

# The Society of Christian Ethics

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## Call to Meeting

September 1, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics will convene in San Jose, California. It will open **Friday morning, January 8 at 9:00 am** and close on **Sunday morning January 10 at 10:30 pm** after Concurrent Session VII. We hope you will join us at the DoubleTree Hotel, in the heart of Silicon Valley, and only a few minutes by (free) shuttle from the San Jose Airport.

Enclosed please find documents you need to plan your participation. These items need your action *well before the meeting*:

- Registration form – return to SCE office by December 1. Note that you must pay your 2010 dues in order to be eligible for the member rate.
- Dues schedule – submit payment with your registration form; if not attending annual meeting, just return this form with your payment.
- Hotel reservation - contact the *hotel* (not the SCE) by December 1. You must register by phone or by internet; paper reservations no longer are accepted. Two innovations this year. First, you can save \$20 per night if you make a *nonrefundable* reservation. Second, if your schedule permits, we have negotiated a bargain rate of \$119 at the San Francisco (downtown) Hilton for the three nights following the SCE meeting.

Also enclosed is the slate of nominees, to be voted upon at the business meeting, Saturday, January 9. All *other documents for the meeting are to be found on the SCE website* [http://www.scethics.org/future\\_annual\\_meetings.html](http://www.scethics.org/future_annual_meetings.html). These include:

- Information about ground transportation and the local light rail—downtown San Jose is fifteen minutes away from the hotel.
- Description of the pre-conference event – sign up on the general registration form.
- Invitation to referee papers for the *JSCE*.
- Invitation to advertise in the *JSCE*.
- Information about the Junior Faculty Caucus.
- Information about the Student Caucus event and volunteering.
- Information about the Friday morning session on human-subject research.

Our President Dan Finn and the Program Committee have put together a rich program of papers, panels, and interest group presentations, including plenary addresses by Agbonkhanmeghe Orobator, S.J. of the Jesuit School of Theology in Nairobi, Kenya, and Jian-Guo Wang, currently serving Rockville Evangelical Mission Church in Rockville, MD.

**Early Arrivals:** There will be the usual range of meetings on Thursday, January 7 — technically outside the program, but in the spirit of the SCE meeting which begins Friday morning. The registration desk will open at 10am on Thursday, but you are welcome to arrive on Wednesday (at the conference rate) and participate in these gatherings.

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Tel: 320-253-5407, Fax: 320-252-6984, Email: [sce@cord.edu](mailto:sce@cord.edu)

**Eulogies:** In keeping with SCE tradition, recently deceased members will be commemorated at the business meeting on Saturday. If you know of any members who have died this year, please notify the SCE office as soon as possible, so that we can make sure they are remembered at the meeting. And if you feel qualified and comfortable with speaking a few words of remembrance about one of them, please let me or Linda know.

**Worship:** As in the past, our Jewish colleagues will observe Shabbat Friday evening, our Catholic members will celebrate Sunday mass on Saturday evening, and our other members will assemble for ecumenical worship on Sunday morning. You are welcome to gather for worship in your tradition; the only stipulation is that such worship activities should be open to any and all SCE members who wish to observe or participate in good faith. If you would like to schedule a room and a time for such activity, please let me know.

**Open meetings:** All meetings identified as part of the program, including working groups, interest groups and caucuses are open to all members, under conditions of respect and sensitivity to the members of such groups. Note that this policy of open access does not apply to meetings scheduled for the purpose of carrying out particular functional responsibilities; such meetings are open only to duly elected or appointed participants.

**Volunteer help:** As always, your help is needed to convene a paper, facilitate a breakfast discussion with an author, assist with the ecumenical worship, or be a referee for the JSCE. Students, please note that a few opportunities are available to help with registration in two-hour blocks, in exchange for a partial refund of the registration fee. See "2010 Student Volunteer form" on the website.

**Rising Costs:** You will note, without enthusiasm, that full-member registration has risen once again—this year by \$35 over last year in Chicago. However, you can more than wipe out this increase by making a nonrefundable reservation, which reduces your nightly room cost from \$119 to \$99. Since food costs alas appear to be recession-proof, we have tried contracting for meals in a different way, with some modest savings.

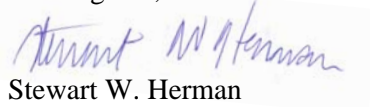
**Website:** You can view the preliminary program at [www.scethics.org](http://www.scethics.org). Just click on "**Future Annual Meetings**" to find information on San Jose 2010. A brand new website has been under construction since June. Whether it will be up and running by the time of the meeting is unclear, but rest assured that meeting materials will remain available, whether on the new or old website.

A few practical pointers:

- ◆ Please **book your room** by *December 1* in order to guarantee the conference rate (\$99/119). This rate is the best rate you will find for the hotel. If the reserved block of rooms fills early, we may be able to add more rooms at the conference rate, but our negotiating leverage diminishes rapidly as we approach the December deadline. So book early!
- ◆ It is also in your interest to **register for the meeting** by *December 1*. Early birds are rewarded with a \$50 reduction in fees. Any registration postmarked or faxed after December 1, 2009 will be charged the higher rate. Your early registration helps us gauge our numbers in a timely fashion, thus to secure sufficient rooms and to enable hotel staff to serve us better and ensure a more enjoyable conference for all.
- ◆ Until the new website (which will offer online payment) is operating, please pay dues and registration fees as in the past: by *check*, or by *credit card* via snailmail or fax. We accept Visa and MasterCard, and there is a 5% processing fee to cover the costs incurred by the Society in offering this service to the members. We are unable to accept credit card payments through (unsecured) email.

I hope to see you in San Jose.

Best regards,



Stewart W. Herman  
Executive Director