



New executive secretary announced
Changes due to COVID-19 continue
Statement on Murder of George Floyd
And more inside



Dr. Lakisha Lockhart named as next REA Executive Secretary

The REA is thoroughly excited to announce that Dr. Lakisha Lockhart, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary, became the new Executive Secretary as of July 15th. Our outgoing secretary, Dr. Lucinda Huffaker, will continue to be available in a consulting capacity during a transition through October.

The search committee for the REA executive secretary consisted of co-chairs Mary Young and Jack Seymour, Maureen O'Brien, Gina Robinson, Josh Lunde-Whitler, and Hanan Alexander, ex-officio. They presented the following recommendation to the Board of the REA, who unanimously voted to accept it:

In conducting our search, the committee spoke with the REA president and current executive secretary to determine a job description; advertised for the position; solicited recommendations and applicants; reviewed applicants; determined three finalists; reviewed references; interviewed all; and determined a recommendation. We were delighted with all applicants and we are enthusiastic about this recommendation of Dr. Lakisha Lockhart.

The criteria we examined in our search included the following: knowledge of and vision for REA; perspective on religious education and the roles of the field; commitment to the inclusive vision of REA – international, interreligious, and intercultural; administrative skills including planning, communicating,

supervision, finances, and team-building; technological proficiency; and pedagogical creativity.

Dr. Lockhart is an energetic, creative, practical theologian and religious educator. She evidenced a refreshing familiarity with religious institutions and the academy as well as the potential public impact of our field. She is sensitive to people who work in these areas and is aware of the challenges many younger educators face to build a career in the midst of cultural change. Her vision for what REA can become is rich with creativity, relevance, optimism, and adaptive change. She shares the commitments of REA to a widening and inclusive vision of our association and its potential impact.



We were impressed by her strong administrative gifts – detail-oriented, organized, collaborative, financial management skills, aware of current REA structure, and collaborative with a willingness to learn. She has demonstrated the ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously. This is evident in her engagement as a seminary instructor and scholar while adeptly coordinating a project for FTE along with attending to family responsibilities. She also has an awareness of current technological resources for administration and teaching that will help REA build our community and fulfill our goals.

Moreover, we believe that Dr. Lockhart will assist us all in REA to focus our attention on the current state of our field while encouraging us to envision additional ways we can live out our mission and vision. We are confident that she will work hard to ensure that the multiple voices in our community are heard and connected with the community, including those of younger, under-represented, international, and interreligious scholars and practitioners.

Her personality, professional manner, gifts as a young scholar, and passion for the values of REA make her a welcome recommendation for the position of REA Executive Secretary.

Meet and greet our new Executive Secretary

REA will hold a Zoom session on August 4, 10 am eastern time to meet and greet Dr. Lockhart. We will also record this session for people who are not able to join us. We have tried to schedule it at a time that will work for our diverse membership -- which spans more than six time zones! You can join us at this [zoom link on August 4, 10 am eastern time](#) (but be aware we will be using a waiting room, so please come a bit early).

Dr. Lucinda Huffaker says goodbye

It is my great pleasure to welcome Dr. Lakisha Lockhart into the position of Executive Secretary. I could not be more excited about the Search Committee's decision, and I am looking forward to our first working session as Lakisha and I begin to talk about all the things that make REA run! I am proud to have been part of this organization—such a historic association that has done important, groundbreaking work over the last century. I have no doubt that Lakisha will tend this work with creativity and imagination such that REA will flourish.

Thank you for your warmth and generosity toward me over this past decade. It has been a pleasure serving you as a colleague and fellow educator!

Lucinda



COVID-19 related shifts in annual meeting

As this issue of eReach is being finalized, AAR has just announced its decision to cancel its face-to-face November meeting. The REA Board of Directors struggled last March with a similarly difficult decision of what to do about the REA annual meeting, and they decided to postpone it until July 6-9, 2021, and to hold it at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. This is a big shift for our organization, one to which the Board committed as the best of the options facing us in this pandemic. REA deeply values in-person learning, and by moving our annual meeting to the summer of 2021 we are hopeful that specific practices will have evolved by then to keep us healthy for in-person gatherings.

The Board was also concerned about the safety of travel and large public gatherings, as well as the general fatigue that is not uncommon in the face of uncertain teaching conditions, taking care of families, and ongoing struggles to cope and adapt in demanding and unpredictable times. For at least these reasons, the Board of Directors determined that it would be best to postpone our meeting, pay the cancellation fee to the meeting hotel in St. Louis, and plan a less expensive summer meeting at a university campus.

In effect, we are moving to our summer schedule one year earlier than we had plans to do anyway, and we will realize the same benefits. For example, we will be meeting from Tuesday evening through Friday noon, which may better serve our association's diverse religious membership.

Additionally, if you choose to stay in the University of St. Thomas dormitory suites (which are fully air-conditioned) you will notice a steep decline in room pricing, as well as the opportunity to participate in full day food service in their state-of-the-art cafeteria. If you prefer to stay in a local hotel or B&B, there are several of those nearby also. More details about housing will be forthcoming.

The annual meeting that was being planned for November 2020 has now become the program for July 2021. Program Chair Boyung Lee's theme is [Gender, Sexuality, and Wholeness: Religious Education for Confrontation and Healing](#). The timeline for submitting proposals and completed papers has shifted. If you have already submitted



a proposal, it will remain active for the July 2021 meeting. If you have not yet made a proposal, the new deadline is January 8, 2021. Final completed papers will be due by May 14, 2021.



Patrick Reyes is currently Vice-President/Program Chair-elect. He will be responsible for the theme of the program for July 2022, and he will announce the program's theme in July 2021. Our new procedure of members selecting meeting themes by vote will begin with the selection of the program theme for 2023. More details about that will be announced during 2021.

Save the dates: November 6-8, 2020

We are not meeting in person at REA this coming November 6-9, but we hope you will keep those regular REA meeting times open for some special events we have planned. These include our annual business meeting, committees and working groups that want to meet, the Advisory Council meeting, and more. Please keep these dates marked on your calendar and we will provide more details as soon as they are available.

Transitions continue in governance

Shifting the annual meeting from November to July makes it more practical, the Board has determined, to have Board and committee terms run from September 1 through August 31 rather than with the calendar year, as terms currently run. However, in order to achieve the necessary adjustment to Board and committee terms so that they align with the new cycle, terms of 2020 incumbents will need to be extended by eight months. Therefore, a vote to do so will be taken at the online November 2020 business meeting. Elections for the next slate of new officers and committee members will then be held in July 2021 rather than this November.

We regretfully report that Elena Soto, Reporting Secretary of REA, had to step down from her position due to the demands of her other commitments; hence, the membership will also be voting in November for a candidate to complete Elena's term which would then run through August 2021.

REA support for regional meetings

In this time of pandemic the REA Board is more aware than ever of the need and desire for staying in close relationship. Towards that end we are looking for ways to support small, regional gatherings. The REA can help to hold such gatherings via Zoom, and is pleased to offer whatever other support we can -- including sending out notes to members via our mailing list. Dr. Maureen O'Brien recently held a Catholic Community of Practice meeting this way, with more than 30 people attending in Zoom. You can read the minutes of that meeting [on their webpage](#), which will also demonstrate how you might want to draw on such support at our formal website for another working group or community of practice.

The REA publishes statement on George Floyd and #BLM

On June 4th the REA Board published [a statement](#) following the murder of George Floyd. You can [read the statement online](#) and should note that the statement includes active links to the many names of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) who have been killed by the police in the United States. The long litany of names is powerful, and clearly this instance has had an impact globally. In the Resources section of this newsletter we are including a number of useful pieces.

REA at AAR session planned on trauma

As is our practice, REA has planned a special session for the November American Academy of Religion meeting, to be held online in late November. The session is entitled “Attending to Trauma: Innovative Pedagogies for Teaching on Gender and Sexual Violence in Religious Studies Classrooms,” and will include the following participants:

Presider — Boyung Lee, Iliff School of Theology

Panelists — Jeremy Posadas, Austin College

Almeda Wright, Yale Divinity School

Patrick Reyes, Forum for Theological Exploration

Resources

The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

The Wabash Center has pivoted very nimbly in the wake of the pandemic to a plethora of online podcasts, workshops, and other resources under the direction of long-time REA member Dr. Nancy Lynne Westfield. There are significant discussions taking place there about next steps in the work for racial justice.

The Forum for Theological Exploration

FTE has long been a key resource organization in the US context supporting Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) in leadership in Christian communities. Their resource pages are full of everything from articles, book reviews, exercise handouts, and much, much more.

Parliament of the World's Religions statement following George Floyd's murder

Entitled “This Perilous Moment: A Statement from Religious Leaders and Communities on the Crisis of Racial Injustice and Inequity and the Current Protests,” the Parliament of the World's Religions invites recognition of the global nature of these issues, and offers thoughtful commentary from a diverse range of faith perspectives.

The Marshall Project

The Marshall Project witnesses to the criminal justice system in the US. Their set of videos created by people held within that system, by parents of victims, by judges and correction officers, and by many more people connected to, or impacted by, this system is particularly powerful and free for use.

De-escalation works -- and why police don't use it

This essay by Maggie Koerth and Jamiles Lartey at 538 is a very thoughtful analysis of why de-escalation works, and yet why US police rarely use it as a strategy.

Bad Robot's guide to dismantling white supremacy in the workplace

Bad Robot is a film production company that works on powerful narratives. Their guide to dismantling white supremacy in the workplace is novel and powerful.

The Witness Project

The Witness project is focused on helping people to document human rights abuses, and they have a very useful short video on how to film the police, full of ethical and pragmatic tips.

Facing Racism guides

The Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA) has put together a substantial set of materials for engaging racism in local churches, for free and online.

Member News

Patrick Manning is excited to announce [a lovely website](#) in support of his recent Horizons book, *[Converting the Imagination: Teaching to Discover Jesus' Vision for Fullness of Life](#)*

Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, and Nathaniel D. West are pleased to announce their new edited collection of writing, *[From Lament to Advocacy: Black Religious Education and Public Ministry](#)*

Previous REA presidents **Mualla Selçuk** and **Siebrren Miedema**, along with long time REA colleague **John Valk**, recently led a webinar on "Plagues and Pandemics of Our Time: Responses from Our Educational Worldview Values." [The webinar was recorded and is available to watch online.](#)



eREACH is a newsletter of the Religious Education Association, an Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education.

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 Patrick Reyes, photo by the Forum for Theological Exploration
 Lucinda Huffaker, photo by Yale
 Boyung Lee, photo by Iliff



religions



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Reflecting on the Possibilities of Religious Education Research

Guest Editor:

Dr. Kathy Winings

Unification Theological
Seminary; 4 West 43rd Street,
NYC, NY 10036, USA
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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

1 October 2020

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue will provide a look at important research in religious education that is taking place in diverse areas of the globe and from multiple perspectives. This Special Issue will allow contributors to provide a wide-angle look at critical issues that the field of religious education can and should address in order to make a decided contribution to faith communities and religious educators in a wide range of contexts. Issues and questions that may be presented range from defining a faithful life in a post-coronavirus world and addressing the questions of the coming generations on the impact of religious education on environmental concerns, challenges to justice and equality, economics, religious education and faith in a digital online world, insights into teaching and learning, and the possible influence of neuroscience.



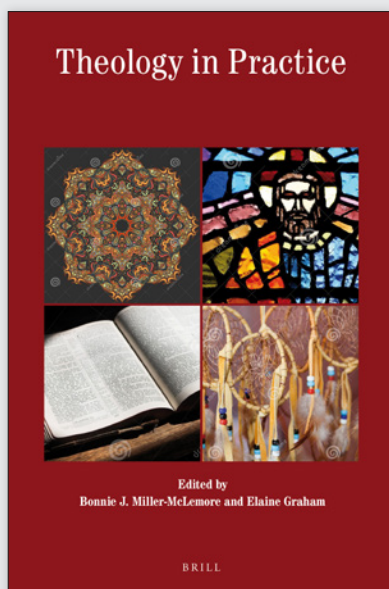
mdpi.com/si/48376

Special Issue

Theology in Practice

Editors-in-Chief: **Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore**, Vanderbilt University, USA, **Elaine Graham**, University of Chester, UK

Editorial Board: **Tom Beaudoin**, Fordham University, USA, **Eileen Campbell-Reed**, Union Theological Seminary, New York City, USA, **Joyce Ann Mercer**, Yale Divinity School, USA, **Anthony Reddie**, Bristol Baptist College, UK, **Phillis Sheppard**, Vanderbilt University, USA, and **Claire E. Wolfteich**, Boston University, USA

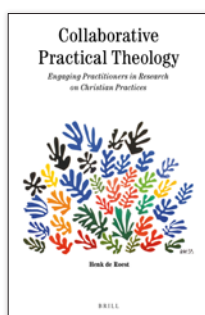


Theology in Practice extends the horizons of the discipline and scholarship of practical theology. It promises to enrich the academic discourse and supply material of interest to scholars and professional graduate students. Books in the series will be in conversation with scholarship in the discipline and reflect engagement with diverse voices in the field (e.g., gender, race, international). They will feature developments in the theories of practice, experience, culture, and action that define the discipline, while also attending to the close study of lived faith and theologically significant practices. Authors will range from senior scholars presenting mature research to young scholars pursuing promising fresh avenues. The series is also open to edited volumes on emerging topics. Audiences will be practical theologians and other interested scholars and graduate students in established and emerging geographical, institutional, and religious contexts.

Call for Manuscripts

For more information regarding the series and possible submissions please contact Brill's Acquisitions Editor for Theology and World Christianity, Tessel Jonquière (mail to: jonquiere@brill.com).

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brill.com/thip



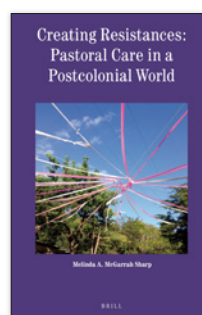
October 2019
Paperback (x, 371 pp.)
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Price € 68 / US\$ 78
E-ISBN 9789004413238
E-Price € 132 / US\$ 152
Theology in Practice, 8

Collaborative Practical Theology

Engaging Practitioners in Research on Christian Practices

Henk de Roest, Protestant Theological University, Groningen

Collaborative Practical Theology documents and analyses research on Christian practices conducted by academic practical theologians *in collaboration with* practitioners of different kinds in Christian practices all around the world. These practitioners include professional practitioners, everyday believers, volunteers and students in theological education. The book offers rationales for setting up joint investigation groups with different 'communities of practice', describes a wide range of collaborative research strategies and methods and also has a clear eye for their limitations. In Christian practices faith is mediated, enacted and nurtured. The aim of the book is to improve the utility of theological research on these practices. It communicates the vision that academic research is for the people of God in today's world.

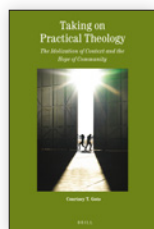


October 2019
Paperback (xii, 222 pp.)
ISBN 9789004412040
Price € 49 / US\$ 57
E-ISBN 9789004412057
E-Price € 94 / US\$ 108
Theology in Practice, 7

Creating Resistances: Pastoral Care in a Postcolonial World

Melinda A. McGarrah Sharp, Columbia Theological Seminary

Using intercultural stories and pastoral care scholarship, this book charts pathways through five resistances (not me, not here, not now, not relevant, not possible) to awaken creative pastoral care in a postcolonial world. McGarrah Sharp recommends practices that everyone can do: believing in each other, revisiting how histories are taught, imagining more passable futures, heeding prophetic poets, and crossing borders with healthy boundaries.



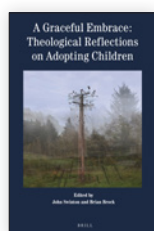
August 2018
Paperback (xx, 292 pp.)
ISBN 9789004349889
Price € 55 / US\$ 64
E-ISBN 9789004376076
E-Price € 110 / US\$ 127
Theology in Practice, 6

Taking on Practical Theology

The Idolization of Context and the Hope of Community

Courtney T. Goto, Boston University School of Theology

In *Taking on Practical Theology*, Courtney T. Goto explores the regnant paradigm that shapes knowledge production and that preserves power, privilege, and historic communal injury even as scholars intend to enlighten and transform communities.

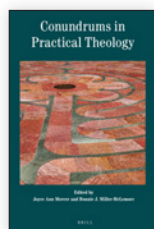


December 2017
Paperback (xvi, 248 pp.)
ISBN 9789004352896
Price € 55 / US\$ 64
E-ISBN 9789004352902
E-Price € 105 / US\$ 122
Theology in Practice, 4

A Graceful Embrace: Theological Reflections on Adopting Children

John Swinton and **Brian Brock**, University of Aberdeen

This book significantly deepens the contemporary discussion of the theology and practice of adopting children. Both interdisciplinary and international, the volume offers a unique and uniquely insightful vision of Christian adoption that unites practical and theoretical perspectives.



September 2016
Paperback (x, 322 pp.)
ISBN 9789004324237
Price € 60 / US\$ 80
E-ISBN 9789004324244
E-Price € 60 / US\$ 80
Theology in Practice, 2

Conundrums in Practical Theology

Edited by **Joyce Ann Mercer** and **Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore**

In this landmark volume, internationally recognized scholars address with unheralded honesty key intellectual and practical conundrums that not only trouble practical theology but reflect biases and breakdowns in the construction of theological knowledge in academy and religious communities at large.



September 2017
Paperback (viii, 252 pp.)
ISBN 9789004353176
Price € 49 / US\$ 57
E-ISBN 9789004353183
E-Price € 99 / US\$ 114
Theology in Practice, 5

Missionary Positions

A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective on Sex Work and Faith-Based Outreach from Australia

Lauren McGrow, Independent Scholar

Missionary Positions challenges common Christian assumptions about sex workers. Using feminist, postcolonial perspectives, interviews with pastoral practitioners and personal narrative, Lauren McGrow carves out a space for the dynamic theological agency and life complexity of sex workers to be acknowledged.



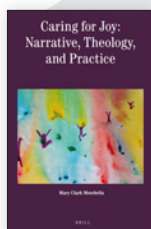
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E-ISBN 9789004350670
E-Price € 94 / US\$ 108
Theology in Practice, 3

Mothering, Public Leadership, and Women's Life Writing

Explorations in Spirituality Studies and Practical Theology

Claire E. Wolfteich, Boston University

In *Mothering, Public Leadership, and Women's Life Writing*, Claire E. Wolfteich presents a series of case studies in Christian spirituality, bringing a theological analysis to mothers' autobiographical writing.



September 2016
Paperback (xvi, 304 pp.)
ISBN 9789004324992
Price € 56 / US\$ 69
E-ISBN 9789004325005
E-Price € 56 / US\$ 69
Theology in Practice, 1

Caring for Joy: Narrative, Theology, and Practice

Mary Clark Moschella, Yale Divinity School

In *Caring for Joy: Narrative, Theology, and Practice* Mary Clark Moschella explores the lively narratives of five remarkable caregivers, offering theological wisdom and practical resources for scholars, counselors, religious leaders, and others who wish to live and move along more joyful, life-giving spiritual paths.

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