

Black Scholars Matter Task Force

In June, the SBL Council formed the Black Scholars Matter Task Force with the following members on it:

Efrain Agosto, Chair of Council
Gay L. Byron, former member of Council
Tat-siong Benny Liew, Chair-elect of Council
Raj Nadella, Chair of CUREMP
Hugh Page, member of Council
Adele Reinhartz, Task Force Chair and President
James VanderKam, Vice President
John F. Kutsko, Executive Director, *ex officio*

The Task Force's work is being facilitated by a consultant, Dr. Sharon Watson Fluker, who has a distinguished career leading change toward diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. Dr. Watson Fluker is working with the SBL Executive Director and the Black Scholars Task Force to improve the environment of support for Africana biblical scholars in order to support their careers in the academy and their impact on the academy.

The work of the Black Scholars Matter Task Force and consultation will include programs, resources, and tools for creating *an environment of support* for Africana biblical scholars. This work is critically important as we acknowledge the backdrop of the global *Black Lives Matter (BLM)* movement and its call for fair and equitable policies bringing an end to police brutality. In addition, this movement calls us into a deeper account for the remaining challenges caused by systematic and institutional racism. It is our hope that this work will bring us all closer to making this a reality.