

***I. TREASURER, REA BOARD***

(2 yr term - Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

***Candidate: Rev. Dr. Denise Janssen***



Rev. Dr. Denise Janssen is Associate Research Professor of Christian Education and Interim Assistant Dean for Academics at the Samuel DeWitt School of Theology at Virginia Union University. She brings decades of experience in higher education, nonprofit management, grant writing and fundraising, and pastoral ministry which equips her broadly for board leadership and the role of treasurer of REA. Denise holds the Ph.D. in Christian Education and Congregational Studies from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, an M.Div. from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a B.A. from the University of Sioux Falls. Her books include *Pressing Forward: Faith, Culture, and African American Youth* with Carmichael Crutchfield (Judson, 2022); *United Against Racism: Facilitator's Guide* with Lakisha Lockhart, Joseph Crockett, and Lynne Caldwell (Friendship Press, 2019); *Educating for Redemptive Community: Essays in Honor of Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain*. Editor and Contributor. (Wipf and Stock, 2015); *Reclaimed: Faith in an Emerging Generation* (Judson Press, 2015); and *Fostering Faith: Teaching and Learning in the Christian Church*, with Diane Janssen Hemmen and Sallie Verner (Judson Press, 2014). Denise is a native of South Dakota but considers Chicago a second home. She lives in Richmond, Virginia with her husband, a pastor and professional musician.

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***II. CHAIR, PROPOSAL COMMITTEE***

(2 yr term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

***Candidate: Rev. Dr. Mark Hearn***



Rev. Dr. Mark Chung Hearn is Associate Professor and Director of Contextual Education at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. Prior to this, he served as Director and Assistant Clinical Professor of Contextual Education at Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. He currently serves on the Nominations Committee of the Religious Education Association and has participated the last fifteen years in the guild through plenary speaking, session facilitation, search committee work, and paper presentations. He holds a Ph.D. from Claremont School of Theology in Practical Theology with an emphasis in Religious Education and Spiritual Formation.

He has published on Korean American religious experiences, the social construction of Korean American men, antiracism, and the critical inquiry into sports. His current research interests include antiracist work in the congregation, changing church and its compelling reason to exist today, and the sacred work of BIPOC healing in secular spaces. His hermeneutical lens is intersectional with a bend towards race, and he advocates that antiracist and decolonial work is not about changing epistemologies only, but about changing ontologies and the way we show up in academic and professional spaces.

He is an ordained minister in the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church and has served in faith communities of color and in white faith communities throughout various denominations including the United Methodist Church, the Nazarene Church, the Assemblies of God, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He has coached women's and girls' volleyball and basketball in college and high school athletics and when he can, enjoys playing most sports or watching his daughter run (really fast) on her track team.

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### III. CHAIR, *PUBLIC LIFE AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY*

(2 yr term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

*Candidate: Dr. Tamar Wasoian*



Dr. Tamar Wasoian is an Armenian educator and practical theologian from Syria. She is an independent scholar and taught in several theological seminaries in the United States and internationally. Currently, she is teaching at Lexington Theological Seminary and the Wesleyan Divinity School in the Philippines.

Believing that religious education is deeply rooted in ministry, she recently joined the Urban Pastoral Ministry Residency program with the City Mission and the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Boston, Massachusetts. This program is funded by the Lilly Endowment and provides active ministry opportunities with programs in homelessness prevention, education and formation, and stewardship and development.

‘Storied Learning’, feminist pedagogies, public spirituality, faith, and identity formation are at the core of Dr. Wasoian’s research and expertise. Tamar has global experience in ministry and teaching and throughout her teaching, she has helped emerging leaders discern their call and find their voice in ministry against the backdrop of shifting local and global realities. Wasoian serves as a member of the RE in Public Life Committee at the REA and we are nominating her to chair the same committee.

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***IV. CHAIR, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE***

(2 yr term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

***Candidate: Dr. Hosffman Ospino***



Hosffman Ospino, PhD is an Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry where he is also Chair of the Department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. He is Director of the university's Graduate Programs in Hispanic Ministry. Hosffman has served as the principal investigator for several national studies on Hispanic Catholics. He has authored/edited 15 books and more than 150 essays, academic and general. Hosffman serves on the boards of several national organizations, including the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). He is currently the President of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS) and an officer of the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA). He served the Religious Education Association (REA) as the Chair of the Proposals Selection Committee from 2018 until 2022, and thus was a member of the REA Board of Directors. He has served on the Editorial Board of REA's Horizons in Religious Education series since 2016, became a co-editor in 2019, and is currently the Chair of the co-editorial team for the series.

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***V. CHAIR, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE***

(2 yr term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

***Candidate: Rev. Dr. Tony Vrame***



Rev. Dr. Anton "Tony" Vrame currently serves as Treasurer of the Religious Education Association. He is Executive Director of Holy Cross Orthodox Press of Hellenic College-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA and Adjunct Associate Professor of Religious Education there. He has been a member of the Religious Education Association since the late 1990s and has served on the Board of REA two times, including this term. He has also taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY. He holds degrees from DePaul University (B.A.), the University of Chicago (M.A.), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (M.Div.), and the Ph.D. in Religion and Education of Boston College. He is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church. His interest in serving as the Chair of the Advancement Committee is a reflection of his experience with fundraising, his understanding of finance, the need to meet the needs of current members while reaching out to the newer members of our field to get involved with the work of REA.

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***VI. MEMBER, HARPER/WORNOM COMMITTEE***

(4 yr terms from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2026) 3 Spots available

***Candidates: Dr. Asyraf Isyraqi Bin Jamil, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Helen Nolan, Dr. Hubertus (Bert) Roebben***



Dr. Asyraf Isyraqi Bin Jamil is a senior lecturer/assistant professor of Islamic religious education at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He graduated with dual degrees in Islamic jurisprudence studies from al-Azhar University, Egypt, and in Islamic theological studies from Islamic University in Madinah, Saudi Arabia respectively. In 2013, he received his PhD in Islamic religious studies from the University of Malaya with the dissertation entitled, “Education Administrational Thought of Nizam al-Mulk: A Study on the Administration of Madrasah Nizamiyyah.” He is proficient in the fields of history, philosophy, and administration of Islamic religious education.

Having a complete education of primary to tertiary in a single religious educational background, he confessionally realized that he needs to learn on how to appreciate the diversity of people and traditions. He had the privileges to learn about other cultures during his several attachments as visiting researcher at the World Islamic Science and Education University, Jordan (2012), visiting scholar and research collaborator, both in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA (2012 & 2013), and Mevlana and YTB research fellows, both in the Sakarya University, Turkey (2018 & 2021-2022). In his recent article published by the British Journal of Religious Education (2022), he emphasized on the importance of multi-religious education in the future of the Malaysian education system. As a resident of the multi-ethnic and multi-racial country, he aspires to foster multi-religious and multicultural understanding for better and more peaceful religious and social relations.

He has enthusiastically joined the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain (PESGB) as a member, and recently been accepted as an associate member of the International Seminar on Religious

Education and Values (ISREV). He is passionate about designing a multi-religious curriculum for public schools. He is currently working on a research project on multi-religious education in Malaysia to study the needs and ways of implementation of multi-religious teaching and learning within the Malaysian education system. He enjoys spending time traveling and exploring historical places, as well as new places to learn about new cultures. He appreciates kind people, constructive conversations, and good humor, as well as loves to learn something new from others. Born as a Malaysian, he is absolutely a native speaker of Malay language. He also speaks Arabic and English, both as his second intermediate languages. Moreover, he has the basic knowledge pertaining to the Turkish and Persian languages.



Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nolan is a retired Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia currently serving as Interim Minister for the Glasshouse Country Uniting Church in Queensland until they find a new minister. She joined REA and APPRRE in 1983 when doing her doctorate in Religion and Education at Union Theological Seminary and Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. When she returned to Australia in 1986, she continued to be an active member presenting papers and workshops at annual conferences, serving on the Board, and enjoying the international comradeship of Religious Educators which REA provides.

Elizabeth had 20 years in public school Religious Education work in administration, writing curriculum, training voluntary teachers and serving on State and national committees before she moved into congregational ministry when positions in the RE field disappeared in 1996. She was part of an ecumenical RE Curriculum Project team 1976-1990 writing interfaith curriculum resources for all school year levels, preparing two Teacher Education manuals and conducting training courses throughout Queensland and Tasmania. Between 1994-96, she wrote 12 books for ecumenical Christian Religious Education for secondary schools in Australia and New Zealand and contributed articles and chapters for other books and journals since then. She was made a Life Member of the Australian Association for Religious Education (AARE) and maintained her interest in the wider RE

field as part of ecumenical and church national and State committees throughout her parish ministry in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland.



Dr. Hubertus (Bert) Roebben, being a longstanding member of the REA-APPRRE, I am honored to be nominated as a member of the Harper Wornom Committee. I believe that the connection of the two funded elements – the Harper Award for outstanding academic scholarship in RE and the Wornom Innovation Grant for projects “on the ground” – is a good representation of the spirit of the association. I would love to support this spirit in the coming years.

This association has always been central to my work as a professor in religious education. I have been presenting loads of work in progress during many conferences and have encouraged my doctoral students to do the same. I have been teaching theology and RE in Leuven (Belgium), Tilburg (the Netherlands), Dortmund (Germany) and Bonn (Germany). Publications and CV can be found on my homepage [www.seekingsense.be](http://www.seekingsense.be)

In 2017 I served as the president of the association. That was a great honor to me, which I especially experienced while being supported by so many friends and colleagues in the board and in the respective committees. The work of the association has a long history – going back to the end of the 19th century. But the association has also a brilliant future ahead, facing so many local and global challenges for RE. I am looking forward to continuing the important REA-work through this committee.



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***VII. MEMBER, RE IN FAITH COMMITTEE***

( 2 year term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024) - 2 Spots available

***Candidates: Rev. Dan Harper & Dr Mark Maddix***



Dr. Mark A. Maddix is the dean of the School of Theology & Christian Ministry and Professor of Practical Theology at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California. His twenty-three year academic career includes serving as a dean, directing graduate programs in theological education, and teaching courses in practical theology. He has co-authored or co-edited thirteen books including *Understanding Faith Formation: Theological, Congregational and Global Dimensions* (Baker, 2020); *Practicing Christian Education: An Introduction to Ministry* (Baker, 2017), *Neoscience and Christian Formation: The Intersection of Science and Faith* (Information Age Publishing, 2016), and *Discovering Discipleship: Dynamics of Christian Education* (Beacon Hill Press, 2010). He has also published over thirty peer reviewed articles in such journals as *Wesleyan Theological Society*, *Christian Education Journal*, *Korean Society of Christian Education* and *Information Technology*, and the *Journal of Religious Education*.

He has served as the board member and President of the Society of Professors of Christian Education (SPCE), served as chair of the ATS Technology and Theological Education Group (TTEG), served as Chair of the Practical Theology section of the Wesleyan Theological Society, been a selected participant in the Oxford Institute of Methodist Studies, and as national consultant on Spiritual formation by the Wabash Institute of Teaching and Learning. He is an active member of the Religious Education Association, The Society of Professors in Christian Education, The Wesleyan Theological Society, and the American Academy of Religion. He also is actively involved in inter-faith dialogue with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and The Church of the Nazarene.

He is engaged in global theological education through consulting and teaching at bible colleges and seminaries around the world, particularly as it relates to developing creative educational pedagogies. His recent research has focused on the impact of postcolonial studies on viewing Scripture as

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formation, and the intersection of neuroscience and faith formation. He enjoys traveling, playing the drums, and taking walks on the beach with his wife and two dogs.



Rev. Dan Harper has served eight congregations since 1994, in roles ranging from lay Director of Religious Education (DRE), to Minister of Religious Education (MRE), interim minister, and parish minister. In addition to his work in congregations, he has served both lay and ordained colleagues providing counsel and conflict mediation, including helping religious educators based in faith communities to achieve better working conditions and compensation. Dan is passionate about bringing the latest scholarship in religious education to local faith communities, and he is equally passionate about presenting the real-life concerns of faith communities to scholars. He is an ordained minister in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

***VIII. MEMBER, RE IN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES & INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE***

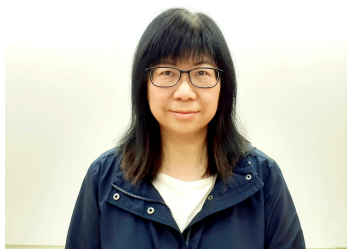
( 2 year term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

2 Spots available

***Candidates: Mr. Jinseop Kim, Dr. Imelda Lam, Rev. Dr. Joung Chul Lee, Rev. Dr. Karen-Marie Yust,***



Mr. Jinseop Kim is a Pastor, Professor and Ph.D Student at Andrews University in Religious Education. He has a great deal of experience in overseas mission work, and working with Campus Ministry, Youth Ministry, and working extensively with Adventist Collegians with Tidings.



Imelda Lam, PhD, graduated from Fordham University, New York, in 2015, on the research of religious education, and with specialization on Catholic Education, Interreligious Education, Christianity and Confucianism. She was a curriculum officer in 2006-2019, working on a new RE curriculum, writing learning materials to cope with the needs of this new generation. Currently, she is a religious educator working in Macau. Teaching primary kids on what she has published, and leading programs on professional development for RE teachers. More generally, Imelda is passionate in religious education, her “back to school” is to bring her publications authentically down to earth, for

she can improve it by getting first-hand opinions from teachers and students, and to give practical support to teachers on the teaching.



Rev. Dr. Joung Chul Lee is Assistant Professor in the college of general education at Kookmin University (Seoul, Korea). Previously, from 2017 to 2019, he served as Visiting Assistant Professor at Pacific School of Religion (Berkeley, CA), where he also led the Asian and Pacific Islander Initiative Program as the director. From 2019 to 2021, he was the director of research at the Trans-Education for Peace Institute. He was invited to the Committee of Religious Education in Academic Disciplines and Institutions, Religious Education Association a few years ago, but he wants to extend the term because the committee has become active just recently and created such a great teamwork among the members.

He holds PhD in Practical Theology from Claremont School of Theology, ThM in Christian Education and Formation from Princeton Theological Seminary, MDiv from Emory University, and BA in theology from Yonsei University. He is a member of REA, AAR, and IAPT and an ordained minister in Presbyterian Church (USA). He published several articles and book chapters about interreligious education, theological education, religious education in secular university, and Asian Christianity. He is currently working on a book chapter about two Korean theologians, Kim Jae Joon and Anselm Min, for *Oxford Handbook of Asian Theologians* and is about to finish an interdisciplinary project about climate change and the role of the humanities from an educational perspective, funded by the Economics, Humanities, and Social Research Council in Korea.

Joung Chul loves music, jokes, playing with his two boys, and watching Netflix (although he is recently tempted to move to the apple TV to watch “Pachinko.”). His life-long project is to figure out how to fight authoritarianism and racism.



Rev. Dr. Karen-Marie Yust is the Josiah P. and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education and the Director of the Children's Spirituality Research & Innovation Hub at Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia, USA). She has strong ties with the American Academy of Religion and the International Association for Children's Spirituality as well as REA, and is excited to help revive the work of the RE in Academic Disciplines & Institutions Committee so that scholars outside the guild might benefit from interaction with the REA and REA members might discover new connections in their areas of interest.

Karen-Marie's current research studies the effects of digital culture on spirituality, particularly among children, youth, and young adults. She also explores new findings re: young children's moral development that suggest encouraging curiosity and expanding social ideals of kinship will better nurture spiritualities that embrace diversity than traditional faith formation methods. She is interested in taking religious education outside conventional programming to other venues, such as online sites ([www.RealKidsRealFaith.org](http://www.RealKidsRealFaith.org)) and non-religious gathering spaces.

She is an ordained pastor and certified Christian educator, with dual standing in the United Church of Christ and Disciples traditions, as well as the parent of three young adult children.

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***IX. MEMBER, ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE***

( 2 year term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

2 Spots available

***Candidates: Dr. Cynthia Cameron, Dr. Javier Viera, & Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore***



Dr. Cynthia Cameron is the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Chair of Religious Education and Assistant Professor of Religious Education at the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. She teaches primarily in the Masters of Religious Education degree program, offering both core courses and a wide variety of religious education elective courses. As a part of the Toronto School of Theology, she works with doctoral students in religious education and serves as an Associate Editor of the *Toronto Journal of Theology*. Prior to coming to St. Michael's, she was Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Rivier University in New Hampshire and had a twenty-year career as an administrator and teacher in Catholic secondary schools. Cindy has been a member of REA since 2013, has presented at several annual conferences, and is the convener of the Adolescent Girls Faith Formation Working Group.

Cindy is completing a book with fellow REA member Christopher Welch entitled *Life Abundant: God and the Created Order in Catholic Social Perspective*, due out in the summer of 2022. With REA members Emily Peck-McClain and Lakisha Lockhart, she is also co-editing a volume exploring mistake-making, adolescents, and Christian religious education. Her contribution to the volume investigates the ways that Catholic school teachers address questions of sin and mistake-making with girls. Her other research interests revolve around questions of female adolescence in Christian theological anthropology and Catholic secondary education. She is especially interested in the ways that the theological tradition has neglected adolescence in general and female adolescence in particular and in the ways that Catholic schools can help the church think theologically about adolescent girls.



The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera is President and Professor of Education and Leadership at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Prior to joining Garrett in 2021, he served as dean and professor of pastoral theology at Drew University Theological School from 2014-2021. His academic work and interests center on adult learning and development, interreligious dialogue and the learning that takes place across religious and/or ideological difference, and Latin American decolonial epistemologies. Prior to his time in higher education, Dr. Viera's professional life unfolded in various places such as Capitol Hill in D.C., university campus ministry, congregational pastoral ministry, and the founding and leadership of several non-profit organizations. He is a graduate of Florida Southern College, Duke, Yale, and Columbia universities.



Mary Elizabeth Moore is Dean Emerita and Professor Emerita of Theology and Education, Boston University School of Theology. Her current research focuses on reshaping practical theology and religious education in relation to sacrality and *tikkum olam*, or repair of the world. She combines investigative research with poetry, pursuing questions in practical theology, religious education, culture and race theories, leadership, interreligious relationships, peacemaking, ecological justice, gender/sexuality, and transformational practices. Her most recent book is the co-edited *Deep Understanding for Divisive Times*. Her most recent articles



include: “Disrupting White Privilege,” “Sacred, Revolutionary Teaching,” “Embracing Sexuality and Gender,” “The Hidden Force of Gender and Sexuality,” and “Responding to a Weeping Planet.”

***X. MEMBER, PUBLIC LIFE AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY***

( 2 year term from Sept.1, 2022- Aug. 31, 2024)

1 Spot available

***Candidates: Rev. Dr. Theo van der Nest***



Rev. Dr. Theo van der Nest (OStJ) hails from the windy city of Port Elizabeth, also known as the friendly city. After marrying Lynnro 26 years ago, they moved to Aotearoa New Zealand and settled in Hamilton. They have 3 children, Carla who is a graduate from Waikato University, Wilma who is a second year at Waikato University and Darius, 9 finding his feet in education. He has been in ordained ministry since 2010, serving in the Anglican Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki, under the care of Archbishop and Primate for Aotearoa New Zealand, Most Reverend Phillip Richardson. He has close connections with the Apostolic Churches who emerged out of the Catholic Apostolic Church in the 1820s in England and Scotland. His experience includes being a military officer, an educationist for correctional services, teacher of Mathematics, Statistics and Calculus and lecturer for the Catholic Institute of Theology. He is currently attached to St George and St David’s Anglican parish in Hamilton. His family has a lavender farm just north of Hamilton where they grow and distill lavender. He is a member of the Order of St John and serves as Chaplain for Saint John’s Ambulance services in Aotearoa New Zealand. His area of academic focus has been on faith-based schooling in Aotearoa New Zealand and has published several academic articles in relation to this. Initially appointed as a



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Mathematics teacher, he completed his Masters in Religious Education and PhD at the Catholic University of Australia. Strives to live by Hebrews 12:14.