

**Minutes of the Members' Meeting of
The Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality**
Wednesday, December 2, 10:30-noon, Eastern Time
Virtual Meeting

Meeting convened at 10:40 am, Eastern Time
Approximately 37 members present

1. Introduction of new President, Barbara Quinn (Timothy Robinson, President)
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Meeting (Rachel Wheeler, Secretary/Treasurer)
 - Diana L. Villegas moved the minutes be accepted; seconded by Doug Hardy. Motion carried.
3. Welcome of new members and international members (Barbara Quinn, President)
4. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer (see Treasurer's Report below) (Rachel Wheeler)
5. Report of the Nominations Committee (Barbara Quinn)
 - a. The Committee proposes the following candidates (see biographies below):
 - i) Vice President/President-elect: Douglas Hardy (2020-2021)
 - ii) Two members to serve three-year terms as At-large Directors:
 - (1) Shannon McAlister (2020-2023)
 - (2) Matthew Wickman (2020-2023)
 - David Perrin moved that the slate be accepted; seconded by Vanessa White. Motion carried.
 - b. Thanks to Timothy Robinson, who completes his term as President and assumes the position of Past President
 - c. Thanks to members rotating off:
 - i) Glen Scorgie, who completes his term as Past President
 - ii) Diana L. Villegas and Diana Ventura, who complete their terms as At-Large Directors. Note that Diana L. Villegas (2020-2023) will continue as an ex officio board member representing the International Relations Committee (IRC).
 - d. Continuing members of the Board include At-large Directors Celia Kourie and Carter Haynes (2018-2021); Annie Pan Yi Jung and John Markey (2019-2022); and Steven Chase, Editor of *Spiritus* (2019-2024) and Frank McAloon, *Spiritus* Liaison Member (2019-2024). Eric Cain (2018-2021) and Karen-Marie Yust (2019-2022) continue on the Nominations Committee. Doug Hardy becomes new Nominations Committee Chairperson.
6. Report of the Editor of *Spiritus* (Steven Chase)
 - Frank McAloon read Steven's letter; see attached. News: spring issue features members of editorial board addressing COVID context; new book review editor is Amanda Kaminski.
7. Report of the International Relations Committee (Diana L. Villegas, Chair)
 - Two new members: Andre Brouillette, SJ (North American representative) and Christo Lombaard (South Africa representative)
 - From the Nov 12 and Nov 17 meetings: the IRC has developed term limits for committee members with Chairperson serving as ex officio member of the SSCS Board of Directors (see vote below under Board Restructuring)
 - Initiatives: annual newsletter to bring international perspective to SSCS; use of technology for virtual events in the future; a future international conference (in 2022 or after);
 - David Perrin question: logistics of international virtual meetings; Wendy Wright question: making sure SSCS members get the IRC annual newsletter (problems with JHUP listserv distribution to look into)
8. Report of the Emerging Scholars Group (Kyle Schenkewitz; see written report)
 - David Perrin suggestion: formal recognition of ES milestones (new jobs, publications, etc.);
 - Anita Houck suggestion: reduced membership fees to bring in ES members (on Facebook for instance) who aren't yet SSCS members
9. Meeting of the SSCS in November 2021 in San Antonio (John Markey)

- Proposal of pre-conference meeting at OST to be presented at Board meeting; Margaret Benefiel expressed willingness to connect with John to help with possible planning
10. Board Restructuring (Timothy Robinson)
 - Glen Scorgie’s major task during his presidency; new representation on the Board: IRC Chairperson (ex officio) & ES (ex officio) with removal of CS Unit Chairpersons
 - Janet Ruffing moved that this restructuring occur; seconded by Claire Wolfteich. Discussion involved how to retain connection with the CS Group despite this removal of representation on the SSCS Board. After suggested amendments to the original motion, it was agreed that the Board would discuss this further at the Board meeting; Barbara Quinn welcomed Janet’s formulating a specific resolution for discussion there. Concern was expressed about the participation of SSCS members in CS Group planning (panel topics, for instance) and a reminder was extended to members to be present at the CS Group meeting or to email Chairpersons (Margaret Benefiel and Beringia Zen) to make suggestions. Mary Frohlich reminded all to be careful about defining this relationship formally so as not to subvert the AAR policy to keep SSCS and the CS Group separate. Put to a vote, all approved the motion regarding Board restructuring.
 11. New Website (Carter Hayner)
 12. Announcements: Cliff Knight reported on the hosting of a conference at the Oblate School of Theology in November, honoring Ronald Rohlheiser. Some of the conference proceedings will be published in Offerings (an OST publication). Wendy Wright commended Sandra Schneiders’ work from the conference.
 13. Adjournment at 11:36 am, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Wheeler
 Please send corrections to wheelerr@up.edu

Nominee Biographies

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

Douglas S. Hardy (Ph.D., Boston University), Professor of Spiritual Formation at Nazarene Theological Seminary, is an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene where he served as a pastor prior to university and seminary teaching. He is a practicing spiritual director, with research interests in Wesleyan spirituality, spiritual formation, and the psychology of religion. Doug has written articles and reviews for scholarly journals (including the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* and *Spiritus*), contributed chapters to four books, and written two brief books on Christian disciplines and prayer practice. He also writes for church publications and regularly presents at academic and professional meetings. Doug directed a Doctor of Ministry program, has served the SSCS as a member-at-large on the Governing Board, currently serves as a member of the Editorial Review Panel for *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction*, directed an Association of Theological Schools faculty development grant, and currently participates in a Wabash Center program for “Engaging Imagination as Theological School Faculty.”

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

Shannon McAlister is an Associate Professor of Spirituality at Fordham University. She holds a Ph.D. in Theology from The Catholic University of America. Her research focuses on the history of feminine-gendered language for God in the Latin West; and she also engages in ministry as a spiritual director, with a Certificate from the Spiritual Direction Institute at Mercy Center in Burlingame, California. In the past she has served the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality as a Coordinator of the Emerging Scholars Group, as a member of the Planning Task Force for Friday Events at the AAR, and as a contributor to *Spiritus*. She has also served as the Chair of the Christian History and Theology Section of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, and is currently on the Editorial Board of *Offerings: A Journal of Christian Spirituality and Practical Theology*.

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

Matthew Wickman is Professor of English at Brigham Young University, Utah, and Founding Director of the BYU Humanities Center. He is the author of two books and dozens of articles addressing subjects across the interdisciplinary humanities. His early work was on the topic of the complexities of experience in modernity, a subject to which he was drawn because of a lifelong interest in spirituality. This is a subject to which he has returned in recent years, with several published articles on spiritual experience, including in *Spiritus*. He is presently completing a memoir about spiritual experience and literature and is working on two other books on the subject of spirituality—one on spirituality and religion, the other on what spiritual exercises mean relative to the broad fields of the humanities. He is grateful for the exemplary work of friends he has met in the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality and looks forward to serving the SSCS over the next three years.

Other Events

Partial Day Retreat with SSCS Member, The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

“Building Emotional and Spiritual Resilience”

Thursday, December 3, 9:30 am-12 pm, Eastern Time

Zoom link: <https://uportland.zoom.us/j/98831342333>

All are welcome! No AAR registration required

SSCS Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, December 7, 4:00-5:00 pm, Virtual meeting

Sessions of the Christian Spirituality Unit of the AAR

Monday, November 30, 1:45-3:15 pm, Eastern Time

“Spiritual Dimensions of Memory” with Nathan White and Michelle Marvin presenting and Beringia Zen presiding over CS Unit Business meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 4:00-5:30 pm, Eastern Time

“Apocalyptic Spirituality” with Aline Lewis and Derek Taylor presenting and Leonard McMahon presiding

Thursday, December 10, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Eastern Time

“Mystical Theology: Emerging Perspectives” with Douglas Christie presiding with panelists John Arblaster, Charlotte Radler, Rachel Smith, Joanne Maguire, and respondent Louise Nelstrop

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 at kyle.schenkewitz@msj.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 San Antonio next year, please contact Barbara Quinn at barbara.quinn.3@bc.edu.
- **The SSCS International Relations Committee** represents international members of the SSCS, fostering relationships with SSCS and spirituality scholars and societies, institutes, and schools in countries across the world. For more information, please contact Diana L. Villegas, Chairperson, at dianavilsa@gmail.com.
- **The SSCS Website** has recently been redesigned and updated. Please take a look at <https://sscs.press.jhu.edu>.
- **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!

Membership Report

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Individual	281							
US	278	248 (37) [7]	249 (42) [8]	303 (44) [7]	302 (48) [5]	318 (50) [5]	380 (63) [6]	434 (83) [5]
Canada	12	13 (1)	10 (1)	14 (3)	18 (4)	23 (9)	22 (6)	20 (2)
Europe	17	18 (1) [1]	26 (2) [1]	32 (1) [1]	28 (2) [1]	24 (3) [1]	30 (6) [1]	35 (8) [1]
Other	31	19 (5)	23 (4)	35 (4)	29 (3)	25 (3)	27 (3)	26 (2)
Non-OECD	7 (2 U.S., 5 Other)	7 (2 U.S., 5 Other)	3 (1 Europe, 2 Other)	6	2			
Total	347	357	368	398 (52) [8]	384 (57) [6]	394 (65) [6]	462 (78) [7]	521 (95) [6]
Institutional		N	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

student members included in totals
gratis subscriptions not included in totals

SSCS Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2020 (June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020)

Opening balance: 6/01/19	\$20,071.88
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues	\$5,910.40
Contributions (tax deductible)	0.00
Credit Union dividends	\$3.23
Dinner payments	\$1,935.11
Total income:	\$7,848.74
<u>Society expenses:</u>	
Emerging Scholars	\$1,350.90
Annual Meeting 2017	\$50.00
Annual Meeting 2018	0.00
Annual Meeting 2019	\$2,084.80
Founders' Circle prizes	\$360.00
Stipend (Web Editor)	\$500.00
Stipend (Secretary/Treasurer)	\$1,000.00
Illinois corporate filing	\$13.00
Subtotal Society expenses:	\$5,358.70
<u>Spiritus expenses:</u>	
Stipend (Editor)	\$0.00
Stipend (Book Review Editor)	\$500.00
Subtotal <i>Spiritus</i> expenses:	\$500.00
Total expenses	\$5,858.70
Net gain	\$1,990.04
Closing balance: 5/31/20	\$22,061.92

Treasurer Report Notes:

Expense of \$5,000 for website redesign will appear in next year's financial report
 Expenses for Emerging Scholars include dinner costs for AAR 2019 and 2018
 Reimbursement costs for previous AAR expenditures will appear in future reports
 Spiritus Editor stipend for 2019/2020 had been partially paid in 2018/19; thus \$0 on this report