

Religious Education Association

The REA is an Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education.

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Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is with excitement and joy that I look forward to our meeting in Pittsburgh! We have been working hard on the theme, the program and the framework, in order to include papers, posters and plenary presentations. Take again a look at the latest <u>issue of E-Reach</u> and share our enthusiasm about the quality of this year's conference. <u>Make your</u> <u>choices</u> for the RIG's, the workshops and the communities of practice and reflection! And please do not forget to prepare yourself for the first break out session: the market place of new and hope-related research in the REfield!

Let me tell you why we are convening on Friday morning and ending the formal meeting on Saturday evening, with special additional sessions on Sunday morning. We believe that the new format will make our conference more compact and give at the same time more space for networking and encounter. So often in the past, people had to leave early on Sunday before the end of the conference and missed the important final address and business meeting. We want you to be more involved as members of REA during the entire conference – through informal networking, exchange of new research and your engagement in the guild. The community feast fest on Friday evening is an invitation to enjoy fellowship; the interfaith prayer on Sunday morning as well. The new program is an experiment; please help us to understand and to improve what we are doing. Do evaluate the sessions on your device and fill out the questionnaire at the end of the conference.

I am looking forward to your coming!

Your President-Elect, Bert Roebben