**Minutes of the Members’ Meeting of**

**The Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality**

Saturday, November 21, 2015, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Sheraton-Georgia 10 (Level 1)

Atlanta, Georgia

The meeting convened at 10:45.

1. Introduction of new President: Lisa Dahill introduced Claire Wolfteich.
2. Approval of the Minutes of 2014 Meeting (Anita Houck, Secretary/Treasurer): No errors were noted, and members were invited to send corrections to Anita. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Welcome: Claire Wolfteich welcomed new members and international members.
4. Presentation of the Founders’ Circle Award
   1. Claire encouraged all emerging scholars to be involved in the society. She thanked Beringia Zen, who has been coordinator, and presented a gift on behalf of the Society.
   2. Ralph Keen, Chair of the Founders’ Circle Award Committee, reported that four stimulating submissions were received for this year’s award. The committee also included Past Presidents Ann Astell and Stephanie Paulsell. Ralph presented the award to Chad Thralls, post-doctoral teaching fellow at Seton Hall University.
5. Report on Friday evening events at Ebenezer Horizon Campus: Lisa thanked Barbara Quinn and Glen Scorgie for their excellent work planning the session. The afternoon program included a tour of the King Center and presentations by Miroslav Volf and Diana Hayes, followed by a conversation facilitated by Professor Hayes. The evening pedagogical session included a panel presentation on spirituality and pedagogy with six members (George Faithful, Renata Furst, Celia Kourie, Annie Ng, Michael O’Sullivan, and Pieter de Villiers).
6. Report of the Editor of *Spiritus* (Douglas Christie, Editor): Doug recalled that great care was taken in the transition in discerning Steven Chase as the new Editor, and he thanked Bernie McGinn and others involved. He also thanked the membership, noting the fine work done within the Society and our maturing ability to articulate what we’re about in the field. Claire thanked Doug for his wonderful work over the years and presented a gift on behalf of the Society.
7. Report of the Nominations Committee. Claire Wolfteich, Outgoing Chair of the Nominations Committee, thanked Evan Howard and Thomas McElligott for their work with the many nominations.
   1. The Committee proposed the following candidates. All were ratified by acclamation and thanked.
      1. Vice President/President-elect: Pieter G. R. de Villiers (2015-2016)
      2. Two members to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors:
         1. Gilberto Cavazos-González (2015-2018)
         2. Lauren Winner (2015-2018)
      3. Secretary/Treasurer: Anita Houck (2015-2018)
      4. One member to serve a three-year term on the Nominations Committee: Bernadette Flanagan (2015-2018)
   2. Claire thanked Lisa Dahill, who completes her term as President and assumes the position of Past President; Bernard McGinn, who completes his term as Past President; Renata Furst and Pieter de Villiers, who complete their terms as At-large Directors; Evan Howard, who completes his term on the Nominations Committee; and Timothy Robinson, who will complete his second term as Co-Chair of the AAR Christian Spirituality Group at the end of 2015. (Continuing At-large Directors are Glen Scorgie and Barbara Quinn [2013-2016] and Elizabeth Drescher and Francis McAloon [2014-2017]; Glenn Young continues as Co-Chairs of the AAR Christian Spirituality Group; and Thomas McElligott continues on the Nominations Committee.)
8. Presentation by the Board of others recommended for leadership
   1. Claire requested that the membership ratify the following candidates, who were ratified by acclamation.
      1. Margaret Benefiel to the AAR to be new Co-Chair of the Christian Spirituality Group of the AAR (calendar 2016-2019)
      2. Steven Chase as new Editor of *Spiritus*, (2015-2020)
   2. Claire also acknowledged the appointment by the Board of Francis McAloon to complete Steven Chase’s term as Liaison Member (2015-2019).
9. Report of the new Editor (Steven Chase): Steven has been acting as Editor for the past four or five months and reports that the transition has been very smooth, with Doug’s help; it’s clear how much work Doug has put in over the years. The journal has published stellar work and will continue to follow its stated mission. There is great continuity, while there are some new Editorial Board members. He noted four possible themes for future issues: spirituality and health care; spirituality, formation, and practice; in light of the new International Relations Committee (IRC), expanding the journal’s presence and interaction internationally, with a theme issue on Christian spirituality in international context, with essays from members of the International Relations Committee; and spirituality, sustainability, and ecology.
10. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer: Anita reported that the Society is in sound financial shape and thanked those who had made additional tax-deductible contributions to the Society. She noted that membership overall has continued to decline, particularly among full U.S. members.
11. Report of the Christian Spirituality Group. Glen Young and Margaret Benefiel invited suggestions for sessions:
    1. Rewilding one year later: could be experiential
    2. Sandra Schneiders on *Revelatory Text*: 2016 will be the 25th anniversary of the text, which did much to stimulate the growth of spirituality as a discipline; Pieter believes she’ll be available next year.
    3. Migrants and refugees, an apt topic for San Antonio but also important to look at globally: what are the implications for spirituality of those on the move, strangers (Mary Frohlich)
    4. U of Toronto will be commemorating the 20th anniversary of Henri Nouwen’s passing
    5. Spirituality and natural sciences/evolution
    6. Wilding spirituality in nature on the brink of extinction (Thom Parrott-Sheffer)
    7. Rhetoric of US political climate: buying, selling, usurping of God for political reasons “)
    8. Mercy and justice, given the year of mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis (Vanessa White)
    9. Global climate: spiritual struggle and peace and reconciliation (Philip Sheldrake)
    10. OST will be doing pre-conference on French spirituality on the anniversary of the founding of Oblates
    11. Collaboration with religion and social science group: spirituality and health care and fields such as sociology, anthropology; but Steven mentioned not working on that next year in light of importance of migration issues in San Antonio
    12. Spirituality and sacred spaces
    13. 500th anniversary of Luther (a year early)
    14. Co-sponsorship re migration and Latin@ Group (Vanessa White)
    15. Peacemaking in a place of terrorism (Barb Quinn)
    16. Hispanic Theological Initiative having its 20th anniversary and a major celebration of Latin@-Hispanic theology, with a major session on Friday (John Markey)
    17. Claire noted that there’s an interest in deepening the reflection by encouraging publication in *Spiritus*.
12. Discussion of possible experiential sessions for 2016 in San Antonio (Claire Wolfteich)
    1. Colloborating with extant events
    2. Center of immigration service near San Antonio
    3. Networks of people helping those taken to bus stations (Eilish Ryan)
    4. Water: The headwaters of the San Antonio River are located at the University of the Incarnate Word and are stewarded by a group of sisters there (Tim Robinson)
    5. SARTS (Society for the Arts in Religion and Theology) doing programming on arts of San Antonio and may be interested in collaborating
    6. Claire invited those with other ideas to email her or Anita.
13. Report on internationalization efforts: Claire thanked Bernie for developing a proposal a couple years ago to develop networks and deepen our nature as international society. The Board has appointed a new International Relations Committee, with members from Bangalore, South Africa, Hong Kong, Ireland, Rome, Barbados, Switzerland, and U.S.A. They will be meeting this afternoon to develop plans. Claire thanked international members for traveling to the AAR/SBL. The Board will be discussing ways to make the meeting more accessible, e.g., via technology.
14. Report of the Promotions Committee (Jonas Barciauskas, Chair and Web Editor). The Committee sent letters to chairs of spirituality programs, based on a list put together by Ann Astell’s graduate students, and some programs responded that the information will be distributed. Posts have been uploaded to the Christian Spirituality Studies blog section of the website, and the top number of requests--twenty--have been for syllabi, so Jonas requested members to send them. The Committee will meet Sunday at 2:00, and all are welcome. Claire thanked Jonas, who has done terrific work but will be retiring, so there will be a transition to new leadership.
15. Report of items under consideration by the Board of Directors. Claire noted three areas of discussion:
    1. Guidelines on regional SSCS meetings: This could allow those who can’t travel to the national meeting to participate. One model comes from the College Theology Society.
    2. Future SSCS conferences: Past meetings have been held at Notre Dame and Johannesburg.
    3. Possible income-linked dues structure: This would link dues with income in the country. The AAR/SBL has a similar structure in place.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33.

**Nominee Biographies**

*For Vice President/President-Elect:* Pieter G. R. de Villiers is professor in Spirituality at the University of the Free State in  Bloemfontein. He received his  B.A.; B.A. Hons. (Greek); B.Th. and D.Th. Degrees from the University of Stellenbosch and his Th.Drs. in the Netherlands. Dr. de Villiers has been awarded research scholarships at universities in Göttingen, Munich and Regensburg in Germany, and was a Visiting Fellow at Duke University and Research Fellow at Yale University (1986/7; 1992/1993). He serves on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (2012-2015), is a member of the editorial board of *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* and chairs the International Relations Committee of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. He is a member of the SNTS (Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas), has published 112 articles in refereed journals and is author/editor of 15 books. His articles include studies in his focus areas of Spirituality of Peace, Spiritual Hermeneutics and Biblical Spirituality. His latest publications include edited volumes on *The Spirit that Guides. Discernment in the Bible and Spirituality* and *Coping with Violence in the New Testament* (Brill).

*For At-Large Positions on the Board of Directors (2014-2017):*

Dr. Gilberto Cavazos-González , OFM, Full Professor of Spirituality, is the son of Gilberto Cavazos and Emma Gonzalez and a member of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (USA). Former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS ), he has a Licentiate and Doctorate in Theology with specialization in Spirituality from the Pontifical University Antonianum (Roma). Currently, he is director of the Office of Educational Technology at the Pontifical University Antonianum, as well as director of a fledgling online program in Christian Spirituality. He has given spiritual retreats and academic conferences in the United States, Mexico, Italy, Venezuela, Brazil and Chile. He has published numerous articles for various academic and pastoral journals as well as the books *Greater than a Mother's Love: The Spirituality of Francis and Clare of Assisi* (2010), *Beyond Piety: The Christian Spiritual Life, Justice and Liberation* (2010), and *Mas allá de la devoción. La vida espiritual, la justicia y la liberación cristianas* (2014). His book *Tradiciones of Our Faith: A Resource for Intercultural Faith Sharing* (2012), received an International Latino Book Awards in 2014. Together with Church historian, artist and art restorer, Dr. Luigi Miranda and the artist Mathieu Vignon he coauthored *Il Santo Francesco: 28 tavole sulla vita di San Francesco* (2015). His has also written the Chapter on Spirituality Studies for the *Blackwell Companion to Latino/a Theology* (2015). As a spiritualogian, Gilberto focuses on finding the relationship between Christian spirituality, the social teaching of the Church and pastoral ministry by doing a socio- spiritual study of the classic texts of Christian spirituality.

Lauren F. Winner teaches Christian spirituality at Duke Divinity School. Her books include *Girl Meets God*, *Mudhouse Sabbath*, *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis,* and, most recently, a book on overlooked biblical tropes for God, *Wearing God*. She is completing a book called *Characteristic Damage*, which examines the effects of sin and damage on Christian practice. Lauren is an Episcopal priest, and serves as vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Louisburg, North Carolina.

*For Secretary-Treasurer:* Anita Houck is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana, where she has served as department chair and director of the Writing Proficiency Program. A former high school teacher and parish minister, Anita has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the SSCS since 2000 and is former Vice President of the College Theology Society. She is co-editor, with Mary Doak, of *Translating Religion* (Orbis 2013) and has published in journals such as *Spiritus*, *Religion and Literature*, *Human Development*, and *Teaching Theology and Religion.* Her research interests include laughter and religion; the spirituality of single life; and pedagogy, including assessment of learning.

*For the Nominations Committee:* Bernadette Flanagan PBVM (Ph.D. Milltown Institute, Dublin, IRELAND) has been Associate Professor of Spirituality and Director of Research at All Hallows College (Dublin City University). Before moving to All Hallows in 2008, she established MA and PhD programmes in Applied Spirituality in Milltown Institute, while also inaugurating a Department of Spirituality. Her publications include *Embracing Solitude: Women and New Monasticism* (Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2013); “Quaestio Divina: Research as Spiritual Practice.” *The Way: A Review of Christian Spirituality Published by British Jesuits*53, no.4 (Oct 2014)  126 -136; “Applied Spirituality: Reflections of an Educator.” *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* 11, no. 1. 38 – 50; “Women and Spirituality” In *The Bloomsbury Guide to Christian Spirituality*, eds. R. Woods & P. Tyler. London: Bloomsbury, 2012.  329 – 337; *Spiritual Capital: Spirituality in Practice in Christian Perspective*. England/USA: Ashgate, 2012 (Co-edited with MIchael O'Sullivan SJ); “Christian Spirituality and the Mystical Tradition.” In *Spirituality Across Disciplines*, ed. M. de Souza. Dodrecht: Springer, 2015 (forthcoming). She has addressed national and international conferences on various contemporary spirituality issues in the UK; USA; Switzerland; Belgium; Hungary; South Africa; Zambia and Czech Republic. In addition to extensive involvement in doctoral supervision and the development of research methodologies for studying spirituality, she has been taking organisational initiative to advance the academic study of spirituality in Europe. She has served the SSCS on the Board of Directors.

*For Co-Chair of the Christian Spirituality Group of the AAR:* Margaret Benefiel, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Shalem Institute ([www.Shalem.org](http://www.shalem.org/)), has served as Chair of the Academy of Management's Management, Spirituality, and Religion Group. She has held various leadership roles in Spiritual Directors International. Over 1,000 executives, managers, and other leaders have participated in her seminars and courses. Author *of Soul at Work*and *The Soul of a Leader*, and co-editor of *The Soul of Supervision*, Dr. Benefiel has also written for *The Leadership Quarterly, Management Communication Quarterly, Managerial Finance, Journal of Organizational Change Management, Organization, Personal Excellence, Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, America, Presence, The Way, Studies in Spirituality, Radical Grace*, and *Faith at Work*.

**Other Events at the AAR and Ways to Get Involved in the Society**

* **The Christian Spirituality Group of the AAR** offers four sessions during the Annual Meeting:
  + *The Life and Times of a Modern Mystic: On the Centenary of the Birth of Thomas Merton* (Joint Session of the Christian Spirituality Group and Mysticism Group) (A21-217)

Saturday, 1:00 PM-3:30 PM Hyatt-Dunwoody (Atlanta Conference Level)

* + *Preaching and Spirituality in the Work of Barbara Brown Taylor* (A22-264)

Sunday, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM Hyatt-Dunwoody (Atlanta Conference Level)

* + *Perspectives on Teresa of Avila on the 500th Anniversary of Her Birth* (A23-220)

Monday, 1:00 PM-3:30 PM Hilton-Grand Salon D (Level 2)

* + *Gendering Gospel Music* (Quad-Sponsored Session of the Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group and Christian Spirituality Group and Music and Religion Group and Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Group) (A23-318)

Monday, 4:00 PM-6:30 PM Hilton-Crystal CD (Level 1)

* **The SSCS Emerging Scholars Group** offers support, networking, and leadership opportunities for graduate students, recent graduates (typically, within six years), and pre-tenure faculty who have an interest in the field of Christian spirituality. For more information, contact Anita Houck at [ahouck@saintmarys.edu](mailto:bzen@ses.gtu.edu).
* **The SSCS Promotions Committee** seeks to promote the work of the Society and its members and to spread the good word about the benefits of SSCS membership. All creative ideas are welcome! Please join the group for its meeting Sunday, 1:00-2:00 p.m., in the Heritage Boardroom of the Hyatt Regency. For more information or to get involved, please contact Committee Chair Jonas Barciauskas at [jonas.barciauskas.1@bc.edu](mailto:jonas.barciauskas.1@bc.edu).
* **The SSCS International Relations Committee** meets today, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., in Atlanta Room 2 of the Sheraton Downtown. For more information, please contact Pieter de Villiers, Chair.
* **Christian Spirituality Studies** is a blog for sharing members’ research and teaching with other members and non-members. Posts include book notices, syllabi, articles, and abstracts. Find it through our website, and for more information or to submit a post, please contact our Web Editor, Jonas Barciauskas, at [jonas.barciauskas.1@bc.edu](mailto:jonas.barciauskas.1@bc.edu).
* **The SSCS Listserv** is a low-volume, members-only email service used to send out information about AAR/SBL events and our own conferences; to solicit nominations for leadership positions; and to inform members of members’ publications, calls for papers, job postings, and other Society business. Joining is the best way to keep up on what’s happening in the Society. To subscribe or update your information, visit the Member Resources section of our website, <http://sscs.press.jhu.edu/listserv/instructions.html>.

# SSCS Financial Report

**Fiscal Year 2015 (6/01/14-5/31/15)**

2014-2015*2013-2014*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Opening balance**: 6/01/14 | | |  | | **$10,088.31** | | *$7,911.48* |  |
| Income: |  | |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Dues |  | |  | $7,274.06 | | *$6,473.26* |  |
|  | Contributions (tax deductible) | |  | |  | 315.00 | *294.00* |  |
|  | Credit Union dividends | | | | | 0.71 | *0.68* |  |
|  | Member dinner contributions | | | | | 2716.00 |  |  |
|  |  | | Total income: | |  | $10,640.16 | *$6,998.94* |  |
| Society expenses: | | |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Postage | | | |  | $256.14 | *$243.01* |  |
|  | Photocopying | | | |  | 0 | *52.13* |  |
|  | Emerging Scholars | | | |  | 150.00 | *157.00* |  |
|  | Annual Meeting 2014 | | | |  | 4,136.93 [[1]](#footnote-2) | *1,088.00* |  |
|  | Annual Meeting 2015 | | | |  | 0 | *170.00* |  |
|  | Stipend (Web Editor) | | | |  | 500.00 | *500.00* |  |
|  | Stipend (Secretary/Treasurer) | |  | |  | 1,000.00 | *0* |  |
|  | Student salaries | |  | | | 0 | *40.00* |  |
|  | Founders’ Circle Award | |  | | | 0 | *0* |  |
|  | Illinois corporate filing | |  | | | 13.00 | *10.00* |  |
|  | Bank fees (checkbook) | |  | | | 0 | *51.97* |  |
|  | Promotions Committee | |  | | | 100.00 |  |  |
|  |  | | Subtotal Society expenses: | | | $6,156.07 | *$3,312.11* |  |
| *Spiritus* expenses: | | |  | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stipend (Editor) | |  | |  | $1,000.00 | *$500.00* |  |
|  | Stipend (Book Editor) | | | |  | 500.00 | *$500.00* |  |
|  |  | | Subtotal *Spiritus* expenses: | | | $1,500.00 | *$1,000.00* |  |
|  |  | | Total expenses | |  | $7, 656.07. | *$4,812.11* |  |
|  | | | Net gain | | $2,984.09 | | *$2,186.83* |  |
| **Closing balance**: 5/31/15 | | |  | | **$13,072.40** | | *$10,088.31* |  |

**Membership** (student members incl. in totals) [gratis subscriptions not incl. in totals] *US-Canada-Europe-other*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2014** | **2013** | **2012** | **2011** | **2010** | **2006** |
| Individual |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| US | 318 (50) [5] | 380 (63) [6] | 434 (83) [5] | 381 (59) [5] | 401 [13] | 433 (65) [4] | 561 (59) |
| Canada | 23 (9) | 22 (6) | 20 (2) | 20 (5) | 22 | 22 (7) | 21 (3) |
| Europe | 24 (3) [1] | 30 (6) [1] | 35 (8) [1] | 34 (6) [1] | 31 [7] | 33 (5) [1] | 33 (5) |
| Other | 25 (3) | 27 (3) | 26 (2) | 23 (4) | 27 | 26 (5) | 16 (1) |
| Total | 394 (65) [6] | 462 (78) [7] | 521 (95) [6] | 458 (74) [6] | 481 [20] | 514 (82) [5] | 630 (68) |
| Institutional | 106  *77-7-7-15* | 106  *77-7-7-15* | 111  *80-7-7-17* | 114  *84 -7-8-15* | 120 *88/ 6-9-17* | 116  *85- 67-18* | 126 |

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of**

**The Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality**

Saturday, November 21, 2015 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Atlanta Room 4, Sheraton Downtown

Atlanta, Georgia

In attendance: Jonas Barciauskas, Margaret Benefiel, Steven Chase, Lisa Dahill, Renata Furst, Anita Houck, Francis McAloon, Bernie McGinn, Barbara Quinn, Glen Scorgie, Pieter de Villiers, Claire Wolfteich, Lauren Winner, Glenn Young.

The meeting came to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. Welcome of new members: President Claire Wolfteich welcomed new Board members: At-large Directors Gilberto Cavazos-González *in absentia* and Lauren Winner; new Vice President/President-elect Pieter de Villiers; new Editor of Spiritus Steven Chase; and incoming Co-Chair of the AAR Christian Spirituality Group Margaret Benefiel *in absentia*. She thanked At-large Director Francis McAloon for taking on the concurrent role of Liaison Member, completing Steven’s term.
2. Thanks to members rotating off: Claire thanked members completing their terms: at-large Directors Pieter de Villiers and Renata Furst, new Past-President Lisa Dahill, Past-President Bernie McGinn, Editor Douglas Christie, and outgoing Co-Chair of the AAR Christian Spirituality Group Timothy Robinson.
3. Reports
   1. International Relations Committee (Pieter de Villiers, Chair). The group met 12:45-1:45 today and discussed two main items:
      1. Coordinating networks and locating other resources for our members, including libraries and faculty. The Titus Brandsma Institute in Nijmejen has the staff in place to help with this project, though the SSCS itself will coordinate these networks.
      2. Securing a reduced dues rate for those living in nations classified by the World Economic Forum as developing countries (non-OECD). We could simply use that list and offer membership at $15 or less (the AAR rate is $15, as opposed to $105).
   2. Promotions Committee (Jonas Barciauskas, Chair): Given the decline in membership, it may be time to try new approaches or focus for now on international membership. The IRC discussed the website, which could include information on other networks for the study of spirituality. Jonas encouraged us to learn coding, which will become more a part of digital humanities.
   3. *Spiritus* (Steven Chase, Editor): Steven has spoken with JHUP about doing a survey of members, and they may be able to help. They are concerned about subscriptions. Jonas noted that the journal is electronically available through Project MUSE, but Steven said that despite this they’re concerned about the decline in subscriptions. A survey would be helpful in addressing the decline. Steven noted that the first issue he’s edited is now being finished and doesn’t have a theme but several fine essays. In addition to international spirituality, future themes, as Steven announced this morning, will include spirituality and sustainability, an area in which this year’s Presidential address is prophetic; spirituality and health care; and spirituality and formation and practice. Barb Quinn suggested that some asked for the pedagogical panel from last night to be published; Steven is happy to contact the presenters.
   4. Searchable membership database: Anita Houck reports that JHUP lists the benefits of SSCS membership on our renewal forms, and over the past years one of these listed perks has been access to a database of members that is searchable by interest. This function has not been available for some time. JHUP says it will work to see what is possible, so that item was removed from the list of benefits on this year’s form. Jonas and Anita have discussed whether it would be helpful to have a list of interests from which members choose. This week, Robert White-Goodman at JHUP said this was “not a priority,” and Anita responded by making a case for it.
4. Action items (Claire)
   1. Christian Spirituality Group sessions
      1. Appointment of Steering Committee: This can include up to five members in addition to the Co-Chairs. The possibility was raised of including a member of the Editorial Board; having one At-large director and one member of the Editorial Board might work well. However, in order to assure that all members of the Steering Committee will respond quickly to Committee business, it seems best not to appoint people to the Committee if they’re not here to agree to serve. The work requires a three-week intensive period of work in March. 35-75 is the usual range of proposals, with 40-50 being the norm. Members evaluate the submissions on a 1-5 scale and then the Co-Chairs assemble the panels. Committee members review proposals blindly; the Co-Chairs can see the identity of panelists, which allows attention to diversity. Frank, Lauren, and Gilberto were appointed; Elizabeth could be asked if she doesn’t have additional Board responsibilities.
      2. Topics for 2016: Margaret reviewed the suggestions from this morning. We collaborated with the Latin@ group three or four years ago.
   2. SSCS events for 2016
      1. Friday ideas and appointment of committee
         1. Ideas: Renata explained that Hispanic Theological Initiative will be inviting thirty different schools that have supported them; they’ll be having a large dinner at Oblate. She sees it as a wonderful opportunity to collaborate, since they tend to support people to study theology rather than spirituality. Joanne Rodriguez would be the contact for HTI. Renata was the editor of their journal, which published some articles on Hispanic spirituality. Many treatments of Hispanic spirituality stay on the surface, focusing on elements like ritual and food, and could probe more deeply, applying theory. Migration, detention centers, and children are urgent issues in San Antonio. Topics focused on the U.S. might not support our internationalization efforts, but U.S. politics do have global connections. Other points of discussion including looking at relevant spiritual themes in the Bible (e.g., Mary Frohlich’s mention of the stranger and Sandra Schneiders’s work on the Samaritan woman); remembering that we needn’t schedule all our programming on timely topics; moving beyond a perspective of immigration in terms of injustice to include the experience of those with ambiguous belonging (to whom do I belong? Who am I authentically?), which might provide a convergence with contemporary topics; and the importance of differentiating any session next year from the session offered with Dan Groody in San Diego a few years ago.
         2. Appointment of committee: The committee will include Renata, Barb, and two other people they’ll find on location; Glen is willing to help as a consultant.
   3. International Relations Committee (Claire and Pieter): Pieter’s position as VP and Chair of the IRC raised the question of whether to have a more structured relationship with the Board. There is no tenure for membership of the IRC. The IRC and Board should have separate leadership, so Pieter should not serve as IRC Chair when he becomes President. The IRC should not be under the Promotions Committee, since their purposes are sufficiently different. The VP could be part of the IRC. At this point, communication between the two could be more effective. Because the IRC is just developing, Pieter noted that it’s difficult to make a specific recommendation to the Board about polity, and perhaps this should be put in place next year. For this year, the VP will be a Liaison Member of the IRC. The Chair will also attend the meetings but not be a member of the Board.
   4. Increasing accessibility of Board of Directors meetings for international members: Skype could allow international members to participate in Board meetings, since we don’t have the scholarship money to make their travel possible. Time zones would affect the scheduling of our meetings. If we want to elect international members, we should consider accessibility via technology. Pieter reported that Skype worked very well during the IRC meeting today, so that Noel Burke could participate. Anita noted that the increased financial resources the Society now has would make it possible to give travel scholarships--perhaps 2 or 3 of $500--but we’d need to decide whether to use this, for instance, for Directors’ travel or scholarships for international scholars with very limited means.
   5. Proposal for income-linked dues structure where needed for international scholars (appended). Noel Burke and Pieter both thought $15 was the maximum that would be viable in developing countries. This would be a membership rate; we would need to work with JHUP on how the journal could be accessible. Another way the IRC discussed to make SSCS more accessible would be to offer an institutional affiliation, so that members of a given society could all become affiliates of the SSCS if the society were willing to pay a fee, decided on a sliding scale. Renata noted that Argentina’s society may be a likely affiliate. The questions include what would be sustainable, allow accessibility, and help us increase our international membership. Both avenues could be offered to help people join the Society as soon as possible. Claire listed the nations considered high-income by the AAR. Anita suggested we could ask about giving back dues if JHUP balks, though this will put us back where we were before the dues increase in terms of our own limited programming. Not all interested people would have internet access, so print might be more useful. Renata noted that in South America, many libraries are building their collections electronically, because the mails are unreliable. Pieter suggested that backdated copies could be made available. Claire moved that the Board approve both of these approaches on principle, allowing negotiations with JHUP. A fee of $15 would be appropriate, $10 for students. Pieter suggested members of affiliated organizations might pay the student fee. Anita suggested JHUP must have gone through this process before and may have approaches to suggest. She also said we could consider purchasing subscriptions for institutions in developing nations ($130 a year).
5. Future bi-Annual conference planning: Hong Kong has been a possibility, but Annie Ng thought that 2017 might be too soon given their institutional resources. Bernie will be participating in a conference on Teresa in Hong Kong, sponsored by four institutions, and can evaluate the possibilities. Rebecca Giselbrecht has proposed hosting a conference at the new Center at the University of Zurich. They can partner with the Zurich faculty and may be able to get government support. The Center is outside the city and transportation is difficult after an international flight. Pieter just visited and found strong faculty very supportive of the idea, as well as excellent infrastructure. Rebecca also has strong contacts in Eastern Europe. A conference there could support European scholars. The time proposed would be June, perhaps May. It might be helpful to connect the organizers with Titus Brandsma. It was asked whether hosting some biannual meetings in North America would be appropriate, to allow many scholars, especially younger scholars, to attend; it might be possible to alternate U.S. and international locations. North American scholars are able to attend AAR. Lisa proposed that, as Past President, she would be interested in continuing the conversation initiated by her address, and perhaps such an event could take place in between the biannual conferences. Margaret suggested that 2017, as the anniversary of the 95 Theses, would make meeting in Europe very timely. These could be more informal conversations, as the week-long sessions Evan Howard hosts for international scholars. Renata noted that Oblate has a renewal center on campus that can accommodate sixty scholars. Lisa has energy for the topic and would be happy to work on finding out interest. Action: Claire will be in conversation with Rebecca to plan a Zurich conference.
6. New Promotions Committee Chair: Jonas will be stepping down as Chair in June, though he’ll be continuing as web editor if needed. Anita asked whether the Committee was still needed, given that we now have other outreach activities--the IRC, ES, Facebook.
7. Emerging Scholars leadership and planning for upcoming year: The group is important and we need to find leadership. The idea of having a Board member connected to the group would be helpful, as Anita and Bernie noted, but a senior scholar not on the Board could also be recruited. The Board agreed that Shannon McAllister and George Faithful would be excellent leaders. Claire will approach them.
8. Ease of donations and targeted donations: David Perrin had suggested we look into these options; at this point we don’t have the functionality and JHUP hasn’t gotten back to us. However, we’ll ask for a “Donate” button on the front page.
9. Regional meetings proposal (appended): The Board is supportive of the proposal. We could announce that small grants are available for any local groups that which to meet.
10. Other business: The Board discussed the need for a structure for publicizing the contest, reviewing submissions, and awarding the prize. Four entries were received this year; the committee consisted of past Presidents (Ann Astell and Stephanie Paulsell) and Ralph Keen, former At-large Director, who served as Chair. Ralph suggests clarifying that “the committee or its chair, in collaboration with the Secretary/Treasurer, will prepare announcements with deadlines” for the contest. That is approved. The contest will remain biannual to coincide with our stand-alone conference.
11. Adjournment

Board dinner: 7:30 at Alma Cocina, 191 Peachtree St NE, 404-968-9662, under Claire’s name (Claire’s number: 978-518-1746).

**Proposal for Discounted membership rates and journal subscription for emerging countries**

It is proposed that the Board consider this for the SSCS as well. Both the SBL and the AAR offer discounted rates for membership ($15 instead of $105, and $10 for students) and for their journals, to members of certain emerging countries listed on the World Bank criteria for  income. Members from these countries also have free access to the archives and can order the journals at a reduced rate (JBL $35 plus shipping). Cf. <http://www.sbl-site.org/membership>, and, for the AAR <https://www.aarweb.org/membership/membership-categories-and-rates>). Last year the proposal for a similar arrangement for the SSCS was tabled, but was not considered because of time constraints.

**Proposal for SSCS Regional Groups**

The following text, SSCS Regional Groups, is a draft document outlining the ground rules for forming and running regional SSCS groups. Most of the wording is taken from the By-Laws of the College Theology Society. The purpose of such groups would be to give emerging scholars and others unable to attend national meetings to learn about the SSCS and to share their research with colleagues. This proposal is meant to start the discussion of the feasibility of regional groups for the SSCS by the Board and not as a finished document. It is followed by an invitation to an initial CTS regional group meeting which can serve as example of a kick-off event.

**SSCS Regional Groups**

In addition to the national meeting, there shall be regional meetings of the members of the Society in their respective regions. These meetings shall be under the direction of a regional chairperson and/or regional planning committee. Regions can include areas outside the U.S.

A Region in the Society may be established at the recommendations of members of the Society residing within a given area. In the latter case the recommendation is to be submitted to the Board of Directors through the SSCS Secretary. The organization of any region must be approved by the Board of Directors.

a) Regions shall organize along the lines determined most effective to their membership. It is recommended that each region function under a chairperson, a secretary-treasurer, and a planning board. Elections within regions shall be determined by the members of the regions. In a region which has become inactive, the Board of Directors may appoint an acting chairperson to function until the region can hold its own elections.

b) Responsibility for raising revenue to finance regional activities shall remain within the provenance of the region. The Board of Directors may contribute seed money to help start a regional group.

c) Announcements and reports of regional meetings of the Society as well as elections shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Society.

**A Sample Regional Group Invitation (borrowed from the College Theology Society)**

Please join us for the first annual Boston Area Regional College Theology Society Gathering THIS Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 5:45-7:30pm. All theology faculty and doctoral students are welcome! We will meet at Cityside Bar (www.citysidebar.com) just off the B & C green lines and the 86 bus line. Free appetizers will be provided, and the bar will be open if you'd like to purchase alcoholic beverages.

This will be a great time to learn more about the College Theology Society (www.collegetheology.org) and to network with current CTS members, both faculty and students, from many different institutions in the Boston area. Starting at 6pm we will have a brief presentation from three local theologians addressing bourgeoning issues in creation and ecotheology—the topics of CTS's annual conference next May, entitled, “An Unexpected Wilderness: Seeking God on a Changing Planet.” The presenters will be Dr. John Hart from Boston University, Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid from Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry, and Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM from Boston College. The presentation will be followed by more conversation and informal socializing.

We sincerely hope you can join us! If you have any questions please contact Katherine Greiner (Katherine.greiner@bc.edu) or Jessica Coblentz (Jessica.coblentz@bc.edu).

This event is generously sponsored by the College Theology Society, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry's Student Forum, Boston College Theology Department, and the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

1. When member contributions (income) are subtracted, the total expense is $1420.93. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)