The 2019 Society Report lists many, but not all, of the accomplishments this membership organization does by members for members, with the help of staff primarily located in Atlanta, Georgia. I encourage you to read this year’s report through and through and to keep up with SBL newsletters and emails that announce important information throughout the year.

SBL has three newsletters (SBL, SBL Press, and Bible Odyssey) and three Twitter accounts (@SBLsite, @SBLPress, and @bibleodyssey). The Society Report summarizes the year, but much happens throughout the year that deserves your attention and interest, and we encourage your feedback.

This year I also encourage you to go back to the 2018 Society Report, which included a full report on SBL’s strategic financial plan (see pp. 8–14). That plan demonstrates not just an attention to the organization’s sustainability, stability, and growth but SBL’s impact through ever-increasing programs and services to members as well as the general public.

SBL serves widening constituencies: its over 8,000 members are increasingly international, and its public engagement site (BibleOdyssey.org) now reaches over four million users each year. SBL is driven by you. Your investment in its future begins with an appreciation of the breadth of programs and services in order for you to help your organization do still more in the academy and the public square.

John F. Kutsko
Executive Director
Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest international, interdisciplinary, learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society has published the flagship journal of biblical scholarship, the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, since 1881 and has been a member of the American Council of Learned Societies since 1929. With a membership of over 8,400 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and interested individuals from over one hundred countries, the Society is more vibrant than ever before. The mission of the SBL is a simple one: to “foster biblical scholarship.” It could not be carried out without the more than 1,000 member volunteers who donate their time and talents to this mission. This year we have more volunteers than ever before, as the Society continues to grow and flourish.

The SBL offers its members diverse resources in order to accomplish our mission. Many of these are tangible, like the diverse electronic resources that promote research and teaching. These include, but are by no means limited to, the entire backlist of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and two open-access book series. Members of the Society have access to the member directory and the Program Book for our Annual and International Meetings, allowing them to link with other scholars who share common interests in the field of biblical studies. We provide an annual Jobs Report tracking employment in biblical, religious, and theological studies. The SBL Font Foundation developed specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individual scholars at no cost. We support women and underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in the profession with mentoring and recruiting programs. Special tools and sessions are provided for students and those outside the academy. The Society also fosters biblical scholarship through a variety of publishing partnerships.

For over a century SBL has provided, through a system of congresses, a chance for its members to gather and exchange ideas, to network and form relationships. These dynamic meetings allow scholars to renew relationships with colleagues and mentors and to meet and interact with the “great names” in biblical scholarship. The meetings include smaller, intimate regional meetings, the diverse and growing International Meeting, and the largest gathering of scholars in a single place, our Annual Meeting. SBL’s meetings keep scholars active and up-to-date, provide them access to the latest tools and resources, and expose members to diverse subjects and ideas. Special sessions are provided for students to help prepare them for their future in biblical studies. Members are provided training and resources for creating resumes and have an opportunity to apply for job postings listed on our website, as well as apply and be interviewed at the Annual Meeting at the career center and to network with other scholars to learn about other employment opportunities.

Members of SBL have opportunities to publish papers in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, write for Bible Odyssey, write a review for the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and submit books for possible publication with SBL Press. Members receive substantial discounts on SBL Press books at the congresses and also receive substantial discounts from affiliate organizations on their journals and books.

The Society offers its members opportunities to apply for many awards and travel grants.

- A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship
- Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History
- Regional Scholar Awards
- International Travel Awards

Besides these many tangible benefits of membership, SBL offers many other benefits that are no less important, if less concrete. The Society is the oldest academic organization dedicated to biblical scholarship. As a member of the academy, any scholar or interested individual by definition needs to be a member of SBL and to be represented. Membership in the Society allows you to be counted as a colleague with your peers in the guild. It is an important professional credential. SBL spent over a year preparing an in-depth member profile survey. With this aggregated information, we can assist departments and institutions in creating new positions or making the case for keeping faculty positions open. With this data we can approach funding agencies to develop programs and services that strengthen the field and give new opportunities to biblical scholars. Through the member survey, we can better see trends, respond to them, and more effectively allocate SBL resources to help define and shape worldwide biblical scholarship.
Redefining Success: Reflections on a Nontraditional Academic Journey

Tyler R. Yoder, Instructor of Humanities, Culver Academies

I had life mapped out:

1. Follow B.A. with an M.A.
2. Present at conferences and publish in top-tier journals.
3. Complete a Ph.D. and arrive at the glorious destination of a tenure-track university post teaching a 3-3.

I inherited this career map from others and followed it sedulously. The destination, however, was elusive. If the standard Ph.D. to tenure-track post represents the litmus test for success, count me a failure.

But maps often generate meaning in only one dimension. Despite my familiarity with its markers and pathways, the career map I inherited required a change in perspective, an expanded and multidimensional compass to define and pursue “success.”

I applied to doctoral programs in the autumn of 2009 while finishing my coursework and living the anxiety-filled roller-coaster of substitute teaching. My wife and I rarely discussed long-term employment postgraduation, given its inherently speculative nature, but we tacitly expected a tenure-track position to emerge at some point.

As I finished coursework, presented papers at SBL, discussed research with peers and professors, submitted essays to journals, finished a dissertation, and secured interviews before graduation, the focus remained fixed on that tenure-line destination. The trip was on course; all roadways appeared clear.

But if everyone was using the same map, aiming for the same objective seemingly on autopilot, what would warn us about traffic alerts or detours? Pitfalls hidden around the corner? Reality would eventually set in. With every passing year, as the SBL jobs report honestly informed me, the pickings grew slimmer, and the competition grew more competitive as the surplus of starving Ph.D.’s duked it out for a few golden tickets.

Graduation did not arrive with the long-hoped-for employment. I knew I wasn’t the only desperate traveler left on the outside looking in. But I had never oriented my vision to consider an outcome different from a tenured professorship. There were rumblings of Ph.D.’s in the humanities across the country seeking out bureaucratic jobs or going into business. (Business? Wasn’t that located somewhere between the third and fourth circles of hell?) I listened surreptitiously to the stories I heard, feeling woefully unequipped to know where to start. But unwaveringly I balanced the responsibilities of a stay-at-home dad, adjunct professor, and young scholar trying steadfastly to reach my destination.

Then, unexpectedly, I caught a break. A tenure-line position? Hardly—but a nine-month postdoc in Baltimore kept hope alive.

Two months before the grant ran dry, on the heels of the devastating blow of a failed campus interview, an existential crisis hit. That sounds overdramatic. It probably is. But questions that cut to the core of who I am bubbled up in me. If my definition of success was being a professor…

… have I wasted the last decade of my life?

… how do I explain this to my family? Can I even provide for them?

… what does this say about me as a person, not to mention a scholar?

… is there any way to salvage or, dare I say, redeem this “closed door?”

It just so happened that our flat in Baltimore stood a stone’s throw away from a private secondary school. In the midst of my crisis, I was reminded of this institution and reached out to a friend who had connections in the Baltimore independent
school network. What ensued was a conversation that captured my interest but did not relieve my doubt and shame. This was a high school, not Johns Hopkins.

Saddled by anxiety that a job in secondary education would seal my fate, precluding me from the only destination I “knew,” I applied for an open history position there. I heard nothing back. While insult met injury, and while the road dead ended, it opened up a new vista on the map: There were scores of other relevant openings across the country that I had yet to discover. My success rate on the higher ed market hadn’t exactly culminated in confidence, and perhaps that was something to learn from.

Close proximity to family drew me to pursue an opening at a boarding school in the Cleveland area. I missed the deadline, but the possibility led me to consider another opportunity in the Midwest. I still can’t help but smile when I recall how the conversation went:

“Cathy, I’m nearly finished with this application.”

“Oh yeah? What type of school? Where is it?”

“A boarding school. Middle of nowhere Indiana.”

“Don’t even bother, Tyler.”

Typically I adhere to my wife’s advice, but I’d invested too much time and effort in the application to abandon it. Two days later I was invited to interview via phone, followed up by a second chat a week later. And while still catching my breath, I somehow ended up on campus, fielding what seemed like a merciless barrage of questions from faculty and teaching a lesson on debt peonage in the ancient Near East (obviously!) to a surprisingly curious collection of sixteen-year-olds. Many questions revolved around instruction, each one a jolt. Others focused on ideas—big, complex, and captivating ideas— that I could already imagine integrating fruitfully in a classroom by drawing on my own training.

Even after interviewing and receiving an offer, doubts inside my head lingered about being a high school teacher and the “waste” of my training. I wouldn’t be teaching courses on Hebrew or Akkadian, ancient Near Eastern history, or Western Civilization. But as I read the required texts for this course during the summer before my new position began, I was invigorated by ideas and questions that presupposed and applied the fundamental questions we study in the Humanities, and to which I had devoted more than a decade of post-secondary education. And though I may never have articulated my educational journey in humanities parlance, the nature of the questions I have often asked in my research—about texts and meaning, traditions and beliefs, politics and values—cut to the heart of human identity.

The rest is, as they say, history. I am now in the middle of my fourth year as an instructor of Humanities. Looking back on my serpentine journey, I’m humbled by the journey itself and the process of personal exploration, doubt, regret, expectations, and decision-making.

I know what some might think. What were the trade-offs? What did I compromise? A private boarding school? How elite. But this is my story, not a lesson plan. I don’t have to remind any of us in the Humanities that we are an endangered species. Were I to have ended up at an Ivy League or Oxbridge or another elite institution, or even at a state institution with a pension (R1 or not), well, I wouldn’t even be telling this story. I would have earned the coin of the realm, and some might even assume that I deserved that coin. But I hope now that I wouldn’t have then assumed that about myself. I grew up in a middle-class environment, educated in public schools; where I teach now wouldn’t have been an option for me. I think about that a lot, and it influences how and what I teach.

I teach the Humanities to kids with open minds in a community of colleagues. Instead of teaching undergraduate surveys, upper-level electives, or graduate seminars on field-specific subject matter on a university campus, I now facilitate learning environments that track comparable material for students several years younger. Along the way, I’ve been empowered to learn alongside my students and partner with brilliant, like-minded colleagues, acquiring the equivalence of a practical M.Ed. We read, discuss, and debate texts together, prompting vulnerability in productive learning spaces. We observe one another teach. We foster cross-class experiences, where students dramatize plays, participate in writing workshops and sympo-
sia, and learn from teachers who contemplate what class could and should be, not out of necessity but the thrill and heuristic benefit of collaboration. At the same time, the institution champions the autonomy of individual instructors.

Such autonomy has offered me the freedom to integrate familiar, specialized material into my upper-level classes (e.g., Genesis; the Epic of Gilgamesh), which has, in turn, expanded my interests in different directions (e.g., Kierkegaard; the Bhagavad Gita; behavioral economics). In core Humanities courses, I am encouraged to think creatively and introspectively about the learning experience I facilitate. Over the last three years my students have scrutinized Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* through the lens of a social history of antisemitism, considered the way mortuary archaeology can help explain the symbiosis between living and dead in Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, assessed the impact of power structures on human behavior in Khadra’s *The Swallows of Kabul*, and debated conceptions of moral philosophy in Sandel’s *Justice*. Readings in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur’an have combined with short stories from Flannery O’Connor or Ursula K. Le Guin to complicate their thinking about the nature of the good life. And I’m grateful for the freedom to teach just two classes at any given time during the year, freeing me up to spend time researching, writing, and enjoying a young family. The school has sent me to SBL’s Annual and International Meetings, regularly tracked down obscure sources, and supported my professional development and interests. I know these things, too, are privileges. I don’t take them for granted or assume now, as I might have a decade ago, that they were a given.

I’m not preparing for a traditional tenure-review process or teaching a slate full of field-specific classes. I don’t have my own college campus office and students don’t address me grandiloquently as “Professor Yoder.” And that’s okay. I teach classes in which discussions regularly pivot on complex ethical, religious, and sociopolitical matters.

Since we live on campus, I’m never far away from those I love the most. The giggles and hugs I receive from my children after class each day when they come to walk me home likewise weren’t expected. This is part of a critical redefinition of success to me now. These moments reveal a fuller map—with roads I had previously disregarded—where joy from a less self-centered kind of journey off the beaten path has replaced the happiness that comes from scaling a narrow, contrived mountain that I let myself and others tell me was the only summit.
For the 2019 International Meeting in Rome, Italy, the local planning committee not only had the difficult job of taking on all the always-substantial work involved with planning an International Meeting but also had to do so on short notice. Despite this compressed timeline, the 2019 local planning committee exceeded all expectations by putting together a tremendous opening session, a full slate of ambitious program sessions, special events and tours that showcased the unique wonders provided by a site such as Rome, and generally by serving most gracious and generous hosts. Four people deserve particular attention.

Dr. Peter Dubovsky, SJ, Dean of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, was instrumental in bringing institutional support to the meeting. Dr. Dubovsky acted as the primary liaison with SBL staff during most of the planning, overseeing the work of the local planning committee, ensuring that the locally sponsored session made the program book, and making arrangements around Rome for special tours.

Dr. Dominik Markl, SJ, was also critical in the planning. Dr. Markl also worked as a main point of contact between the local committee and SBL staff. As the conference approached, Dr. Markl proved especially helpful with regard to matters of logistics and late planning.

Dr. Benedetta Rossi and Dr. Paula Mollo also deserve special recognition. Both Dr. Rossi and Dr. Mollo worked with numerous chairs of program units on programming to be cosponsored by the local programming committee and the various International Meeting program units. The results of their efforts, along with the entire faculty of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, was an impressively deep display of programming sponsored by the local committee.

In addition to the tremendous support from the Pontifical Biblical Institute and its faculty, the 2019 International Meeting owes a debt of gratitude to the Pontifical Gregorian University, whose excellent facilities provided a welcoming space for the meeting’s sessions.

The Society is tremendously grateful for the exceptional work of these volunteers, whose service played no small part in the enormous success of the 2019 International Meeting.
Andrew Scrimgeour named SBL Archivist Emeritus and receives Outstanding Service Award

The SBL archival material moved from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, to Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, in 1980, when Kent Richards became Executive Secretary, succeeding Paul J. Achtemeier. Andrew Scrimgeour became the SBL Archivist the following year, 1981, and began processing the archival material, creating a formal archive for the first time in SBL’s history.

The Archive moved across town to Regis University in 1984 when Dr. Scrimgeour moved from Iliff to Regis. When he moved to Drew University in Madison, New Jersey in 2000, the Archive again moved with him. Twice then, his move to another institution included the negotiation for the Archive to move with him and for the institution to provide appropriate space and honor his responsibility as the SBL Archivist. In both cases, it was an honor for the institution and was newsworthy to its constituency and local media. In Drew’s case, it involved considerable expense, for it was a cross-country move.

The SBL Archives, now at Emory University, is a wonder to behold. Brandon Wason now serves as the SBL Archivist. Dr. Andrew Scrimgeour is now Dean of Libraries Emeritus, Drew University.

For Andrew Scrimgeour’s thirty-eight years of service to SBL as its Archivist, SBL President Gale Yee presented him with an Outstanding Service Award and the title SBL Archivist Emeritus at the Annual Business Meeting in San Diego.

Congratulations to Dr. Andrew Scrimgeour!

Biblical Studies in Undergraduate Education Working Group

In fall 2018, Wake Forest University hosted and supported an SBL initiative on the future of biblical studies in undergraduate education. That initial meeting, chaired by Mary Foskett (Wake Forest) and Marc Brettler (Duke), led to the formation of a working group, which held its initial meeting at the SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego in November 2019.

The Biblical Studies in Undergraduate Education working group (BSUE) has been established to help SBL and its members understand and respond constructively to both immediate and longer-term challenges and opportunities facing the field of biblical studies in the context of undergraduate liberal arts teaching.

Among its activities, the BSUE will develop strategies to advocate for biblical studies within the larger field of religious studies and the humanities; design and routinize data-collection tools to survey the field; propose suggestions for undergraduate and graduate curricular design that are responsive to the significant pressures that undergraduate education is facing; and envision next steps for biblical studies in higher education that addresses the field’s relevance in professional and public contexts.

Marc Brettler and Mary Foskett continue to cochair the BSUE working group, which includes the following members: Charlie Cummings (Front Range Community College), Stacy Davis (St. Mary’s College), Daniel Fisher (National Humanities Alliance), Jennifer Glancy (Le Moyne College), Joseph Lam (University of North Carolina), J. David Pleins (Santa Clara University/University of Tennessee in Chattanooga), Jean-Pierre Ruiz (St. John’s University), Christine Thomas (University of California Santa Barbara), and Jane Webster (Barton College).

After an initial year of work, the BSUE plans to invite wider participation across the membership, as this important and timely initiative develops resources with and for members to serve biblical studies in the context of undergraduate education. The working group will host a session at the 2020 Annual Meeting to share from its work and invite broader conversation.
THANKS TO JAN G. VAN DER WATT

At the end of 2019, Jan G. van der Watt concluded his long and distinguished tenure as the General Editor of the Review of Biblical Literature. Jan’s association with RBL began over two decades ago; in fact, Jan was a member of the editorial board when RBL first began became available via its own URL: bookreviews.org. After two full terms plus a year on the board, Jan succeeded Marvin A. Sweeney as RBL General Editor and has served in that capacity ever since (2005–2019).

During Jan’s fifteen years at the helm, RBL published over 7,200 reviews, an average of 481 reviews a year. If all those reviews were printed in book form, RBL’s output during Jan’s editorship would fill ninety 300-page volumes. During this time Jan also managed the selection of reviews for RBL’s annual print edition; these volumes total 8,572 pages all on their own.

More impressive than the quantity of work produced under Jan’s leadership was the increasing quality of the product offered. During its early years, RBL relied heavily on volunteers to write reviews. During Jan’s first term, he proposed that RBL not accept a volunteer offer until a book had been declined by two nonvolunteer scholars. The editorial board agreed, and since then RBL has assigned 90 percent of all review copies to nonvolunteers. It is largely due to this single change that the Society’s Research and Publications Committee decided in late 2006 to discontinue the publication of book reviews in JBL, leaving RBL as the SBL’s sole book-review outlet.

Other advances include Jan’s championing of expanded diversity not only among RBL’s reviewers but also on the editorial board, his articulation of clear guidelines that promote the assignment of review copies to the most qualified and most appropriate reviewers, and his refinement of the process by which all reviews are vetted prior to publication.

Beyond all that, what is most noteworthy about Jan’s tenure as RBL General Editor is the character he has demonstrated throughout. Whenever he spoke with a reviewer, an author of a book that has been reviewed, a member of the editorial board, or a reader of RBL, Jan’s words were always kind and his counsel always wise. For his dedication to the task and the grace with which he labored, we all are in Jan’s debt, and we all owe him our thanks and gratitude for a job well and fully done.

A. R. “PETE” DIAMOND AWARD FOR INTEGRATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Special thanks to Carol Diamond, widow of A.R. “Pete” Diamond, who helped establish a new member award on Integrative Scholarship. Ms. Diamond attended 2019 Annual Meeting in San Diego for the inaugural award panel, at which Dr. Lora Walsh (University of Arkansas) presented her paper, “Lost in Revision: Gender Symbolism in Vision 3 and Similitude 9 of The Shepherd of Hermas.” Carol Diamond and Lora Walsh are pictured to the right.

MAJOR GIFT TO SBL’S BIBLE ODYSSEY

Huge thanks to philanthropist Cal Turner Jr. for a $250,000 gift to Bible Odyssey to support its upgrade and redesign. Bible Odyssey receives 11,000 visitors each day—4 million a year—and has become the leading edge for SBL’s public engagement and resources. With this generous gift, SBL will develop a site that capitalizes on this momentum and brings more resources and content to educators and to the public.
On December 11 SBL held its 2019 Day of Giving. We had an incredible head start from fourteen SBL members who pledged matching gifts totaling $12,500, in order for SBL to reach its Day-of-Giving goal of $25,000. And SBL members reached that goal! Thanks to every member who helped double their pledges and reach our goal!

2020 will be a milestone for SBL, as the Society will celebrate its 140th anniversary. To celebrate our history and prepare for our future, SBL will hold a three-part campaign:

- An institutional campaign to ask institutions with high SBL participation and concentration of members to make a donation of $1,400
- An individual campaign to encourage members to make a donation of $140
- A story campaign for members to reflect on their paths into biblical studies

To join the member campaign, click here.

Programs and Services Supported by Gifts:

- More travel awards
- The ICI repository, serving students and scholars in underresourced areas of the globe
- The discipline-specific research platform SBL Central
- Bible Odyssey, reaching 4 million users each year
- Biblical literacy lesson plans for high school teachers and students
- Expanding the mission and reach of the international meeting
- Advocacy in the humanities and higher education
- A publishing program that keeps monographs affordable for you and your institution
2019 Regional Meetings

In 2019, eleven regional meetings were hosted in North America with over 1,300 attendees. Regional meetings take place between February and May and are planned and executed thanks to the work of the regional coordinators and other volunteers. For more information visit https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regional-Meetings.aspx.

2020 Regional Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central States</td>
<td>March 7–8</td>
<td>Eden Theological Seminary</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>Eastern Great Lakes</td>
<td>March 12–13</td>
<td>Cambria Hotel and Suites</td>
<td>Uniontown, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic</td>
<td>March 9–10</td>
<td>Princeton Theological Seminary</td>
<td>Princeton, NJ</td>
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<td>Midwest</td>
<td>February 7–9</td>
<td>Saint Mary’s College</td>
<td>Notre Dame, IN</td>
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<td>New England/E Canada</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Boston College School of Theology and Ministry</td>
<td>Brighton, MA</td>
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<td>Pacific Coast</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Hope International University</td>
<td>Fullerton, CA</td>
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<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>May 15–17</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s College at the University of Alberta</td>
<td>Edmonton, AB, Canada</td>
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<td>Rocky Mountains – Great Plains</td>
<td>March 27–28</td>
<td>University of Colorado, Colorado Springs</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>February 28–March 1</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
<td>Athens, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>February 28–March 1</td>
<td>Dallas Marriott Las Colinas Hotel</td>
<td>Irving, TX</td>
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<td>Upper Midwest</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>University of St. Thomas</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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International Meeting

The 2019 International Meeting was held in Rome, Italy. Attendance was again quite high. The 47 program units sponsored 190 sessions, in which 589 participants delivered 568 papers, participated in panel discussions, and reviewed books. Please be sure to read the profile of members of the local committee in the Features section of this report (p. 6). Their help was vital in making this meeting such a success.

The 2020 International Meeting will be in Adelaide, Australia. This will mark the first return to Australia for the International Meeting since 1992 and the International Meeting in Oceania since 2008. The local committee, chaired by Peter Trudinger, is already hard at work on plans that will make this a unique meeting. Many sessions will focus on the theme of ecology, and we look forward to a fascinating meeting.
Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting was held in San Diego, California, USA. Attendance at this meeting was comparable to the 2018 Annual Meeting, at just under 9,500. Proposals for this meeting were up slightly, to 3,074, compared with 3,051 in 2018. All told, 504 sessions took place at this meeting, including 437 programming sessions sponsored by the 169 program units. An additional 62 sessions were sponsored by the 23 SBL affiliates. A total of 1,756 papers were presented, in addition to numerous panel discussions, book reviews, and pedagogically oriented sessions.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 International Meeting: Number of Attendees by Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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The 2020 Annual Meeting will be in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2019 AND 2018

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<td>Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>9,309</td>
<td>15,865</td>
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<td>Capitalized software, net of accumulated amortization</td>
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<td>Net share of Luce Center assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,160,745</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,541,134</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<td>2,390,695</td>
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| Net Assets                     |       |       |
| Without donor restrictions     |       |       |
| Undesignated                   | 517,996 | 5,237,196 |
| Designated by Board for operating reserve | 4,016,504 | — |
| Invested in Luce Center        | 1,206,069 | — |
| Total net assets               | 5,740,569 | 5,237,196 |
| With donor restrictions        | 1,068,291 | 913,243 |
| Total net assets               | 6,808,860 | 6,150,439 |

| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | **$9,160,745** | **$8,541,134** |

**Comments:**

1. SBL continues growing with ten consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2019 was $658,421 as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. As required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the SBL adopted FASB Accounting Standards Update 2016-14 Not-for-Profit Entities: Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities. The standard requires presentation of Net Assets as without or with donor restrictions.
3. SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY2019 revenues were under budget by $224,275, while expenses were under budget by $256,496, resulting in a net increase over budget by $32,221.
## Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

### FY 2019 | FY 2018
---|---
**REVENUES AND GAINS**<br>Congresses | $1,403,733 | $1,548,265
Membership |  
  Membership fees | 607,028 | 605,894
  Marketing | 26,669 | 44,006
  Fee Income | — | 393
Professions |  
  Employment Center | 75,555 | 75,200
  Grant Revenue | 16,847 | 127
  Contract income | — | 5,000
  Sponsorship income | 10,875 | —
  Fonts | 1,600 | 2,700
  Press |  
    Book Sales | 453,353 | 527,196
    Subscriptions | 289,751 | 224,370
    Royalties | 109,838 | 154,973
    Marketing | 15,691 | 12,800
    Permissions | 13,909 | 16,766
    Membership | 107,123 | 106,923
    Contract Income | 38,872 | 74,189
    Grant Revenue | 39,500 | 296
    Sponsorship income | 25,375 | —
    Fees | 12,291 | 11,875
  Regional meetings revenue | 42,212 | 29,208
  Development and fundraising | 125,003 | 54,749
  Investment income, net | 344,259 | 411,837
  Rental income, net | 39,071 | 10,329
**Total revenues and gains** | $3,798,555 | $3,917,096

### EXPENSES<br>Congresses | $1,082,029 | $1,144,079
Membership | 186,331 | 178,293
Professions | 277,694 | 246,188
Press | 1,299,599 | 1,238,974
Regional meetings revenue | 74,481 | 49,873
Research and Technology | 49,848 | 60,124
**Total program expenses** | 2,969,982 | 2,917,531
Development and fundraising | 8,154 | 17,184
General and administration | 161,998 | 173,075
**Total expenses** | $3,140,134 | $3,107,790

### Increase in Net Assets | $658,421 | $809,306

### Net Assets at Beginning of Year | $6,150,439 | $5,341,133

### Net Assets at End of Year | $6,808,860 | $6,150,439

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### Budget 2019–2020

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<th><strong>FY 2018</strong></th>
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<td>Press</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,798,555</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,917,096</strong></td>
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<th><strong>FY 2018</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Budgeted Increase in Net Assets</strong></td>
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The financial Information summarized here was derived from the Society’s audited financial statements. The independent auditor’s report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 16 October 2019, states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.
SBL Awards

For more information, search for the following awards on the SBL website: De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship, the A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship, the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship, and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award. For information on presenting at a regional meeting or applying for a Regional Scholar Award, see the webpages of the individual regional meetings.

A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship

Lora Walsh is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Arkansas. Her current research examines the resurgence of Lady Church as a prominent feminine divine figure in late medieval and early modern Christian writing. This project, titled Lady Church: Reformations of the First Christian Goddess, 1350-1650, uses literary analysis and feminist theological frameworks to identify how poetic and polemical texts cultivate devotion to Lady Church and her rapidly evolving institutional forms. Lora is also preparing projects on a Middle English translation of Matthew’s Gospel, and on the influence of The Shepherd of Hermas in medieval literature. Lora’s most popular courses include the Bible as Literature and Women and Christianity. She received her BA in English from Pepperdine University and her PhD in Religious Studies from Northwestern University, with a concentration in Medieval Christianity.

David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

Andrew Perrin (Ph.D Religious Studies, McMaster University, 2013) is Canada Research Chair in Religious Identities of Ancient Judaism and Director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, Canada. His research explores the life, thought, and literature of Second Temple Judaism through the lens of the Dead Sea Scrolls. His book The Dynamics of Dream-Vision Revelation in the Aramaic Dead Sea Scrolls (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2015) won the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise from the University of Heidelberg. Aspects of his work have been published in Journal of Biblical Literature, Dead Sea Discoveries, Vetus Testamentum, Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha, and Biblical Archaeology Review, with a coauthored article in Revue de Qumran winning the Norman E. Wagner Award from the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies. He has been a fellow of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. He is currently writing a commentary on priestly literature in the Aramaic Dead Sea Scrolls, which was awarded an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

Michael P. Theophilos (DPhil Oxford) is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Ancient Languages at Australian Catholic University. In addition to over twenty articles and book chapters, his monographs include Jesus as New Moses in Matthew 8–9: Jewish Biographical Typology in First Century Greek Literature (Gorgias, 2011), The Abomination of Desolation in Matthew 24:15 (T&T Clark, 2012), Numerology and Greek Lexicography (Bloomsbury, 2019). He is currently writing a commentary on the Matthean and Lukan Sondergut in the Papyrologische Kommentare zum Neuen Testament series (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht).

Regional Scholars

Jason Ryan Price is a doctoral candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles. Broadly, his research interests entail the application of social and anthropological the-
ory to the Hebrew Bible. In his dissertation, he draws on the anthropology of documentation and the corpus of Hebrew inscriptions to analyze episodes of administrative writing portrayed in the Deuteronomistic History. His other research interests include the study of Israelite religion by integrating biblical depictions of cult objects with material culture and comparative literature from the ancient Near East.

Alex Weisberg is a doctoral candidate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. He holds a BS in Economics and Environmental Studies from University of Wisconsin Madison and an MPhil from New York University. He is currently an Association of Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Fellow and was a finalist for the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. His research explores nonhumans, environmental ethics, and science in ancient Judaism. His doctoral dissertation examines rabbinic Jewish law in conversation with new materialism and other environmental humanities through a study of the early rabbinic sabbatical year laws in their material and cultural context.

The recipient of the 2020 Regional Scholar Award is Sarah Malena.

Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award Recipients

Beverly Roberts Gaventa is Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Baylor University, as well as Helen H.P. Manson Professor Emerita of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition to articles and edited volumes, her publications include *From Darkness to Light: Aspects of Conversion in the New Testament*, *Mary: Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus*, *Acts* (ANTC series), *Our Mother Saint Paul*, and *When in Romans: An Invitation to Linger with the Gospel according to Paul*. Gaventa is an active participant in both the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas and SBL, where she has served in a variety of leadership positions. In 2016, Gaventa was president of SBL.

Elizabeth A. Castelli is Professor of Religion and Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women at Barnard College. She is author of two monographs, *Imitating Paul* and *Martyrdom and Memory*, and numerous journal articles and book chapters; coauthor and editor of the Bible and Culture Collective’s Postmodern Bible; editor of several books and special issues of journals; and translator of Pier Paolo Pasolini’s *Saint Paul*. She has served on the editorial boards of *JBL*, *JECS*, and *JAAR*. Her current book project focuses on confession in legal, geopolitical, religious, literary, and artistic contexts.

Lora Walsh  Andrew Perrin  Michael P. Theophilos  Jason Ryan Price  Alex Weisberg  Beverly Roberts Gaventa  Elizabeth A. Castelli
International Travel Awards

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from ICI-qualifying countries. A key criterion is an applicant’s demonstrable financial need.

The International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meetings.

The 2019 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- Ivana Arsic, Institute of Social Sciences (Serbia)
- Cristian Cardozo Mindiola, Adventist Colombian University (Colombia)
- Juan Alberto Casas Ramirez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)
- Liljana Jovanovic, University of Belgrade (Serbia)
- Alroy Mascrenghe, University of Cape Town (Sri Lanka)
- Sunday Oluyinka Sangotunde, Adeyemi College of Education (Nigeria)
- Slindile Thabede, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
- Laila Vijayan, United Theological College (India)

Four International Travel Award Panels (ITAP) administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

- Africa and Middle East: Madipoane Masenya, Dora Mbuwayesango, Juan Manuel Tebes
- Asia and Pacific: Elaine Wainwright, Nasili Vaka’uta, Juan Manuel Tebes
- Eastern Europe: Ester Petrenko, Benjamin Giffone, Juan Manuel Tebes
- Latin America and Caribbean: Pablo Andiñach, Nelson Morales, Juan Manuel Tebes

We would like express our sincere thanks to all applicants and donors to the Society. Your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature strengthen our mission to foster biblical scholarship globally.

The 2020 International Travel Award applications are open through 15 February 2020. For more information, see here.

Ivana Arsic
Cristian Cardozo Mindiola
Juan Alberto Casas Ramirez
Liljana Jovanovic

Alroy Mascrenghe

Sunday Oluyinka Sangotunde

Slindile Thabede

Laila Vijayan
Membership in the Society is down slightly from last year. Just after the Annual Meeting, when SBL usually has its highest level of membership, we had a total of 8285 members from around the world.

The majority of members, 5,725, hold full memberships in the Society. This is a decrease of 151 members compared to 2018. Public members number 578, a decrease from last year’s total of 611. The Society continues to nurture student biblical scholars; student memberships now number 1,982, a small decrease of 4 from last year’s number.

There continues to be a large geographic distribution for the membership. However, for only the second time in twelve years the number of members living outside the United States has decreased slightly, by 1.66 percent, now representing 31 percent of the total membership. While that is a slight decline compared with last year’s 33 percent, it still represent remarkable growth since 2001, when only 23 percent of members lived outside of the United States.
Members currently reside in 101 different countries, an increase of two countries over last year. About 5 percent of SBL’s members reside in each of the United Kingdom and Canada. Australia and Germany each make up 3 percent of the membership. The final 18 percent of members reside predominantly in European and African countries. A list of all countries with SBL members and their numbers appears below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</table>

**GRAND TOTAL**          **8,285**
The Society of Biblical Literature has 493 members from 71 International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) countries. There are seven more countries represented than last year, and membership in ICI countries has increased by 44 members. Large numbers of these members are concentrated in South Africa, the Philippines, and Nigeria.

A more detailed reporting and analysis of membership demographics based on the member profile data will be released in the 2020 Membership Data report. In order to make this report as comprehensive and accurate as possible, all members are encouraged to fill out the member profile on the SBL website.
Developments and a Departure

During 2019, SBL Press maintained its regular rate of journal and book publication (see below) but added several important projects to the mix. First, SBL Press team members are working with editors Sidnie White Crawford, Ronald Hendel, Michael W. Holmes, Robert S. Kawashima, Jennifer W. Knust, Judith H. Newman, and Eugene Ulrich on a revision of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Intensive work was ongoing throughout the year and will extend through at least the end of 2020. Second, the Press team is also managing, with editors Dexter E. Callender, Corrine L. Carvalho, Kristin De Troyer, Matthew J. Goff, Steven L. McKenzie, Sarah Shectman, Shively T. J. Smith, and F. Scott Spencer, the revision of the HarperCollins Study Bible. The third edition of this SBL-created work will include new introductions and revised study notes and will feature informative in-text sidebars developed in conjunction with Bible Odyssey.

Amidst the excitement of these new developments, we must also say au revoir to a valuable member of the SBL Press team and a long-time friend. After nearly thirty years of service to the Society and its publication program, first with Scholars Press, then the Society of Biblical Literature and now SBL Press, Marketing Manager Kathie Klein retired at the end of 2019. Kathie is well known to SBL members who have ever visited the SBL Press book booth at an Annual Meeting; Kathie worked in or managed the book booth every meeting except one since 1995’s Philadelphia meeting; twenty-four in all. During that same time span Kathie also organized displays for all of SBL’s annual regional meetings and every International Meeting ever held. Finally, Kathie designed or managed the design of over five hundred book covers across twenty-nine SBL series. We wish our valued colleague and treasured friend many years of relaxing, fulfilling, and productive retirement.

Bible Odyssey

SBL launched the bibleodyssey.org website in 2014 with one purpose: to make the academic study of the Bible accessible to the general public. Since its beginnings, the site’s audience has grown to include undergraduates, university and high school instructors and students, and congregation members and teachers. Bible Odyssey officially joined SBL Press in 2018 and now forms an important part of our publication strategy.

Over the course of the year, contributors, editorial staff, and the editorial board diligently herded over one hundred articles from idea to various stages of production. Of those articles, thirty-seven are live on the website, and five are queued up and ready to go. Each article undergoes a rigorous double-review process by the board, an internal staff review, and a copyedit before it goes online. New articles include “Babylonian Exile,” “Christ,” “Disabilities in the Bible,” “Is the New Testament Anti-Jewish,” “Rachel,” “Sheol,” and “Solomon.” Forthcoming articles include “Childhood in the Ancient Near East,” “Sardis,” “Circumcision,” and “Tamar.” In addition, in partnership with the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society, Bible Odyssey has added Vietnamese translations of seventeen articles. We look forward to adding Spanish translations in the near future. The Bible Odyssey board and staff have set a goal of posting sixty new articles each year and look forward to reaching that goal in 2020.
Journal of Biblical Literature

For *JBL*, 2019 was a time of transition as Mark Brett completed his first year as General Editor. Faced with record submissions over the past few years, Mark and Press staff continued evaluating and adapting editorial procedures in an effort to reduce review times while maintaining the rigorous peer-review process for which the journal is known. On the publication side, *JBL* saw the previously long production backlog reduced to the point that most articles can now be published within six to nine months of acceptance. The journal published forty-eight articles covering the entire range of biblical literature and representing diverse methodologies from historical and philological criticism to reception history and contextual interpretation.

Review of Biblical Literature

For *RBL*, 2019 was both a year of business as usual and significant change. During the year, *RBL* built upon its reputation as the premier source for book reviews in the field by publishing 508 reviews from scholars located in twenty-seven different countries: Australia (24); Austria (6); Belgium (10); Canada (27); China (1); Finland (6); France (7); Germany (18); Ghana (1); Hungary (2); India (1); Ireland (2); Israel (13); Italy (10); Japan (3); the Netherlands (13); New Zealand (4); Norway (3); Republic of Korea (2); Singapore (1); Solomon Islands (1); South Africa (5); Sweden (6); Switzerland (6); Turkey (1); the United Kingdom (33); and the United States (302).

This year also marked the end of Jan G. van der Watt’s tenure as *RBL* General Editor; for a tribute to Jan’s service and an expression of our thanks for it, see page 8. Although we are sad that Jan is leaving *RBL*, we are excited to announce that the new *RBL* General Editor is Alicia Batten, Professor of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. We invite readers to thank Jan for his past work and to congratulate Alicia for this important appointment.

TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism

The 2019 volume of *TC* included book reviews, a review article, and the following articles:

- Charles E. Hill, “A Neglected Text-Critical Siglum in Codex Vaticanus and Its Import for the Matthean Text”
- Mikeal C. Parsons and Gregory M. Barnhill, “Textual Criticism and Lukan Studies: The (Dis)Connection Between the Two”
- An-Ting Yi, “A Fresh Look at Codex Regius (L019) and Its Transcription in the IGNTP Edition of John”
- Katja Kujanpää, “Job or Isaiah? What Does Paul Quote in Rom 11:35?”

*TC*, which begins its twenty-fifth year of publication in 2020, is SBL Press’s only fully open-access, peer-reviewed journal. We invite you to visit the *TC* at http://jbtc.org/index.html.
2019 Book and Annual Publications

- Ahn Byung-Mu, Stories of Minjung Theology: The Theological Journey of Ahn Byung-Mu in His Own Words (IVBS)
- Benjamin M. Austin, Plant Metaphors in the Old Greek of Isaiah (SCS)
- Fiona C. Black and Jennifer L. Koosed, eds., Reading with Feeling: Affect Theory and the Bible (SemeiaSt)
- David A. Bosworth, A House of Weeping: The Motif of Tears in Hebrew and Akkadian Prayers (ANEM)
- Filip Čapek and Oded Lipschits, eds., The Last Century in the History of Judah: The Seventh Century BCE in Archaeological, Historical, and Biblical Perspectives (AIL)
- Sarah H. Casson, Textual Signposts in the Argument of Romans: A Relevance-Theory Approach (ECL)
- Lily Fetalsana-Apura, A Filipino Resistance Reading of Joshua 1:1–9 (IVBS)
- Susanne Gillmayr-Bucher and Maria Hausl, eds., Prayers and the Construction of Israelite Identity (AIL)
- Brian P. Gault, Body as Landscape, Love as Intoxication: Conceptual Metaphors in the Song of Songs (AIL)
- Marianne Grohmann and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, eds., Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible (RBS)
- James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, eds., The First Urban Churches 5: Colossae, Hierapolis, and Laodicea (WGRWSup)
- Matthias Henze and Liv Ingeborg Lied, eds., The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha: Fifty Years of the Pseudepigrapha Section at the SBL (EJL)
- Shalom E. Holtz, Praying Legally (BJS)
- David Janzen, Trauma and the Failure of History: Kings, Lamentations, and the Destruction of Jerusalem (SemeiaSt)
- Ingrid Rosa Kitzberger, Interfigural Readings of the Gospel of John (ECL)
- Joseph A. Marchal, ed., Bodies on the Verge: Queering Pauline Epistles (SemeiaSt)
- Eric F. Mason and Darian R. Lockett, eds., Reading the Epistle of James: A Resource for Students (RBS)
- Marti Nissinen, Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East, 2nd ed. (WAW)
- Meira Polliack and Athalya Brenner-Idan, eds., Jewish Biblical Exegesis from Islamic Lands: The Medieval Period (BibRec)
- David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., Studia Philonica Annual XXXI, 2019
- Hélène Sader, The History and Archaeology of Phoenicia (ABS)
- Annette Schellenberg and Thomas Krüger, eds., Sounding Sensory Profiles in the Ancient Near East (ANEM)
- Andrew Smith, Platonius on Beauty (Enneads 1.6 and 5.8.1–2): The Greek Text with Notes (WGRW)
- Michaela Sohn-Kronthaler and Ruth Albrecht, eds., Faith and Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Religious Communities (BW)
- Janet E. Spittler, ed., The Narrative Self in Early Christianity: Essays in Honor of Judith Perkins (WGRWSup)
- Michael E. Stone, Armenian Apocrypha Relating to Biblical Heroes (EJL)
- Marvin A. Sweeney, ed., Theology of the Hebrew Bible, Volume 1: Methodological Studies (RBS)
- Nicole L. Tilford, ed., Women and the Society of Biblical Literature (BSNA)
- Meredith J. C. Warren, Food and Transformation in Ancient Mediterranean Literature (WGRWSup)
- Jan G. van der Watt, ed., Review of Biblical Literature, volume 21
- Colin M. Whiting, Documents from the Luciferians: In Defense of the Nicene Creed (WGRW)
- Jennifer S. Wyant, Beyond Mary or Martha: Reclaiming Ancient Models of Discipleship (ESEC)
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Lidar Sapir-Hen
Arthur Walker-Jones

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Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte
Ana T. Valdez

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Tawny L. Holm
Ute Possekel

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Jacob A. Latham
Joorunn Okland

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Erin Darby
Eric Welch

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Mark D. Ellison
Vasiliki M. Limberis

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Monica J. Melanchthon
Henry W. Morisada Rietz

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Jeffrey L. Cooley
Rannfrid Irene Thelle

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Amy Cottrill
Kathy Barrett Dawson

Bible and Film
Rhonda Burnette-Bletsch

Bible and Popular Culture
Dan W. Clanton Jr.

Bible and Practical Theology
Deborah A. Appler
Johnny Ramirez-Johnson

Bible and Visual Art
Heidi J. Hornik
Christine Joynes

Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory
Debra S. Ballantine
Austin Busch

Biblical Ethics
Jacqueline Grey

Biblical Exegesis from Eastern Orthodox Perspectives
Athanasios Despotis
James Buchanan Wallace

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Constantine R. Campbell
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Biblical Hebrew Poetry
Kevin Chau
Elizabeth R. Hayes

Biblical Law
Hannah K. Harrington
Shalom E. Holtz

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Erik Eynikel
Michael P. Theophilos

Biblical Literature and the Hermeneutics of Trauma
David G. Garber, Jr.
LeAnn Snow Flesher

Book History and Biblical Literatures
Daniel Picus

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Bill T. Arnold
Hrald Samuel

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Karl Jacobson
Christine Jones

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David G. Firth
Rachelle Gilmour

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Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer
Jakob Wührle

Children in the Biblical World
Reidar Aasgaard
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Brent C. Landau

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Rebekah Eklund
Arthur Sutherland

Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah
Christopher Jones
Matthew Lynch

Cognitive Linguistics in Biblical Interpretation
David Parris

Contextual Biblical Interpretation
James P. Grimshaw
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contextualizing North African Christianity</td>
<td>Edwina Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David E. Wilhite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Hellenisticum Novi Testamenti</td>
<td>Troy W. Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clare K. Rothschild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultic Personnel in the Biblical World</td>
<td>Madhavi Nevader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Sheckman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature</td>
<td>Kristin De Troyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deuteronomistic History</td>
<td>Mahri Leonard-Fleckman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara J. Milstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Early Christian Theology</td>
<td>Matthew R. Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark DelCogliano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Humanities in Biblical, Early Jewish, and Christian Studies</td>
<td>Garrick Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Dilley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disputed Paulines</td>
<td>Lisa Marie Belz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jerry L. Sumney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Christianity and the Ancient Economy</td>
<td>Thomas R. Blanton IV</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Hollander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Exegesis of Genesis 1–3</td>
<td>Volker Henning Drecoll</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christoph Markschies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Jewish Christian Relations</td>
<td>Shira L. Lander</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eric Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Hermeneutics</td>
<td>Peter Trudinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics in the Biblical World</td>
<td>Richard A. Horsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger S. Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptology and Ancient Israel</td>
<td>John Huddleston</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bernd U. Schipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and Biblical Interpretation</td>
<td>Lisa Bowens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amy C. Merrill Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopic Bible and Literature</td>
<td>Ralph Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curt Niccum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exile (Forced Migrations) in Biblical Literature</td>
<td>Martien A. Halvorson-Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine Southwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible</td>
<td>Margaret Aymer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn J. Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of Isaiah</td>
<td>Jacob Stromberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible</td>
<td>Rhiannon Graybill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gwynn Kessler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis</td>
<td>Bill T. Arnold</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naomi A. Steinberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Education and Research Technology</td>
<td>Randall K.J. Tan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicolai Winther-Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gospel of Luke</td>
<td>Michal Beth Dinkler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Britany E. Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gospel of Mark</td>
<td>Kelli S. O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vicki Cass Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greco-Roman Religions</td>
<td>Gerhard van den Heever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Bible</td>
<td>Dirk Büchner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare and Disability in the Ancient World</td>
<td>Chris de Wet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meghan Henning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Bible, History, and Archaeology</td>
<td>Jacqueline Vayntrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature</td>
<td>Martti Nissinen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews</td>
<td>David M. Moffitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison N. Pierce</td>
<td>Hellenistic Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lutz Doering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandra Gambetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Jesus</td>
<td>James Crossley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cecilia Wassén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historiography and the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>Mahri Leonard-Fleckman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ian D. Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism</td>
<td>Hayim Lapin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Rosenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Interpretation</td>
<td>Mark W. Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael C. Legaspi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homiletics and Biblical Studies</td>
<td>Charles Lynn Aaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideological Criticism</td>
<td>Elaine James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher B. Zeichmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>Shelley L. Birdsong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hyun Chul Paul Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intertextuality in the New Testament</td>
<td>Max J. Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Yafeh-Deigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish, Christian, and Graeco-Roman Travel in the Hellenistic, Roman, Early Byzantine Periods (300 BCE–600 CE)</td>
<td>Pieter B. Hartog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elisa Uusimäki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannine Literature</td>
<td>Alicia D. Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lindsey M Trozzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John’s Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern</td>
<td>Leslie Baynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephus</td>
<td>James S. McLaren</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Seeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua-Judges</td>
<td>J. Cornelis de Vos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zev Farber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino/a and Latin American Biblical Interpretation</td>
<td>Efrain Agosto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ahida Calderon Pilarski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter-day Saints and the Bible</td>
<td>Jill Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of James, Peter, and Jude</td>
<td>Mariam Kamell Kovalishyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darian Lockett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTI/Queer Hermeneutics</td>
<td>Joseph A. Marchal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>Jacobus A. Naude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tania Notarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature and History of the Persian Period</td>
<td>Deirdre N. Fulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kenneth A. Ristau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived Religiousness in Antiquity</td>
<td>David A. Creech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia Snyder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Passion Narrative</td>
<td>Jocelyn McWhirter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas R. Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masoretic Studies</td>
<td>Elvira Martin-Contreras</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Susan Marks

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Edward Silver

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Ryan Bonfiglio

Midrash
W. David Nelson

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Dalit Rom-Shiloni

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Tommy Wasserman

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Douglas Harink

Pentateuch
Angela Roskop Erisman
Nathan MacDonald

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Bernhard Oestreich

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Ronald Cox
Justin Rogers

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David Lambert
Jacqueline Vanterhub

Polis and Ekklisia: Investigations of Urban Christianity
Alan H. Cadwallader
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