



Reflecting on “Becoming Good Ancestors”  
Member news from our annual meeting  
Free resources for learning  
and more inside

## From REA President Dr. Patrick Reyes:

To our new members, welcome. We are glad you were able to join us at this year’s conference.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to Dr. Boyung Lee. This last year has been a gift to witness your leadership. You led with courage, wisdom, and a collaborative spirit in a time of major transition for the guild. Thank you.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to every presenter at this year’s annual conference. The paper presentations were engaging, inspiring, and signal a deep commitment from the membership to become good ancestors together. I am especially grateful for the leadership team of Boyung Lee, Mary Hess, Lakisha Lockhart, and Anne Walker. I am especially grateful to Anne, who brought Dr. Kim Anderson, Rev. Yenny Delgado, Rev. Patricia Bonilla, and Dr. Lisa Dellinger to the “Kitchen Table” to share a way of being scholars together that honors our communities and different ways of knowing. Be sure to check out the recording of their plenary, and the many other sessions at [REA’s YouTube](#).

In the spirit of becoming good ancestors, I want to preview some of the big questions and themes I hope the steering committee and the guild work through in the upcoming year:

1. **Connecting our global membership.** The annual meeting demonstrated the power of technology to connect us across times zones, continents, cultures, and disciplinary practices.
2. **Exploring the question, what does it mean to be a 21st century guild?** Are we equipped to be a future oriented guild?
3. **Advancing the capacity and work of REA's first JEDI officer,** Dr. Christine Hong. Building a multi-year strategy for advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our international guild is every-member work and I am looking forward to building and executing a strategy in line with the guild's mission.

If you would like to help in any of these areas, I would welcome a coffee conversation and follow-through commitments. My contact information is in the directory.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped make this year possible. I want to note that the website, zoom meetings, and communications would not be possible without [Tenseg](#), who built the conference site/tech bespoke for us. Please join me in saying thank you for all their hard work.

Celebrating this guild, the year ahead, and sending love to each of you wherever you are!

Much love,  
**Patrick**

## Welcome to all of our new trial members!

We are so excited to note that we have 50 new members who were nominated by current members for a free year's worth of REA membership (including digital access to [our highly ranked journal](#)). We want to extend a warm welcome to all of you, and urge you to explore our website and its various resources — [Proceedings](#) from past conferences, a decades-worth of this [eREACH newsletter](#), [video recordings from previous conferences](#), listings of [open positions](#) across the globe in our field, a log-in protected member list, and much more! There is information on our website about the history of REA, and how to get more deeply involved, as well as a list of our current leadership team.

Please keep in mind that [our journal](#) — and the downloads from it that are used in classes and other settings — is the primary base of our financial resources. Why not take a look at it right now, and think about which articles you might assign in a class, or use for a parish or community article read? Also note that we are building an international field in religious education, so the more that you read and cite from our journal, the more we also become aware of *your* work!



## Becoming Good Ancestors — Memories and Resources

Our 2022 fully online annual meeting was — by all accounts (including lots of digital feedback) — a great success! We had the second highest number of participants in a decade of meetings. Participants presented 30 research papers chosen by blind peer review (read them in our [Proceedings](#)), led five collaborative workshops, presented posters, met with working groups, mentors, and much more. You can now access most of the sessions in video, by going to the [Conference webpage](#) and clicking on [the schedule page](#). There you'll find all of the sessions, and if they have a small grey YouTube icon in the upper right of the session, you can click there to go to the video recording.

The plenary sessions embodied the creative pedagogical commitments of our field, with an emphasis on the wisdom gleaned from “becoming good ancestors.” Our REA VP Anne Walker, for instance, organized an “Indigenous Women’s Kitchen Table Space” that brought the work of Kim Anderson, Lisa Dellinger, Patricia Bonilla, Yenny Delgado, and Molly Bryant into clear and compelling focus. [You can watch these sessions on our website](#), as well as incoming president [Patrick Reyes’ powerful opening and closing remarks for the conference](#).

### Indigenous Women's Kitchen Table Space: Meaning-making in Community as a Practice of Ancestoring

Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, July 6, 2022  
Kim Anderson, Patricia Bonilla, Lisa Dellinger, Yenny Delgado, Anne Walker









We want to call your attention to [the session on our publications](#). There you will find a rich and energizing conversation about our field, how one goes about preparing scholarship to be published, and the kinds of mentoring and other support that you can find here at REA. Our turn to online meeting has welcomed so many new scholars from around the globe into conversation with each other. Why not “listen in” and then choose to participate yourself, next year?

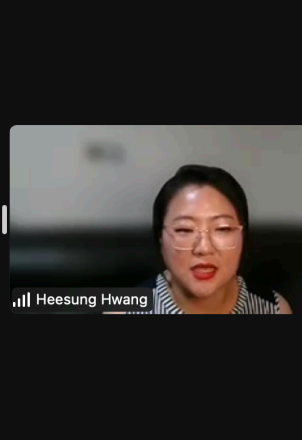
Here are a few additional screenshot glimpses from the meeting — we urge you to share some of your own in our social media streams — while we may long for in person meetings, we can also enjoy the opportunities this kind of space makes available.

**Huesik 휴식 休息**  
: Holy Rest, Holy Breathing


休 (Hue; Rest)  
= 人 (a person) + 木 (a tree)

息 (Sik, Breathe)  
= 自 (self) + 心 (heart, mind)





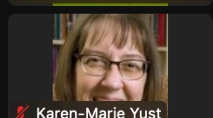



## Provisioning stones and snakes: Childhood religious trauma and abuse in the American Christian context



Hannah  
Sutton-Adams

Boston College  
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## Welcome to our new JEDI officer Dr. Christine Hong

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce its unanimous decision to appoint as REA's first Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Officer, Dr. Christine J. Hong, Associate Professor of Educational Ministry; Director of the DEdMin Program at Columbia Theological Seminary.

According to the Association's Bylaws (recently approved at our Annual Meeting in July 2022) "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."

Dr. Hong is a creative and knowledgeable practical theologian and religious educator. She has a refreshing familiarity with religious institutions and the academy as well as the potential public impact of our field. Her vision for what REA can become is rich with creativity, relevance, optimism, and adaptive change towards justice and equity. She shares the commitments of REA to a widening and inclusive vision of our association and its potential impact. It is with enthusiasm and pride that we announce Dr. Hong's appointment. You can reach her at [jedi@religiouseducation.net](mailto:jedi@religiouseducation.net).

## REA Advisory Council Weighs in on JEDI Processes

The REA Advisory Committee met at the end of our July annual meeting to discuss the future of the guild's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) efforts. The committee is composed annually of those REA members who attend the Advisory Committee to provide perspectives on current opportunities and issues within the organization. In addition to REA officers and staff in *ex officio* roles, the Advisory Committee members for 2022-2023 include: Patricia Bonilla, Peter Cariaga, Chuck Chesnavage, Eileen Daily, Barbara Fears, Eunjin Jeon, Paulus Eko Kristianto, Boyung Lee, Joung-Chul Lee, Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, Mary Love, Fr. Nwabichie, Kimberly Stephens, and Addie Lorraine Walker. (If you attended the meeting, but do not see your name listed here, please email [Anne Walker](mailto:Anne.Walker@religiouseducation.net) to be added to the committee.)

After welcoming REA's new Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Christine J. Hong, the committee broke into small groups to discuss what is achievable for REA JEDI in the next twelve months. Given that the JEDI Officer's role is less-than part-time, the focus of the conversation surrounded ways that the guild can support the work of JEDI across the membership community. Small groups discussed pain points related to justice and inclusion in the REA, brainstormed what collaborations might be



possible within the next twelve months, and what signals of progress we might identify for our collective work.

Small groups identified pain points that surrounded the following concerns:

- continued concern for white dominance in the implicit and explicit practices of the guild
- room for practitioners and students to contribute, participate and find relevant program content and support for their work
- accessibility for a multi-national audience and for students and practitioners at in-person vs. online annual meetings, especially as this relates to global membership, student members, and members who are practitioners
- centering of U.S. perspectives and experiences
- accessibility of guild resources in multiple languages
- when voices from marginalized groups are lifted up, white colleagues opt out
- a “colonizing methodology” that undergirds the values driving what is considered rigorous scholarship (for both the annual meeting presentations and for the Journal)

The committee shared ideas for collaboration that included regional REA meetings, working together to determine how to broaden what is considered scholarly work, developing a process for clearly documenting pain points, establishing connections with more diverse partner organizations, and hosting honest conversations, fishbowls, and dialogues about JEDI.

Stories and ideas shared at the Advisory Committee meeting will be engaged thoroughly by the REA Steering Committee and Board. Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion is an effort of mutuality for our guild. Each leader and REA member is asked to continue conversation with the Board about your visions for change and how you will be a part of embodying that change along with us.

## Involved in Lifelong Learning? Join a Short-Term Cohort (Apply ASAP)! By Dr. Joshua Lunde-Whitler, ALLLM President

Are you working in a Lifelong Learning program (whether at a seminary, through a denomination, at a retreat center, etc.)? Or are you a colleague of someone who is? Or are you simply someone who believes that lifelong learning should be at the heart of educating for religious leadership today?

If so, you are invited to get to know [ALLLM – the Association of Leaders in Lifelong Learning for Ministry](#), an organization with over a fifty-year history and a Related Learning Organization with the REA.

Continuing the organization’s tradition of supporting leadership development for leaders in lifelong learning for ministry, ALLLM is offering an opportunity for early and mid-career leaders to [participate in virtual coaching cohorts](#). This will involve five Zoom

sessions over the course of the 2022-2023 SY, with other leaders in lifelong learning for ministry, led by experienced coaches ([Rev. Jihyun Oh](#), and [Rev. Dr. Barbara Wilson](#)) to develop personal goals and strategies, learn new skills, and build community and connection amongst fellow LLM leaders.

Whether you're interested in becoming more involved in lifelong learning, are new to the field, or have been doing this work for years, you're sure to find this experience rewarding – not only professionally, but relationally and spirituality as well!

The program has been made possible via a generous grant from the [Foundation of Christian Leadership Program](#) through Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School, making it free for all participants! But you do have to apply online by August 15th. So if you are interested or know someone who might be, please do not delay.

You can apply [using this link](#). For more information, please check out [our online flyer](#) here. If you have questions, you're welcome to contact Sarah Erickson, ALLLM Coach Program Coordinator, at [ericksons@ctsnet.edu](mailto:ericksons@ctsnet.edu).

## Tony Vrame receives the St. Romanos the Melodist Medal



We are delighted to note that Tony Vrame, most recently REA's treasurer of many years, was given the St. Romanos the Melodist Medal from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on July 7, 2022. It was noted that for the 15 years he had served as Director of the Department of Religious Education in that church, where he collaborated closely with the National Forum incorporating the teaching of Greek Orthodox hymnology with the religious education ministries of parishes. He had also worked with them to develop a new hymnal for use in parishes, and to promote the resources of the Forum throughout the Archdiocese.

St. Romanos the Melodist was a Byzantine hymnographer and composer in the late 5th early 6th century who is a central figure in the history of Byzantine music and responsible for composing many hymns that are still in use in all

Orthodox Churches. Following receiving the award, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew bestowed on Tony, who is a Greek Orthodox priest, the title, "Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne" which makes him one of the most senior ranked clergy in the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States.



## REA Leaders Take on Major Administrative Posts

In further exciting news, José Irizarry and HyeRan Kim-Cragg have both recently taken on major administrative posts.

The Austin Seminary Board of Trustees, at a called meeting on June 27, elected the **Reverend Dr. José Ramon Irizarry** as the Seminary's next president. Reflecting on conversations with the candidate, Board Chair Keatan King recalled, "Dr. Irizarry lifted up the distinctive gifts of our seminary and gave voice to a hopeful vision of theological education for our time. For José, listening isn't simply a best practice of leadership; it is his spiritual gift—one he has honed in his personal practice of contemplative prayer. José Irizarry will lead Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary by listening to all members of the community to hear God's dreams, already emerging within us, so he can guide us in reaching our potential."



Since 2016, Irizarry has served as Vice President of Education at the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A scholar in the field of practical theology, Irizarry teaches at Villanova University and has held teaching and administrative positions at various educational and theological institutions including The University of Cambridge (Visiting Fellow), Lutheran School of Theology, the Pacific School of Religion, and McCormick Theological Seminary.

Out of his expertise as a bilingual educator, Dr. Irizarry directed Cambridge College's regional campus in his native San Juan, Puerto Rico, (2011-2015) and served as academic dean, acting president, and held The Limardo Chair in Practical Theology at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico (2007-2011). He earned degrees from the University of Puerto Rico (BA), McCormick Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Northwestern University (PhD) as well as professional certifications from the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italy, Boston College, and Cornell University.

Supporting his work in the field of religious education and intercultural relations, Irizarry has traveled internationally to lead seminars and conferences and to conduct research. He has chaired academic accreditation teams in the US and Puerto Rico and served as president of the Religious Education Association in the United States and Canada. An ordained minister in the PC(USA), he has served the church as member of the Review Committee of the Whole (assessing the work of all agencies of the Presbyterian Church) and on the Committee on Theological Education. He was also a

member of the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (Westminster John Knox Press, Geneva Press) for eight years and is currently a Trustee at Columbia Theological Seminary. He served interim pastoral positions at Presbyterian and inter-denominational congregations in Puerto Rico and the US.



The Board of Regents of Victoria University in the University of Toronto is pleased to announce that **The Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg** has been appointed Principal of Emmanuel College beginning on July 1, 2022. The appointment was made following the unanimous recommendation of the Search Advisory Committee.

Dr. Kim-Cragg has been a valued member of the faculty of

Emmanuel College since 2019. She graduated from Emmanuel College in 2006 with a Doctor of Theology and was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2021. Dr. Kim-Cragg has had an academic career characterized by intensive research and publishing with a focus on integrating Christian practices with postcolonial, feminist and anti-racist approaches. This is well aligned with Emmanuel's interreligious pedagogical approach and commitment to addressing inequities. Dr. Kim-Cragg will be the first racialized person appointed as Principal in Emmanuel College's history.

As Graduate Degree Director of Emmanuel College and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching, Dr. Kim-Cragg has played a pivotal role in evolving the College's pedagogical direction. Previous to her roles at Emmanuel College, Dr. Kim-Cragg was the Lydia Gruchy Chair and Professor of Pastoral Studies at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon for 10 years. She has influenced many graduates who are actively involved in ministry across the country.

Hailing from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), a denomination with a long-standing relationship with the United Church, Dr. Kim-Cragg is a highly respected scholar, leader and mentor within The United Church of Canada. Dr. Kim-Cragg has also served various ecumenical and theological communities in many capacities including on the Advisory Board of the Women in Leadership (WIL) committee of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in U.S.A and Canada and as Dean of the Global Institute of Theology of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).



## Resources

We have received a request from [lilt.com](http://lilt.com), for people with experience translating theology. [Elena Voronova](#) writes: “I’m reaching out from **Lilt**, a San Francisco and Berlin-based LSP with a translator-focused business model. We’re building a community of the world’s best translators around fast and fair payment, consistent work, and innovative neural MT technology. We’re looking for freelance linguists to translate for our various theology projects. We were interested to check if you have any database or directory available for this purpose.” Please contact her if you or someone you know, is interested.

The **Parliament of the World’s Religions** regularly issues statements on events that concern religious communities. Recently they reminded us of a statement they issued back in 2016 – [“We Resist Despair: A Recommitment to Nonviolence”](#) – which has renewed pertinence in our world today.

There is much going on in research with children and religious education internationally. For instance, [The Big Ideas Project and the Commission on RE \(CoRE\)](#) set up by the **REC (Religious Education Council of England and Wales)** both began in 2016 and arose from similar concerns about the present situation of and future prospects for the school subject, religious education. They have recently set up [a website to curate and share](#) ideas from a wide range of settings. A different [multi-national research project](#) led by Sarah Holmes at Liverpool Hope University has also issued a report on partnering with parents in supporting children’s faith.

The [National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment \(NILO\)](#) continues to compile [a list of anti-racist resources](#) for teaching, learning, and assessment of students.

The [National Equity Project \(NEP\)](#) also continues to compile useful resources that have implications far beyond North America.

Jarvis Givens at the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** is developing a [Black Teacher Archives Project](#), and is intent on telling a more complicated story of Black education and Black teacher.

The new **Religious Education Curriculum for Catholic primary and secondary schools in Aotearoa** – [To Tātou Whakpono Our Faith](#)– has been approved by the New Zealand Bishops, and the National Centre for Religious Studies there is working hard to develop resources to support its implementation. You can download the curriculum for free.

## Member News

Christian Theological Seminary Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty **Leah Gunning Francis** was recently appointed to serve on the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Board of Directors for a four year term.

**Mary Dana Hinton**, former member of the REA Board and currently president of Hollins College, [has been elected chair](#) of the AAC&U (American Association of Colleges and Universities) Board.

Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) is pleased [to announce the appointment](#) of **Elisabeth “Lisa” Kimball** to the position of vice president for Lifelong Learning, beginning July 1, 2022. “Dr. Kimball is an extraordinary asset to the Seminary,” said the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., dean and president of VTS. “She has attracted significant grant income that supports lay people, smaller congregations, and now, potentially, parenting and home formation. She oversees a vital part of the Seminary which engages with the cyber world and weaves together everything from the TryTank to Christian Formation. Literally, thousands of people are impacted by her hard work. We are deeply grateful for her witness and presence at Virginia Theological Seminary.”

Our outgoing president, **Boyung Lee**, was recently featured [in an ABC news story](#) about her work with [a national art exhibit — “Invisible/Hypervisible”](#) — that “turns anti-Asian trauma into power.”

**Carl Procaro Foley** is the new executive director at the [Center at Mariandale](#), a retreat center of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Ossining, NY.

**Gina Robinson** and **Sarah Farmer** have been named [Associate Directors at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion](#).

**Wanda Stahl** shares that “My retirement is official. My replacement is already working in our office. She came in very part-time in the fall when my former co-director, Cristian De La Rosa, moved on to Associate Dean of Student and Community life. Anna has been full-time in the office since January. We’re reconfiguring to a director/assistant director model. The upcoming position posting for the second person in the office will be for an Assistant Director of Contextual Ed.” And that posting is now live on our site.

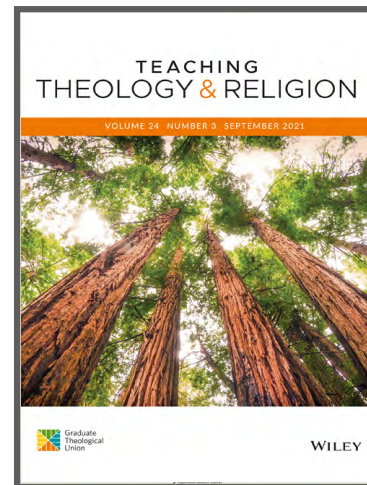
Augsburg University is pleased to announce that **Najeeba Syeed** has been appointed as the inaugural [El-Hibri endowed chair and executive director of Interfaith](#) at Augsburg, effective on August 1, 2022. In this role, she will serve as a national ambassador for the interfaith movement and will partner with campus leaders as a change agent for interreligious learning and living. She also will serve as the faculty advisor for Augsburg’s Interfaith Scholars.





## Teaching Theology & Religion

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Images from the REA2022 annual meeting are screenshots taken by Mary Hess.

All other photos are from press releases from the issuing universities.