

Call for Papers:
Annual Central States Regional Meeting of the
Society of Biblical Literature

Date: March 11-12, 2018

Location: Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
Columbia, Missouri 65203

Keynote Speaker for the 2018 Meeting:

Dr. Barbara Rossing

Professor New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago.
Ecology and the Book of Revelation

This is a very relaxed, collegial, meeting of those interested in some aspect of graduate or undergraduate level Biblical studies, in this region of Missouri or adjacent states. **Students are encouraged to present papers.** Please submit a proposal of 250 words to the appropriate section chair, below, and students need to include the name of a sponsoring scholar. Some chairs may want the complete paper.

DEADLINE for submissions to be received by section chair: DECEMBER 1, 2017 (with the exception of TAK [see below]).

Include the following personal information: name (as it should appear in the program), mailing address, institutional affiliation (as it should appear in the program), phone and fax number, e-mail.

Hebrew Bible: Dr. Roger Cotton at email address cottonr@evangel.edu; Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, Mo.

The Hebrew Bible section invites proposals dealing with the texts of the Hebrew Bible and their interpretation. Also welcome are papers that concentrate on related extra-textual matters, such as historical backgrounds and culture, related Near Eastern literature, and history of interpretation.

Gender Issues: Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, or Dr. Leah Rediger Schultz, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E Lockwood AVE, Saint Louis, MO 63119 (Ph): (314) 918-2587;

ltaylo@eden.edu

Proposals are invited for one session dealing with topics that relate Gender Studies to the interpretation of the Bible (be that biblical texts or loci in the history of interpretation of biblical texts). Proposals are especially welcome that engage critical theory about gender in its relation to biblical interpretation. In addition, proposals are welcome from constituency based critical perspectives related to Gender Studies (e.g., Feminist, Womanist, Queer theory) that engage in the interpretation of biblical texts and/or the history of interpretation.

New Testament Studies: Dr. Mark D. Given, Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897 Ph: (417) 836-6261; E-mail: markgiven@missouristate.edu. Email is preferred.

Proposals are invited for at least two open sessions dealing with any topic pertaining to the New Testament and related literature. Related literature includes texts of Second Temple Judaism. Proposals are also invited for a special session devoted to “The New Testament and Ethics, Past and Present.” Proposed papers can address ethics in the original historical contexts or subsequent ethical and unethical uses of NT texts to the present.

Pedagogy: please send via e-mail attachment to Jim Wilson (jim.wilson@asburyseminary.edu) and Brendon Benz (benzb@william.jewell.edu)

“*Virtual Teaching in a Virtual World?*” The Pedagogy section invites proposals for brief (5-10 minute) presentations that will contribute to a robust discussion on how to improve instruction both inside and outside the classroom. A topic of interest that participants may want to pursue is their experience teaching online. Does teaching in a virtual world imply virtual teaching? What strategies have you used to overcome drawbacks to online instruction? How have you leveraged the benefits associated with it? How successful have you been in replicating your face-to-face teaching methods in the online environment? Do you think replication is even necessary? Examples may range from instructional techniques to assigned student projects, and may go beyond the scope of one’s online experience. Proposals should include a title and brief abstract (no more than 250 words).

Religious Studies: Send Proposals, via email, to Brad Chance, William Jewell College, chanceb@william.jewell.edu

The Religious Studies section invites proposals (including title and an abstract of 250 words or less) focusing on interpretation of the Bible and/or other sacred texts and traditions, drawing on fields outside biblical studies (e.g., philosophy, sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, literary studies, and classics).

Theta Alpha Kappa: Submit papers, via email, to Dr. Milton Horne, William Jewell College: hornem@william.jewell.edu. Proposals should be received by DEC 15, 2017.

STUDENT MEMBERS OF TAK chapters in the Central States Region are invited to submit papers for presentation at the regional meeting. All topics relating to religious studies are acceptable. Submissions should come from the TAK advisor and include the presenter's name and contact information plus the entire paper sent electronically in PDF format. Graduate student papers are welcome as space is available, but only undergraduate papers are eligible for the award (currently \$100 given by the national office of TAK)

If your proposal does not appear to fit one of the sections above, please contact the **Regional Coordinator**, Milton Horne: hornem@william.jewell.edu.

Regional Scholar Awards: \$150

Junior members of SBL (no more than 5 years teaching in a tenure-track position), women or under-represented minority members are encouraged to apply. The paper must be accepted by one of the section chairs for inclusion in the 2016 regional program. A letter of application, the notice of the section chair’s acceptance, and an up-to-date vita must be submitted along with the full text of the paper to **Dr. Victor Matthews** by **February 9, 2018** (College of Humanities and Public Affairs, Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897). Electronic applications are preferred, and should be directed to Dr. Matthews (VictorMatthews@missouristate.edu). Regional Scholars are eligible for a **National Award** (minimum of \$1,000 per award, see the national website, for details) and possible inclusion at the national meeting. Announcement of the award will be made at the business meeting during the evening banquet.

Student Presentation Awards: \$100

Candidates must be student members of SBL, and proof of membership must be submitted with the

application. Candidates must have a paper proposal accepted by a Central States SBL section, and candidates are responsible for obtaining verification of acceptance. Applicants should send a letter of application, a copy of the notification that the paper was accepted, and the full text of the paper by email attachment no later than **February 9, 2018** to **Dr. Victor Matthews** (College of Humanities and Public Affairs, Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897; (VictorMatthews@missouristate.edu)). Please direct any questions to Dr. Matthews. Announcement of the award will be made at the evening banquet and Monday's business meeting.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She loves to teach and preach about the Bible, including the Bible's role in public life. An avid environmentalist, Rossing is involved with environmental initiatives at the seminary. Rossing received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College, the master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and the doctor of theology degree from Harvard University. She served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan, Wash., and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School.

Rossing has lectured and preached widely, including synod assemblies and global mission events for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as ecumenical theological conferences. She has served on the executive committee and council of the Lutheran World Federation (2003-2010), and chaired the Lutheran World Federation's theology and studies committee. She currently serves on the advisory committee for *The Lutheran Magazine*.

All program participants must register for the meeting. Details will be available later.