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Dear REA Members,

I'm grateful for the work you are doing in classrooms, congregations, and communities—and for the ways REA continues to be a professional home for professors, practitioners, and researchers in religious education. In this quarterly update, I'm highlighting two important calls for participation and leadership, student networking opportunities, and new resources for your teaching and research published by REA members.

Call for Proposals

6-8 July, Online, Global Landscapes

The research and practical interests of our members are wide-ranging, yet Annual Meetings have rarely had the opportunity to showcase the full breadth of our work. This year, the REA Board is holding an open-ended meeting loosely organized around the theme:

“Sketching the global landscapes and horizons of religious education.”

We invite proposals for papers, panels, briefs/posters, and hands-on experiences that reflect the variety of your current work—research projects, teaching methodologies, public engagement, and visionary thinking.

Proposals are especially encouraged to engage questions such as:

- How does your work draw on the rich and diverse legacy of religious education historically discussed and practiced?
- What theories of religious education and practice inform your work?
- Who are your key conversation partners (theoretical, methodological, practical)?
- How does your work challenge assumptions about the goals and aims of religious education?
- How does your work intersect with justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion?
- How does your work take diverse bodies seriously and respond to embodied differences?
- How does your work wrestle with social and/or political division?
- What is visionary about your work—and what new questions does it pose?

- What is your vision for religious education in your context and/or more broadly?

Proposal formats: (1) Research Interest Group paper, (2) Collaborative session, (3) Works-in-Progress brief presentation, (4) Demonstration.

The deadline is March 15, 2026.

You can find more information on our website [by clicking here.](#)

REA 2026 Call for Candidates

The Religious Education Association would like to issue an open call for candidates. We have several open positions within our organization and would like to extend an invitation for interested members to apply. Descriptions of the positions and/or committees are listed below. The open positions available are:

1. **President** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 to Aug 31, 2028 [PRESIDENT 2020.docx](#)
2. **Treasurer** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 to Aug 31, 2028 [TREASURER 2020.docx](#)
3. **Chair for Publications Committee** for a 3 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2029 [PUBLICATIONS CHAIR 2020.docx](#)
4. **Chair for Advancement Committee** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [ADVANCEMENT CHAIR 2020.docx](#)
5. **Chair for Proposal Selection Committee** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [PROPOSAL SELECTION CHAIR 2020.docx](#)
6. **Chair for Committee on Public Life and the Global Community** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [PUBLIC LIFE GLOBAL COMMUNITY 2019.docx](#)
7. **2 Proposal Selection committee members** for a 2 year term from Sept.1, 2026 – Aug. 31, 2028 [PROPOSAL SELECTION COMMITTEE 2020.docx](#)
8. **2 Harper/Wornom committee members** for a 4 year term from Sept.1, 2026 – Aug. 31, 2030 [HARPER WORNOM COMMITTEE 2020.docx](#)
9. **2 Religious Education in Faith Communities committee members** for 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [FAITH COMMUNITIES duties.docx](#)

10. **2 Religious Education in Public Life and the Global Community committee members** for 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [PUBLIC LIFE GLOBAL COMMUNITY 2019.docx](#)
11. **2 Religious Education in Academic Disciplines and Institutions Committee members** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES COMMITTEE 2020.docx](#)
12. **2 Advancement Committee members** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE 2020.docx](#)
13. **2 Nominations Committee members** for a 2 year term from Sept 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2028 [NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2018.docx](#)

If you are interested in being considered for one or more of these positions please click [Here](#) and provide us with your information. **The deadline for best consideration is MARCH 1, 2026.** Thank you in advance for considering being a part of the leadership for this organization.

Student Connection

Are you currently pursuing your next degree in religious education? Kimbol Soques, the current person representing student interests for our Board, would love to know who you are! Please send your contact info and specialty to kimbol.soques@garrett.edu; Kimbol is gathering names so that students can have a chance to talk to each other, and to be invited to any student-specific events. Past digital gatherings have included informal socials and more-formal conversations with senior scholars. Plus we have our own Discord channel, for ad hoc convos! Sign up today!

Apply for REA Regional Gatherings

The REA Board acknowledges the irreplaceable value of in-person gatherings for creativity and learning. We encourage members to organize regional or local meetings to complement our online interactions. These gatherings can coincide with the annual meeting, align with online sessions, or occur independently before or after the main event. To assist in these initiatives, the Board has designated funds and encourages interested parties to submit applications detailing their plans and the support needed.

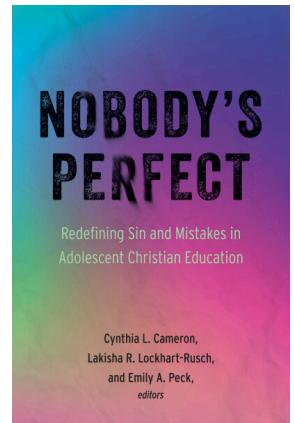
You can find [full details and a form for applying for a regional meeting grant](#) on our website. **The deadline is March 1, 2026.**

Member News: New Books!

Cynthia L. Cameron, Lakisha R. Lockhart-Rusch, and Emily A. Peck, eds., *Nobody's Perfect: Redefining Sin and Mistakes in Adolescent Christian Education* (Augsburg Fortress, 2025). Pages 185.

This edited volume argues that “mistake-making” is not experienced equally—often shaped by race, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation—and offers a theological framework that names adolescents as fundamentally good, distinguishing mistakes from sin in ways that support more liberative educational practice.

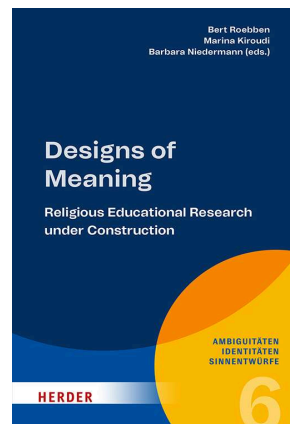
[Click here for more](#)



Bert Roebben, Marina Kiroudi, and Barbara Niedermann, eds., *Designs of Meaning: Religious Educational Research under Construction* (Verlag Herder, 2025). Pages 168.

An open-access volume in the series *Ambiguitäten – Identitäten – Sinnentwürfe* (Band 6), focused on “designs of meaning” in religious education amid ambiguity, identity formation, and moral/spiritual resilience.

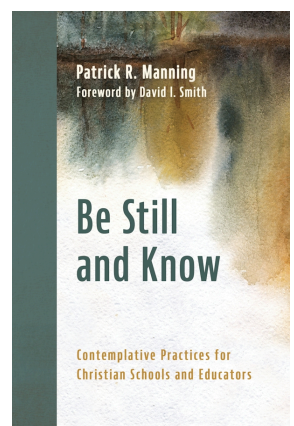
[Click here for more](#)



Patrick R. Manning, *Be Still and Know: Contemplative Practices for Christian Schools and Educators* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2025). Pages 250.

A practical guide to drawing on the Christian contemplative tradition for teaching and learning amid distraction, mental-health strain, and weakened community. Includes guided practices/meditations and classroom-tested strategies for renewing educators and building community.

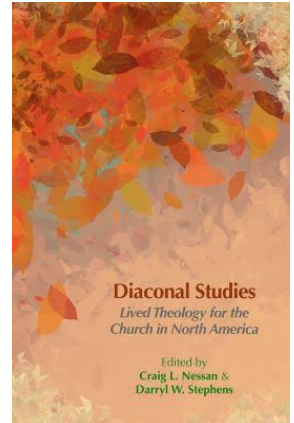
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Craig L. Nesson and Darryl W. Stephens, eds., *Diaconal Studies: Lived Theology for the Church in North America* (Regnum Books International, 2024). Pages 300.

Twenty-one authors across ecumenical Protestant traditions deepen the theology and practice of diakonia—not only as service, but as lived theology connecting doctrine with daily life, solidarity, social critique, and transformation.

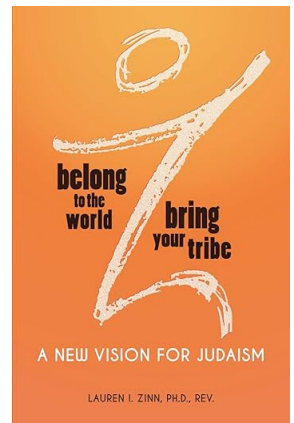
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[Order on Website](#) (for free eBook, do not select USA store).



Lauren I. Zinn, *Belong to the World, Bring Your Tribe: A New Vision for Judaism* (Zinnhouse, 2026). Pages 246.

This new book offers a fresh vision for Judaism and lays the groundwork for the next project on teaching religion in the Interspiritual Age.

[Click here for more](#)



We are excited to hear from our members and share your updates with the entire association. If you have any recent news, achievements, publications, awards, retirements, or other noteworthy events, we would love to include them in the next issue of our newsletter.

Please send your news to nc@religiouseducation.net. Your news helps us stay connected and celebrate our vibrant community.

JEDI Resources

2025 JEDI Annual Report has been added to the JEDI Resources page.

[Click here](#) to check it out.

Please consider supporting our organization financially

We continue to work on creating and maintaining effective resources and staffing for our work together as an association. Our staff all donate significant amounts of their time and effort far beyond what we can pay them to do, and we are also continually seeking ways to support people new to the scholarly parts of our association, as well as to the practices of religious education more generally. We are grateful for any support you can offer us. [Please donate to our work together!](#)



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