



Join us in July for REA2022 online and nominate people for free trial memberships

From our program chair Patrick Reyes

Becoming Good Ancestors is almost here.

The board met, and **the conference is free if your dues are paid through July**. The board wants scholars, researchers, and practitioners to see REA as a place for their work. If you know of anybody who would be interested in the conference, nominate them to receive a free, trial membership for a year. That trial membership will include access to the annual meeting and a one-year digital subscription to the electronic version of the journal.

I want to thank everyone who wrote a proposal. The research interest groups, collaborative papers, and posters were inspiring to read, bringing the very best of our global and diverse guild. Thank you to Hosffman Ospino and the selection committee for reading through all the proposals. I want to say thank you to Tenseg, the organization that supports all the technological work for REA, for their hard work to prepare the materials and the conference site - coming soon. I want to thank the incredible Lakisha Lockhart and Mary Hess for coordinating what needs to be done with memberships, proposals, and the conference team.



One final note of gratitude. The generative and collaborative spirit of the annual meeting, from the theme creation to the program the team is putting in place, has been a generational gift. For all those who have been supportive, came to meetings, picked up the phone, and took the time to email about thoughts, thank you. Anne Walker, the current vice president, has embodied the spirit of connection. She has helped shape and constructs a way for us to gather that honors our ancestors and recognizes the belovedness of the ancestors we are and are becoming.

Make sure to pay your dues and read the papers in advance of the meeting! See you in July.

Join us at REA2022 online in July — and invite others to do so!

[The schedule for REA2022 is now available](#) and you can use it to sign up for sessions today! If your REA membership is paid through July, you can attend REA2022 at no extra cost, so visit <https://religiouseducation.net/rea2022> and sign up for sessions right away.

This year will be our second annual meeting in a row to be held entirely online. The REA Board is eager to use this moment as an opportunity to expand our visibility and to invite people who might otherwise not know much about our organization to come to the meeting. If you are a paid member of REA, you can also nominate someone else for a free trial membership, which will include access to the Annual Meeting and to the electronic version of our journal. Just look for “Nominate a Scholar” at the bottom of the schedule after you log in. Spread the word! [Post the REA2022 flyers!](#) This is a unique opportunity to share our energy, passion, and wisdom in the field.

Kitchen Table Talks: Shifting Discursive Spaces within the REA

— by Anne Carter Walker (Cherokee Nation), REA Vice president

Ancestral knowledge is generated through the senses (touch, taste, smell, hear, see), through the elements (earth, air, fire, water), and through story (arising from oral tradition). For generations, Indigenous women and women from other sacred traditions have gathered around kitchen tables to share food, enact ceremony, tell stories, generate knowledge, and plan restorative action. During the 2022 REA annual meeting, join a group of Indigenous women in the creation of kitchen table space as we consider this approach to decolonizing scholarly discourse. The group, led by Dr. Kimberley Anderson, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and Indigenous women scholars and practitioners Lisa Dellinger, Yenny Delgado, Patricia Bonilla, Molly Bryant, and myself will demonstrate an Indigenous women’s digital kitchen table conversation, modeling (from our vantage point) what it looks like to generate collective wisdom that fosters kinship and reciprocity in the act of generating knowledge borne from our spiritual and religious traditions. This kitchen table space will invite participants to consider the

ancestral wisdom drawn from their own communities and cultural wells with Indigenous feminist wisdom as a demonstrative starting point and guide.

Dr. Kimberley Anderson, Associate Professor of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences, University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada) will speak about her experience facilitating collective knowledge generation borne from Indigenous wisdom practices in scholarly spaces and across other sectors. Dr. Anderson is an Indigenous (Metis) scholar who has spent most of her career working for Indigenous family well-being in Canada. The majority of Dr. Anderson's scholarship is qualitative, community engaged, interdisciplinary and applied. Much of it employs oral history and Indigenous research methodologies. Dr. Anderson co-authored [Keetsahnak/Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters](#) (Univ. of Alberta Press, 2018), and authored the article, "On Seasons of an Indigenous Feminism, Kinship, and the Program of Home Management," (Hypatia 35: 204-213, 2020), which sparked the passion for creating such a space at the REA annual meeting.

By-laws changes

There are several by-laws changes that are necessary to bring our current practices into alignment. [You can find the by-laws in their entirety, with the specific changes highlighted, online.](#) Here are the specific changes the Board is requesting be ratified at the annual meeting this July:

Article V, Section 5: add "and chair the Finance Committee" to the description of the Treasurer's duties.

Article VI Salaried Staff, add Section 4: "The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The DEI Officer is responsible for considering REA's interest, commitments and expertise in creating diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces and events. The DEI Officer will collaborate with the REA leadership to assess the need for, and recommend and/or lead training initiatives on racial justice, cultural diversity, gender differences, disability, sexual harassment, and other topics designed to increase awareness and support of equity and inclusion values.

- a. The DEI Officer shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.
- b. The search for DEI Officer shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the Steering Committee. The search committee shall report its recommendation to the Board of Directors who will appoint the DEI Officer
- c. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy in the position of DEI Officer, the Steering Committee may appoint an Interim DEI Officer until the full search process can be conducted."

Article VII, Section 2: add "h. Finance. The Finance Committee will be responsible for working with the Executive Secretary and the chair of the committee, the Treasurer to monitor, review, and produce budget reports, investment reviews, and tax preparations."

2023 Meeting theme chosen: Whose children are they?

The original goal of having multiple people propose themes for REA Annual Meeting 2023, and then having the membership vote to choose a theme, has not been realized. We had several robust proposals, but for a variety of reasons most of the proposals were pulled by their originators and are going to be held for the future. One strong proposal remained, however, and the REA Steering Committee has approved it for the July 2023 meeting.

That theme is this:

Whose Children Are They?

Responsibilities for religious formation of a new generation

Program Chair Jos de Kock and his team of Karen-Marie Yust and Ronelle Sonnenberg offer the following description. A call for papers is currently under development and will be shared during our July 2022 annual meeting.

The religious formation of a new generation takes place in various places. In the family, in schools, and in faith communities. But also in the public domain, in the media and on the web. The ways in which religious formation is given shape are very diverse. The view that religious education means initiation into a private faith tradition has given way to a multitude of approaches. In addition to initiation, there is also the objective of arriving at a better self-understanding or, for example, developing the ability to engage in inter-faith dialogue. A new generation is being brought up in the midst of all kinds of educators who have different and sometimes contradictory aims for religious education starting from a sense of responsibility for leading the child on its religious pathway.

This raises the fundamental and challenging question: to whom does the child belong? Whose child is it? Who is in charge in the end to point a direction in the process of religious development of a new generation? This is both a descriptive and a normative question. From a descriptive perspective we might ask who or what is determining the religious path a child or young person takes. From a normative perspective we might ask who or what should determine the religious path a new generation takes? Both this descriptive and normative question form the basis for the conference theme which will be elaborated in three directions.

First, the conference will shed light on the current visions of various educators. What conceptions of the new generation, of the child, of the young person, do educators hold? What ideals of upbringing guide the behavior of teachers, of parents, and of youth workers in faith communities? To whom do educators think the child belongs to? Who, ultimately, are guiding how a child develops religiously?

Second, the conference will shed light on children and youth themselves: how do they experience their religious formation? Who are the determining factors in their development? And what kind of belonging do they experience or not?

Thirdly, this conference will shed light on the normative question that lies behind: who decides what and for whom in religious upbringing? If the private religious tradition is no longer the goal of religious education, what should be the role of pastors in faith communities? What should be the role of parents and how should schools and religious educators choose their position? If the child has to focus much more on religious self-understanding: is the child then ultimately "of themselves"? And what exactly does that mean?

Questions in these three directions are observed in the studies we conduct in our own platform and research institutes and we recognize them in the discussions that are frequently held within REA around a variety of themes.

We are convinced that the fundamental question "Whose child is it?" and the theme of "responsibilities for religious formation of a new generation" are topical, in various ways, in multiple religious traditions, on different continents, and in different contexts. The REA annual meeting 2023 will be an excellent place to address and discuss this question, bringing in state of the art research regarding the main theme in the fields of religious education, youth ministry, religious studies, theology and pedagogics.

Log in with your phone number

The REA website now allows you to log in with your phone number. We know that for many members, it is hard to remember yet another password for your REA account, so we wanted to make logging into REA even simpler.

If you have a mobile phone number on [your REA profile](#), then you can now use that number to get a one-time verification code by text message. You simply type in that one-time code instead of a password, and you are logged in!

If you don't yet have a mobile phone number on your REA profile, log in with your password and add the number. From then on, you can use that phone number instead of your password to log in.

Of course, as always, feel free to reach out to tech@religiouseducation.net with any questions. We do hope this makes getting to your REA membership benefits easier.

Resources

“Making online education accessible,” a free webinar on June 14, 2022 at 3 pm ET through ALLLM exploring best practices for accessible online education with Cathy Webb, speech-language pathologist and disability studies scholar. [You can register online.](#)

[Feminist Pedagogies for Teaching Online](#) has a significant collection of resources available for free.

Data&Society has curated [a significant set of essays](#) published over the last two years concerning the global pandemic.

[The Greats](#) is a collection of free illustrations from “great artists to change the world.”

[Unsplash](#) is a collection of art from around the world placed online for free sharing and use.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC has [a digital repository of open access images](#).

Member news

We celebrate joyfully with several members who have recently been tenured, promoted, or in other ways awarded. Please do not be shy. The best way we can share such good news is if you send us your information!

Jennifer Ayres has been honored with the [Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award](#) as well as the Provost’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education at Emory University.

Eileen Daily, currently the Director of Hybrid and Online Programs at the School of Theology at Boston University is stepping into retirement at the end of August.

Tracey Lamont has been named [Director of the Loyola Institute for Ministry](#) at Loyola University New Orleans.

Annie Lockhart-Gilroy has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology at Phillips Seminary.

Jeremy Myers has been appointed to the [Bernhard M. Christensen Chair in Religion and Vocation](#) at Augsburg University.

Kyle Oliver has successfully defended his dissertation [Becoming Tapestry](#) in the Communication, Media, and Learning Technologies program at Columbia Teachers College.

Steve Thomason, one of Mary Hess' PhD grads, has an extensive collection of [free materials on his website](#), many of which draw on his cartooning and biblical interpretation skills to ignite interest deeper adult learning in Christian settings.

Please support REA financially

There are many ways to support REA financially during this difficult time. Every page of our website has a “donate” button on it, and many of you add financial support to your membership renewals. That’s very helpful! But we also know that many of us are feeling the strain of lost work, funding that is not renewed, and so on.

Keep in mind that you can also support us by using designating REA as your “[Amazon smile](#)” partner. Doing so will bring a tiny percentage of your purchases there, into our funding stream. It is also relatively easy to set up [a fundraiser through Facebook](#) — celebrate a birthday! honor a colleague who’s retiring! — by selecting “nonprofit” on the Facebook fundraising page, and designating the Religious Education Association (New Haven, CT) as the recipient.



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

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