent Davis has been named Dean and Vice President of Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary. In this new position, Davis will lead the integration of Columbia's Lifelong Learning programs, which include Continuing Education, the Spirituality Program, the Center for New Church Development, and the Lay Institute of Faith and Life.

Bob O'Gorman: Just after our APRRE/REA meeting, Bob spent the last month of his sabbatical visiting a Loyola Chicago religious education graduate in South Africa, John Trout. John and Bob jointly presented a paper on religious education and community development in the US and Africa at the Minneapolis meeting (2001). John is operating from a new theory of community development to combat the devastation of HIV-AIDS, what he is naming "Authentic Human Development." It is theory of community that shifts community development from external dependency on outside agencies to discovery of a community's internal assets. Bob's visit was a journey to see this theory in action.

Call for Scholarly Updates

The March newsletter is the edition in which we report notable professional events in the lives of our members. If you would like to be included, please email Randy Litchfield (rlitchfield@mtso.edu) with information that your colleagues should know about publications in the past year, professional activities, current projects, moves, promotions, honors, etc. **Items must be received by March 19, 2004.**

Positions Postings

[posted 10/22/03]

Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, invites applications for a **tenure track position in Christian Education**. Rank is open and Ph.D. preferred, although ABD will be considered. Ministerial experience is preferred, and capacity for leadership and scholarship in theological, spiritual, and ethical formation is required. Brite Divinity School is an Equal Opportunity Employer; is committed to diversity in its faculty, staff, and student body; and maintains a policy of nondiscrimination with respect to all employees and applicants for employment. Send letter of application, dossier, and three letters of recommendation to Chair, Search Committee, Brite Divinity School, TCU Box 298130, Fort Worth, TX 76129. Review of applications will begin November 17 and the application process will remain open until the position is filled. Website: <http://www.brite.tcu.edu>.

[posted 12/15/03]

Columbia Theological Seminary, a graduate educational institution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), invites applications and nominations for a **faculty position in Christian Education**. The candidate should have capacity to teach and do research in Christian

Education—including curriculum development, teaching and learning theory, human growth and development with particular attention to children, history of religious education, and faith formation for families in a congregational setting—and will be expected to teach in all programs of the seminary, basic and advanced degrees, as well as Life Long Learning programs. The candidate should have completed the Ph.D. or its equivalent, preferably be an ordained officer in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and have experience with educational ministry in congregational settings. Women and racial/ethnic minorities are particularly encouraged to apply. The position is tenure-track, open rank, with a desired starting date of fall 2004. Applications, or nominations, may be directed to the Rev. Dr. D. Cameron Murchison, Dean of the Faculty, Columbia Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031.

[revised 1/6/04]

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), to begin 1 July 2004. Requirements: Doctorate in Education or Theology with some expertise in the other (e.g., a Master's degree, relevant experience, etc.) The successful candidate will have demonstrated ability in teaching, research, and publication. S/he will be expected to provide innovative leadership in the programs of the Faculty of Theology and the Continuing Education division of the University of St. Michael's College. 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. St. Michael's is a Roman Catholic Faculty of Theology 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. Application Review will Begin: 1 March, 2004.

Send letter of application, CV, and three letters of reference to:
Chair – Appointments Committee
Faculty of Theology
University of St. Michael's College
81 St Mary Street
Toronto, ON
Canada
M5S 1J4

[posted 12/16/03]

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY announces a **tenure track faculty position in Educational Ministries** beginning in the Spring or Fall of 2005. Qualifications: M.Div. preferred with a requirement for an Ed.D. or Ph.D. in Christian Education or related field. The candidate should have a solid biblical and theological orientation toward the field, strong ministerial experience, excellent classroom experience, and an ability to teach well students from a wide variety of national, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrable strengths and passion in one or more of the following areas: children's ministry, family ministry, urban ministry, technology and education, learning theory. Faculty members must concur annually with the school's evangelical statement of faith. Application deadline is April 30, 2004. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to

apply. Formal resumes, list of three references, cover letter to the chair of the search committee: Dr. Barry H. Corey, Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 130 Essex St., So. Hamilton, MA 01982. Written inquiries only.

[posted 1/6/04]

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary - a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with a ministry to the ecumenical Christian Community - announces **a tenure track position in Christian education with an emphasis in youth ministry**. This person will teach in all academic programs of the Seminary: M.Div., M.A., S.T.M., and D.Min. Significant experience in church ministry is necessary; a Ph.D. or its equivalent is preferred. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The position is projected to begin in September, 2004, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. A job description is posted on the Seminary web-site and will be given to inquirers and applicants. Address inquiries and applications (with CV including names and addresses of references) to the Office of the Dean of Faculty, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206-2596, or by email to the secretary to the Dean: jksmith@pts.edu.
