

**Minutes of the Members' Meeting of
The Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality**
Saturday, November 21, 2019, 10:30-noon
Convention Center 24A
San Diego, California

Please send corrections to wheelerr@up.edu

The meeting convened at 10:33.

1. Introduction of new President, Timothy Robinson (Glen Scorgie, President).
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2018 Meeting (Anita Houck, Secretary/Treasurer): The minutes were approved pending small corrections to be sent to Anita.
3. Welcome of new members and international members (Timothy Robinson, President). Four new members were welcomed.
4. Report on Friday events (Afternoon session at Point Loma Nazarene University with Dr. Rebecca Laird and Dr. Dianne Anderson, Society Dinner with speaker Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, reception at Eclipse Chocolate Bar and Bistro): Thanks to organizing committee Douglas Hardy, Andrew Lee, Shannon McAlister, and Anita Houck, and Eventbrite Master Isaac Petty (Andrew Lee). Contemplative tour of PNLU with connections to Theosophical Society and diverse plant life, with dorms right on the ocean. Watching the sunset over the Pacific Ocean.
5. Recognition of 2019 Founders' Circle Prize Winner (Rachel Wheeler, Chair of the Prize Committee). Fourth awarding, with paper to be delivered later today. Rachel, as Co-chair of Emerging Scholars Group and Prize Chair, thanked those who encouraged people to submit essays; there was an excellent group of submissions. The paper will be delivered at 3:30: Heather M. DuBois, with essay "The Spirituality of a Pluralist: A Theological Reading of Connolly's Why I Am Not a Secularist."
6. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer (see Treasurer's Report on p. 5) (Anita Houck). Anita recognized that the Society is still in sound financial shape. Donations were almost enough to cover the annual ES dinner, one of the best offerings of the Society; Anita thanked Savoy Stevens in particular for organizing this year's dinner, with the continued help of co-chairs, Rachel Wheeler and Kyle Schenkewitz. She mentioned two generous contributions that will appear on next year's financial report: an anonymous donation of \$500 that will support offering the Founders' Circle Prize this year, and Cogent services that reduced our a/v costs considerably when Anita mentioned that the funds saved could support scholarships for young scholars attending our Friday events. Membership has decreased again, though we have our highest number ever of members joining at the non-OECD rate instituted by Pieter de Villiers as President. As always, Anita urged members to give the gift of *Spiritus*. Tim acknowledged that Anita's work has been invaluable.
7. Report of the Nominations Committee (Timothy Robinson). Tim thanked Committee members Thom Parrott-Sheffer and Eric Cain.
 - a. The Committee proposed the following candidates (biographies below). The slate was approved by acclamation.
 - i) Vice President/President-elect: Barbara Quinn (2019-2020)
 - ii) Secretary/Treasurer: Rachel Wheeler (2019-2022)
 - iii) Two members to serve three-year terms as At-large Directors:
 - (1) Annie Pan Yi Jung (2019-2022)
 - (2) John Markey (2019-2022)
 - iv) *Spiritus* Liaison Member: Francis McAloon (2019-2024)
 - v) Ratification of the re-appointment by the Board of *Spiritus* Editor Steven Chase
 - vi) One member to serve on the Nominations Committee: Karen-Marie Yust (2019-2022)

- b. Thanks to Glen Scorgie, who completes his term as President and assumes the position of Past President
 - c. Thanks to members rotating off:
 - i) Bernadette Flanagan, who completes her term as Past President
 - ii) Anita Houck, who completes a lotta terms as Secretary/Treasurer
 - iii) Douglas Hardy and C. Vanessa White, who complete their terms as At-Large Directors
 - iv) Thom-Parrott-Sheffer, who completed an additional year on the Nominations Committee
 - d. Continuing members of the Board include At-large Directors Diana Ventura and Diana Villegas (2017-2020); Celia Kourie and Carter Haynes (2018-2021); and Steven Chase, Editor of *Spiritus* (2014-2019). Eric Cain continues on the Nominations Committee (2018-2021).
8. Report of the Editor of *Spiritus* (Steven Chase). The new journal is out for the fall; August Higgins worked very hard in securing copyright for poetry published in the new issue. Steven helpfully recommended journal editorship as a means to needing two sets of glasses. At the Editorial Board meeting this morning, The Managing Editor August Higgins and Managerial Assistant Melody Escobar were thanked for excellent work, though they will help for one more issue; Tim will also be completing the year to train a new Book Review Editor. The journal was able to work with our collaborating society to gain some publications, but the Society may want to think more fully in the future about how best to publish work from international conferences.
 9. Report of the International Relations Committee (Diana Villegas, Chair). The conference aimed for dialogue between Anglophone spirituality and spiritual theology studies that are primarily in universities in Rome. The conference explored a variety of methods; historical, personalistic, Old Testament historical-critical, artistic contemplation, and theological methods were among those presented. Participants on the Anglophone side came from Latvia, Africa, etc., and included ethnographic, city-planning, literary, philosophical, mystagogy and Biblical spirituality, and self-implication as method, systematic reflection on contemplative practice as methodologies. Two keynote speakers Mary Frohlich came from the Anglophone side, spirituality studies is “human spirit as the inner dynamism that urges toward the fulfillment of being...in relation to oneself” / “urgency toward the fullness of life” methodologies. The Italian keynote was Professor Jesus Garcia, who gave a brief history of spiritual theology from the perspective of the Catholic tradition from Patristics to Vatican II. The approaches of the two communities were different and contributed to a tenuous beginning of dialogue. There are other initiatives the IRC is working on, which will be discussed at their meeting later today.
 10. Report of the Emerging Scholars Group (Rachel Wheeler, Co-Coordinator): Rachel reported that the group is listening to needs of members; the group has used a Facebook group that’s been inclusive rather than pushing them to become members but could do more to do that. Facebook and email are the primary media. Kyle Schenkewitz put together a survey to collect information on what emerging scholars are working on, interests, training, what networking or mentorship they need. They hope to give that information to the Board and invite other members to mentor them to better integrate younger members into the existing membership. The highlight is gathering together, with the Founders’ Circle Prize presentation. Rachel invited ES and those who would like to join them at dinner. Rachel thanked Savoy for a great deal of work on researching and organizing the annual ES dinner.
 11. Vote on change to the SSCS Constitution: Removal of the Chairs of the AAR Christian Spirituality Unit from the Board of Directors (Timothy Robinson). Glen explained that the SSCS is no longer allowed to choose leadership of the CS Unit; the Constitution therefore needs to reflect that reality. The Constitution still says that the CSU co-chairs are automatically members of our Board, and needs to be changed to reflect AAR rules. The membership affirmed that change. Janet Ruffing encouraged SSCS members to continue to be involved, but this should happen at the CS Unit business meeting, which will happen after today’s 1:00 session.
 12. Report of items under consideration by the Board of Directors and suggestions of items for further consideration (Timothy Robinson and group discussion). We’re trying to be attentive to the needs

of the Society and changing landscape of higher education. Last year, we held a Summit of those who have been or are in leadership to reflect on our history and generate conversation about where the field and Society are going. This meeting will expyiyiand that conversation to larger group.

- a. Changes in organizational structure: Tim credited Glen's initiative in raising questions about our organizational structure; the Society, smaller than it was, may be maintaining structures created for a larger group. For instance, it could make sense to affirm connections to ongoing initiatives of the Board, the Emerging Scholars and IRC.
- b. Communications proposals: Carter Haynes delivered a detailed report evaluating our communications and suggesting ways to more effectively present ourselves to the academy and broader public.
- c. Other avenues for the Society to pursue (= et cetera).
- d. Tim encouraged members to mingle with people you haven't had these conversations with for the past 15 years. Groups of 4-5 to consider three questions in 15 minutes:
 - i) What do you appreciate about the SSCS and being part of it? Community of friends and scholars who can feel that connection here and throughout the year; meeting those from different nations; graduate students can feel supported and have the opportunity to be with more senior scholars in the field; integration of head and heart; Friday sessions are often more creative, including opportunities to dialogue with each other about what we're thinking and wondering about; the journal, especially the Presidential address; sense of community, especially through dinner, reception, experiential sessions; meetings combine academic and practices; invitations for leadership, participation have been personally extended to bring younger scholars in; recognition and hospitality of the group that can be invited in, help Emerging Scholars trust their own voices; low-key tone, no posing; diversity in terms of approach and geography
 - ii) From your perspective, how might we increase our effectiveness as a Society and visibility in the academy? How can I bring something from the meeting back to my students? Why don't I invite students to join the Society? Could we have a card for digitally oriented younger scholars to invite them to the website, Facebook, journal so they'll have support when they leave school? Some kind of data connection and easily available to make it easier to connect with each other; how to have ongoing contact throughout the year; in two years, when we're in San Antonio a day before the AAR hosted by the OST; Routledge Handbook on Spirituality and Professions has 51 chapters – how could we make more connections with other disciplines in dialogue with spirituality, perhaps have a session on the handbook. Have another office of blog coordinator, invite people to make contributions perhaps on particular topics so it could be more public, and should be academic and discipline focused, since there's plenty of popular writing that doesn't attend to methodology; could maintain attention to methodology to keep field from becoming too diffuse. New members would especially like having the opportunity to meet where students can present; longer meetings of spirituality papers in the U.S., so a two-day pre-conference in San Antonio might serve that need.
 - iii) Anything not covered in these questions that you would like the Board to hear from this group at its meeting tomorrow? Looking at workshops draw the largest number of people and adjust programming accordingly. Keyword search for AAR and have annual announcement inviting attendees to be involved. Affirming ES work regarding newer scholars and formal mentors. Explore how website can be updated and more reflective of the Society. Facebook group for SSCS has 2,600 members, but the only thing posted there about this meeting is two pictures from Thom. No announcement of any events at the AAR; of course most people who post don't attend AAR. Blog only publishes work from SSCS members; could be examined. Should be renamed Global Society (preferred to international).

13. Announcements
14. Meeting of the SSCS in November 2020: Suggestions of possible Friday sessions in Boston (Timothy Robinson)
15. Adjournment at noon.

Attendance: Address 74
PLNU: 25
Dinner: 41
Reception: 37?
Members' meeting: 58

Submitted by Anita Houck; please send corrections to Rachel Wheeler at wheelerr@u.edu

Nominee Biographies

For Vice President/President-Elect (2019-2020):

Barbara Quinn, RSCJ (D.Min., Catholic Theological Union) has served as the Associate Director of Spiritual Formation at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry since 2011. She holds a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in spirituality from Catholic Theological Union and a Master of Divinity from Weston Jesuit School of Theology. Prior to coming to STM Barbara served as the founding director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at the University of San Diego for 10 years. While there she developed a program that integrated spirituality and professional life in the areas of law, business, health care, and peace studies. She also developed a workshop with members of SSCS to examine spirituality as an academic discipline by addressing the methodology, teaching, interdisciplinarity, and assessment of the teaching of spirituality. She has taught in undergrad and graduate courses, especially in the areas of personal and communal discernment and prayer. Barbara is a frequent lecturer and has years of experience as a spiritual director and retreat director in the US while also traveling to Australia, India, Ireland, Japan, and Uganda. She served on the board of directors of SSCS (2013-2016).

For Secretary/Treasurer (2019-2022):

Rachel Wheeler (Ph.D., GTU) is Assistant Professor of Spirituality at the University of Portland where she teaches courses on the Bible, ecospirituality, contemplative traditions, and spirituality and the arts. She received a doctoral degree in Christian spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union in 2016; her dissertation was on the phenomenon of "holy feigning" as spiritual direction in the sayings of the desert fathers and mothers. She holds graduate degrees in theology from Saint John's School of Theology in Collegeville, MN where she focused on monastic studies and in English from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA where she focused on poetry. Her article, "Of Trash and Treasure: Implications of Zero Waste for the Spiritual Life" appeared in the spring 2019 issue of *Spiritus*. This year she was awarded a Dundon-Berchtold Fellowship in Applied Ethics at the University of Portland to investigate with a student the ethics of eco-ableism, and she is currently at work on a book on women in the Christian desert tradition.

For At-Large Positions on the Board of Directors (2019-2022):

Annie Pan Yi Jung (Ph.D., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) is assistant professor at the China Graduate School of Theology in Hong Kong. Born and grew up in Taiwan, also known as Formosa, she received her theological training in Hong Kong and later studied pastoral theology and Christian spirituality at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, with a PhD dissertation on re-contextualization of the *Spiritual Exercises* for women's spiritual formation in the Chinese evangelical context. She returned to Hong Kong to teach Christian spirituality, pastoral and practical theology, including supervision of PhD/ThM students. She is visiting professor for the DMin programme at the Nanjing Union

Theological Seminary in China. She has served for nearly ten years as consulting pastor in Hong Kong. Her previous experience includes campus ministry in Taiwan, pastoral ministry to Chinese community in Heidelberg, and seminary chaplaincy. She is on the editorial board of *Spiritus* (since 2015) and, as member of SSCS, on the International Relations Committee.

She has authored three books in Chinese, *Pilgrimage of Metropolitan Spirituality* (2016, Gold Medallion Book Award), *Holistic Premarital Counselling* (co-author, 2017) and *Meditation on Chinese Painting: A Journey through the Book of Exodus* (co-author, 2018). A new book *Spiritual Companionship in Life Journey* is expected to appear in 2019. A book draft in English has been submitted to publisher for consideration. She has published in academic journals on Ignatian spirituality, women's spiritual formation and other themes in Christian spirituality, including "Spiritual Exercises and Chinese Women's Spiritual Formation in Hong Kong," *Spiritus* 2014, "The Eucharist as Transformable Spirituality," *Spiritus* 2016, "Christ-Centered Anthropology of Ignatius of Loyola," *Sino-Christian Studies* 2013, "Chinese Women's Subjective Experiences in the Practice of Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises*," *East Asian Pastoral Review* 2013 and "Chinese Women's Spiritual Formation in Evangelical Churches," *Asia Journal of Theology* 2013. She has authored five book chapters in Chinese and essays in Chinese academic journal in *CGST Journal* 2013 and *HILL ROAD* 2018. She has contributed bimonthly since 2014 as columnist on Christian spirituality in a Chinese magazine.

John Markey, OP (Ph.D., GTU) is Professor of Theology and the Director of the PhD program in Spirituality at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1984, then earned an M.A. in Theology there two years later. He entered the Dominican Order in 1987 and was ordained a priest in 1993. He received his M.Div from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in 1991 and his PhD in Philosophy and Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California in 1997. He has written five books including, *Creating Communion: The Theology of the Constitutions of the Church* (2003), *Moses in Pharaoh's House: A Liberation Spirituality for North America* (2014) and recently, a series of books through Anselm Academic Press subtitled: *Catholic Perspectives through the Ages*. These books include *Who Is God?*, *Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit* and *Making Sense of Mystery*. He is also the co-editor of a book of essays entitled *Mysticism in Contemporary Life: Essays in Honor of Bernhard McGinn* (Herder & Herder, 2019). Dr. Markey has devoted a great deal of his academic research to the area of what is now referred to as "contextual" theology and spirituality. Specifically, he has been studying North American society and the culture of the U.S.A. as a specific context in which theologians must be able to articulate a spirituality and theology of conversion that challenges the radical individualism, consumerism/materialism, and functional nihilism of contemporary American culture. He refers to this type of spirituality as being rooted in a theology of conversion somewhat in distinction to a theology of liberation because he observes that many people in this cultural context do not need to be liberated from external forms of oppression as much as they need to undergo a conversion of heart and mind to be freed from the types of ideological oppression that make them oppressors to so many people in the rest of the world. Finally, as a member of the Order of Preachers for thirty years Dr. Markey has been deeply interested in Dominican spirituality and history, including service as the associate Novice Director and Regent of Studies for his province for eleven years.

For Liaison Member:

Francis X. McAloon, S.J., (Ph.D., GTU) is Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and Ignatian Studies at the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education, Fordham University (Bronx, NY). Currently, he is director of its Doctor of Ministry degree and past coordinator of its degrees/certificates in Christian spirituality and spiritual direction. Before Fordham, he served as Associate Professor of Ignatian Spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (Berkeley, CA). He has served on the board of directors for the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. When Steven Chase became editor of *Spiritus*, McAloon stepped-in to complete his remaining term as liaison between the SSCS board and the editorial board for *Spiritus*. Past

publications include *Forty-Day Journey with Gerard Manley Hopkins*, *The Language of Poetry as a Form of Prayer: The Theo-Poetic Aesthetics of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, "Reading for Transformation through the Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins," *Spiritus* (Fall 2008), and "Gerard Manley Hopkins," in *The Story of the Church of England: A Christianity and Culture Resource*, ed., Dee Dyas (CD-ROM, University of York, UK, 2010). Current research and writing expands to include the methods and critiques of disability studies, focusing upon the critical interpretation of social, medical, theological, and spiritual constructs of disability, as well as exploring pastoral strategies for accompanying persons living with chronic illness or disability. One trajectory of his work is proposing possibilities for spiritual affiliation among the disabled and abled communities -- through prayer, poetry, and the arts.

For the Nominations Committee:

Karen-Marie Yust (Th.D., Harvard) is the Josiah P. & Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA). She has published extensively on the topics of child, adolescent, and family spirituality, as well as the broader topics of Christian spiritual practices and faith formation across the lifespan. Her books include *Attentive to God: Spirituality in the Church Committee*, *Taught by God: Teaching and Spiritual Formation* (with Ron Anderson), and *Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives*, as well as an edited volume, *Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World's Religious Traditions*. She is the president of the International Association for Children's Spirituality and editor of the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*. She has directed Lilly Endowment-funded research projects on children's spirituality, youth spirituality, and Christian camping ministries, and is currently directing a project focused on rethinking children's and family spirituality in light of contemporary psychosocial and humanities research and practices. Her personal research focuses on digital culture and spirituality, as well as new discoveries in early childhood development and their implications for understanding and nurturing children's spiritual lives.

Other SSCS Events at the AAR/SBL

Founders' Circle Prize Essay Presentation (P23-300)

Saturday 22 November, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Hilton Bayfront Indigo H

Heather M. DuBois, Florida State University

"The Spirituality of a Pluralist: A Theological Reading of Connolly's Why I Am Not a Secularist"

All are welcome!

International Relations Committee Meeting (P23-401)

5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Hilton Bayfront, Sapphire Boardroom

Emerging Scholars Dinner (P23-405)

Saturday 23 November, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Toscana Cafe & Wine Bar, 238 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday 24 November, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Hilton Bayfront, Sapphire Boardroom

Other Events of Interest

Social hosted by Oblate School of Theology's Institute for the Study of Contemporary Spirituality

Saturday, November 23, 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., Striders San Diego, 100 J Street (at 2nd Avenue)

Celebrating the publication of *Mysticism and Contemporary Life: Essays in Honor of Bernard McGinn*

Sessions of the Christian Spirituality Unit of the AAR

Saturday, November 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Hilton Bayfront-Aqua 303 (Third Level)

Water, Christian Spirituality, and Indigenous Spirituality

Sunday, November 24, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Hilton Bayfront-Sapphire 411A (Fourth Level)

Liberation: Perspectives from Christian Spirituality

Monday, November 25, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Hilton Bayfront-Aqua F (Third Level)

Spirituality and Human Relations: Perspectives from the Social Sciences

Ways to Get Involved in the Society

- **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, please contact Kyle Schenkewitz, Coordinator, at kyle.schenkewitz@wartburg.edu.
- **The Annual Meeting Planning Group** organizes our events each year on the Friday before the AAR/SBL. If you'd like to help plan what we do in Boston, please contact Timothy Robinson at tim.robinson@tcu.edu.
- **The SSCS International Relations Committee** meets Saturday 17 November, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Convention Center, Room 208 (Street Level) (P17-402). For more information, please contact Diana L. Villegas, Chair, at dianavilsa@gmail.com.
- **Christian Spirituality Studies** <https://csstudies.org> is a blog for sharing members' research and teaching with other members and non-members. Posts include book notices, syllabi, articles, and abstracts. It may be found through the Society's website, and for more information or to submit a post, please contact our Web Editor, Jonas Barciauskas, at jvb924@gmail.com.
- **Also visit the Society on Facebook.** All members are invited to join the closed Facebook group for the Emerging Scholars, as well!

SSCS Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2019 (June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019)

Opening balance: 6/01/18	\$18,476.86
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues	\$5,835.64
Contributions (tax deductible)	368.00
Credit Union dividends	3.22
Dinner payments	\$1,730.99
Total income:	\$7,937.85
<u>Society expenses:</u>	
Emerging Scholars	\$495.80
Annual Meeting 2017	\$110.00
Annual Meeting 2018	\$4,206.83
Founders' Circle prizes	414.00
Stipend (Web Editor)	500.00
Stipend (Secretary/Treasurer)	1,000.00
Illinois corporate filing	13.00
Subtotal Society expenses:	\$6,278.74
<u>Spiritus expenses:</u>	
Stipend (Editor)	\$1,000.00
Stipend (Book Editor)	500.00
Subtotal Spiritus expenses:	\$1,500.00
Total expenses	\$8,239.63
Net loss	\$301.78
Closing balance: 5/31/19	\$18,071.88

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

	2019 (11/4)	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2011	2006
Individual									
US	248 (37) [7]	249 (42) [8]	303 (44) [7]	302 (48) [5]	318 (50) [5]	380 (63) [6]	434 (83) [5]	401 [13]	561 (59)
Canada	13 (1)	10 (1)	14 (3)	18 (4)	23 (9)	22 (6)	20 (2)	22	21 (3)
Europe	18 (1) [1]	26 (2) [1]	32 (1) [1]	28 (2) [1]	24 (3) [1]	30 (6) [1]	35 (8) [1]	31 [7]	33 (5)
Other	19 (5)	23 (4)	35 (4)	29 (3)	25 (3)	27 (3)	26 (2)	27	16 (1)
Non-OECD	7 (2 U.S., 5 Other)	3 (1 Europe, 2 Other)	6	2					

Total	357	368	398 (52) [8]	384 (57) [6]	394 (65) [6]	462 (78) [7]	521 (95) [6]	481 [20]	630 (68)
Institutional	72 50-4-7-11	75 53-4-7- 11	84 64-5-6-7	88 67-5-7-11	106 77-7-7- 15	106 77-7-7- 15	111 80-7-7- 17	120 88-6-9- 17	126