

REA : APPRRE

All about us!
Annual Meeting
July 2022



History

- Begun in 1903 by an interdenominational gathering of scholars (mostly college presidents and Bible scholars), REA early on included leaders such as William Rainey Harper and John Dewey
- 1920's and 1930's there was a shift to become more interfaith and widely ecumenical and a focus which included professionals in the field
- 1950's as the organization grew very active, people began to form their own more specific denominational and professional gatherings
- 1970's saw the founding of an association specifically of professors of religious education (APRRE)
- 2003 APRRE and REA joined to once again be primarily a scholarly society (formally named the Religious Education Association: An Association of Professors, Practitioners and Researchers in Religious Education)

The mission of the Religious Education Association is to create opportunities for exploring and advancing the interconnected practices of scholarship, research, teaching, and leadership in faith communities, academic institutions, and the wider world community.

4 Goals

- Through **sharing, critiquing and encouraging publication** of substantive research, probing scholarship and practical approaches to religious education (particularly through its journal *Religious Education* and the book series *Horizons*);
- Through **ecumenical, inter-religious, and cross-cultural, interdisciplinary and inter-professional dialogue** that stimulates members to recall and examine historic traditions and explore fresh visions of religious education for the diverse and ever-changing human family in our complex world community;
- Through **creation of international networks** of communication, cooperation and support in order to strengthen leaders in religious education, and religious education as a distinctive and vital field; and
- Through **interpreting the nature, purposes, and value of the field** of religious education to the wider society and those preparing to become professors, researchers, or other leaders in religious education.

Membership

- professors, teachers, scholars, practitioners in religious education
- international, although primarily North American
- doctoral students are particularly encouraged
- members from multiple faith traditions and institutional settings

Membership processes

- membership is for one year, sliding scale fees
- full subscription to our peer-reviewed, internationally ranked and cited journal, access shortly after you join (if you do it online)
- join online (religiouseducation.net/join)
- you can renew online as well
- there is a password protected membership directory, which you can opt into/out of

Membership benefits

- access to our global directory of scholars and practitioners
- full online access to our journal, including decades of back issues easily searchable
- support for small group work (zoom gatherings, webpages for working groups, the ability to access communication to specific members)
- access to the Wornom innovation grant
- publishing support via the *Horizons* book series
- quarterly eREACH newsletter with free resources, member communication, and early notice of annual meeting
- website resources (employment listings, related associations, web portals, and more)

Annual Meeting

- Research interest groups (RIG): are an opportunity to share your ongoing research through a paper that participants read in advance
- Collaborative sessions: These are flexible, and can be everything from a hands-on workshop, to a panel of papers, to research-in-progress engagement
- Poster sessions: These are opportunity to share your research in a focused, graphically interesting way, and to engage in conversation with scholars as you continue to pursue your research
- Working groups: Formed around specific interests, these come into existence as people are interested, do some work, and then conclude
- Communities of practice: These are groups that gather over time around specific elements of their identities (denominations, faith groups, and so on)

Organization

- Board made up of officers, chairs of standing committees, and a student representative; Board also includes *ex officio* the secretary, networking coordinator, and journal editor
- an internationally recognized scholarly journal, *Religious Education*, a monograph publication series *Horizons*, a quarterly newsletter *eREACH*
- a related scholarly organization : ALLLM (<http://alllm.org>)
- three standing committees: religious education in academic disciplines and institutions, religious education in faith communities, religious education in public life and global community
- several “as needed” working groups focused on specific topics in any given year, and communities of practice who come together as desired
- annual conferences and annual sessions at the AAR meeting
- a variety of digital presences (website, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.)

Communication

- Website (<http://www.religiouseducation.net/>)
- Facebook page (<http://bit.ly/reafacebook>)
- eREACH newsletter (www.religiouseducation.net/newsletters/ereach)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/reaapprre>)
- YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC9ZxAz_DrRgpygUTx9ufFQ)

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