



# eREACH

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*The electronic newsletter of the Religious Education Association:  
An Association of Professors, Practitioners, Researchers, and Religious Educators*

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## **2012 ANNUAL MEETING in BOSTON – November 8-10, 2013**

Our 2013 meeting will take place November 8-10 at the Westin Hotel in Waltham, MA, on the outskirts of Boston. The theme this year is **Coming Out Religiously: Religion, the Public Sphere, and Religious Identity Formation**. Because religion contributes significantly to the public sphere through its dimension of meaning-making, the government/state has a stake in religious education. We will examine the implications for religious education in public and private schools, the role and contribution of religious communities in the public domain, and the relation of religious education to civic responsibility. Program Chair Siebren Miedema (VU University Amsterdam) is already busy cultivating a lively international conversation on this topic in preparation for what promises to be another lively meeting with an inspiring group of speakers and conversation partners! Please plan now to join us in Boston next November.

The call for papers is now available at <http://www.religiouseducation.net/rea2013/call/>. Submission guidelines are at the bottom of the page. The deadline for submission of proposals is Wednesday, May 1st, 2013, and members will be notified of the status of their proposal by Monday, June 10, 2013.

## **2012 ANNUAL MEETING in ATLANTA – IT WAS TERRIFIC!**

In spite of Hurricane Sandy, which hit New England just four days before the November meeting, we had a high attendance of 160 at our November meeting in Atlanta! The meeting theme, **“Let Freedom Ring!”—Religious Education at the Intersection of Social Justice, Liberation, and Civil/Human Rights**, proved to be an extremely generative topic, perfectly placed and timed in Atlanta a few days before national elections. A record number of 116 proposals last May resulted in 39 breakout sessions and 66 presentations during the weekend.

In addition, the **first REA poster session** debuted with eight poster presentations. Both presenters and viewers agreed this is a format well worth repeating because it provided more individual conversation and feedback for the presenter, which some presenters said they now preferred to presenting papers!

Another first was our request for presenters to **bring projectors and share** as a way to reduce our high audio-visual expense for annual meetings. Another success! Five people shared their projectors, saving us \$2,800! (We will most likely repeat this practice in 2013.)

The five plenaries interspersed music and dance, singing, small groups, and mentoring with outstanding talks on immigrants, nurturing youth in churches and through the arts, and urban ministry in Atlanta. What powerful experiences and rich conversations! Be sure to check the **Highlights** on the [meeting web site](#) for photos from the meeting. Video clips will be added soon. Program Chair Yolanda Smith and her committee produced an outstanding roster of speakers, exhibits, artists, and musicians that stirred our creativity and inspired our praxis.

**The REA:APPRRE Signature Quilt** was created during the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta by those attending the conference, with the aid and expertise of InterRelations Collaborative. See

photos of the beautiful 6' x 8' quilt [here](#). We hope to display the quilt, a testimony to the Association's commitment to justice and peace, at every Annual Meeting.

### **Welcome to our new Board members**

We welcome two new Board members, Mai-Anh Le Tran as Vice-President and Evelyn Parker as Member-At-Large. We also welcome five new committee members: Justus Baird, Hyun-Sook Kim, Sara Lee, Najeeba Syeed-Miller, and David White. See the [Board](#) and Committee pages on our website for a full listing. Special gratitude is extended to those completing their terms of Board and Committee service: Mary Hess, Debra Court, Russell Dalton, Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Thomas Groome, Joyce Mercer, and Katherine Turpin. Our organization runs on the steam of its committed leadership!

### **REA:APPRRE Announces New Book Series!**

Spread the word about the new book series to be published by REA:APPRRE in cooperation with Wipf & Stock Publishers, [HORIZONS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION](#). The impetus for this groundbreaking project is REA's commitment to support newer scholars and to nurture the growth and development of our field. The Editorial Board for the series is already considering a few manuscripts for publication in the next year. Inquiries, manuscripts, or intent to submit should be sent to Jack Seymour, Editor, at [jack.seymour@garrett.edu](mailto:jack.seymour@garrett.edu).

### **Is your membership current?**

Remember that REA membership follows the calendar year, so [renew your membership](#) early so that you won't miss any issues of *Religious Education*. You can find current information about your membership by 1) checking the online [Membership Directory](#) to see if you are listed correctly, 2) signing in to your account at Taylor & Francis Online and going to My Account > Access, or 3) contacting [Customer Service](#) at Taylor & Francis who publish the REA journal and process all of our memberships.

### **Having trouble accessing *Religious Education* online?**

If you are trying to access *Religious Education* online, go to the [journal page](#) on our website and click on **Taylor and Francis Online**. Your membership gives you access to all of the issues of *Religious Education*, but you will need to login with the information provided with your membership. If the page asks for your login and you don't remember it, then email [customer service](#) at Taylor and Francis and ask them to send you your login information again.

Blessings upon your winter and spring,



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