

2015 MIDWEST REGION SBL/AOS/ASOR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

February 8, 2015

1. Approval of the minutes from the February 9, 2014 meeting—**approved**
2. New Officer Nominations—Midwest SBL (editorial and SRSC slots for two-year terms)—**approved**
 - *Conversations with the Biblical World (Proceedings)* journal NT editor (second term)—Russell Sisson
 - *Conversations with the Biblical World (Proceedings)* journal HB editor (new slot)—Lowell Handy (our region will add a second NT editorial slot in 2016)
 - affirm Darrell T. Cosden as coordinator for the Student Religious Studies Conference
 - recognize new SBL Student Advisory Board representative J. David Woodington
3. Financial report for AOS—forthcoming to AOS members
4. Financial report for SBL—**approved**
5. Student Religious Studies Conference report—**14 papers; 28 in attendance**
6. Graduate Student Paper Competition
 - 2015 honoree is Joshua Noble (University of Notre Dame; abstract on p. 31; \$300 prize)
 - only one award presented this year
7. Regional Scholar Nominations
 - 2014 nominee James W. Barker selected as national honoree (our third consecutive national winner)
 - 2015 nominee to be determined by RS committee (Troy W. Martin, Eric F. Mason, Clare K. Rothschild, and Jeffrey Stackert ; regional award is \$400)
8. Date, location, and theme for 2016 meeting and future plans
 - February 5-7, at Olivet Nazarene University; 80th anniversary for Midwest SBL
 - theme is “Hellenism and the Septuagint, selected by Midwest SBL president P. Richard Choi
 - confirmed speakers include David deSilva (plenary), Margaret Mitchell (Regional Spotlight), and Jeffrey Stackert (SBL Book Review session)
 - 2017 will be centennial for regional AOS; theme concerns time; location and date TBD
9. Resolution—**prepared by Richard E. Averbek:**

Be it resolved that on this unseasonably warm and sunny winter weekend in February the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature, American Oriental Society, and American Schools of Oriental Research have been treated with much kindness, care, and generosity by the Olivet Nazarene University,

Bourbonnais, Illinois. We thank President Dr. John Bowling for the gracious hospitality of the University, and we thank Dean Dr. Carl Leth of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry for kindly hosting us. The Societies want the administration, faculty, staff, and students of ONU to know how much we appreciate their hospitality this year and in all the many years we have held our meetings here. Thank you for this special gift and blessing from you to us.

We especially thank Professor Kevin Mellish of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry who has taken charge of the local arrangements in a most gracious manner, along with Drs. Eddie Ellis and Larry Murphy, New Testament professors at the School of Theology and Christian Ministry. Special thanks are also due to Mrs. Jean Bakke, Administrative Assistant of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry for her very fine administrative assistance along the way up to and through the time of the meeting. Special thanks also to the ONU Physical Plant, Food Service, and Information Technology/Media Departments.

We owe special thanks to Eric F. Mason the Midwest SBL Regional Coordinator for the very fine program he arranged and managed this year, and the Midwest AOS Secretary/Treasurer JoAnn Scurlock for her good work in arranging the AOS sessions. Finally, we thank the publishers and book vendors Anselm Academic, Baker Academic, *Conversations with the Biblical World*, Eisenbrauns, Fortress Press, Glossahouse, IVP Academic, SBL Press, Westminster John Knox Press, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, and Zondervan for their presence at the meeting and the essential services they render to our members.

10. Other Business—executive committee is considering contingency plans in case weather forces cancellation of a meeting