

The Society of Christian Ethics

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Call to Meeting

September 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics is almost here! It is great pleasure that I offer you the warmest greetings as the new SCE Executive Director and wish to share important news about our upcoming meeting. This year, we will convene in Washington, D.C. The meeting will open **Friday morning, January 6 at 7:00 am** and close on **Sunday afternoon, January 8 at 12:30 pm** after Concurrent Session VII. We hope you will join us at the Grand Hyatt, at the heart of the Nation's capitol, and centrally located in the trendy Penn Quarter – with convenient in-lobby Metro Center access.

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

A few practical pointers:

- **Register for the meeting by December 1.** Early birds are rewarded with a \$50 reduction in fees. 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. Any registration postmarked or faxed after December 1, 2011, however, will be charged the higher rate. Remember you must pay your annual dues in order to register at the member rate.
 - *******Registration Price-cutting:** *In this time of ongoing economic uncertainty being felt by all of us, the SCE is trying to facilitate your participation. Therefore, registrations for all members and meals have been subsidized by the SCE. Students, remember that \$20 of your 'Breakfast with an Author' will be refunded at the event.*
- **Check out our online registration!** Thanks to our website, you can pay dues and register for the Washington meeting online using a credit card. You may also pay, as in the past, by *check*, or by *credit card* via US Mail (aka "snail mail") or fax. Please note there is a 5% processing fee to cover the credit card costs that incurred by the Society in offering this service to the members.
- **Book air travel**, if at all possible, to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to avoid both excessive and expensive ground transportation costs.
- **Please make sure to book your hotel room by December 1** in order to guarantee the refundable conference rate (\$139 singles, doubles, triple or quad). 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! Rates apply to the dates of the conference and the 3 days prior to and following the meeting. If you wish to extend your stay outside of these dates, you will need to book a separate reservation on the Web site or contact the hotel directly. Hotel reservations in the SCE/SJE/SSME ROOM BLOCK may be made in one of the following ways:
 - **By Phone:** Grand Hyatt Washington 1-888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464
 - **Online:** <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/sce2012>

Initiatives/Changes:

- This year, "Breakfast with an Author" is now being offered all 3 mornings because of the number of books submitted. Our first will be Friday at 7:15 am.
- Students will have the opportunity to meet with the President, VP, and Executive Director over pizza in order to share their comments and concerns.
- The SCE President, VP, and Executive Director will meet with conveners of the 3 working groups to gain input on the future direction of this 21st Century Initiative implemented in 2002. The 3 groups are also having a joint session on Friday evening. Check out the abstract!
- Prior to the spring meeting of the Program Committee, members living in the local area of the next meeting site will be invited to meet with leadership.

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Highlights:

Worship: As in previous years, 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 contact Linda with the necessary details upon your registration.

Volunteers needed: 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*. Please indicate on your registration form or on the online volunteer form your volunteer preferences. Conveners and facilitators need to be assigned by November 15th to be included in the program. By December 1st, we would like to have all names and areas of expertise/interests of full members willing to serve as referees for the *Journal*. Students, please note that a few opportunities are available to help with registration or media equipment in two-hour blocks, in exchange for a partial refund of the registration fee. See "2012 Student Volunteer form" on the website.

Interfaith Breakfast: The Society of Christian Ethics, the Society of Jewish Ethics, and the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics would like to invite all to the second annual Interfaith Breakfast on Friday morning, 7:45-8:45am. This breakfast gathering is intended as a venue to explore ideas for collaborative work in research and in teaching. All are welcome.

New Interest Groups: The Executive Committee approved three new interest groups in April. *Ethics of Care* met to formulate their group in New Orleans but will not be meeting in DC. *Moral Theory and Christian Ethics* will meet on Friday evening. *War and Peace* will meet on Saturday night. More details can be found in the program.

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 Linda know.

Plenaries: Our President, Stanley Hauerwas, and the Program Committee have put together a timely and provocative program of papers, panels, and interest group presentations that will be giving special attention to the geopolitics of the US Capitol, including plenary addresses that all scheduled for 9-10:30am, namely:

- Friday, Andrew J. Bacevich, Department of International Relations, Boston University
- Saturday, Stephen L. Carter, Yale Law School
- Sunday, Michael Walzer, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Early Events: The registration desk will open at 10am on Thursday, but you are welcome to arrive earlier. In addition to the usual range of pre-meeting events—technically outside the program, there are some to note. More details can be found in the program draft online.

- The Lutheran Ethicists Gathering will meet at the hotel beginning on Wednesday evening.
- The Society of Jewish Ethics will be holding joint sessions with the Jewish Bioethics Affiliate Group (formerly the Academic Coalition on Jewish Bioethics) starting on Thursday.
- James Keenan will present "A Case for Professional Academic Ethics" on Thursday, 2:30-3:45pm.
- The Journal of Religious Ethics celebration honoring Barney Twiss and John Kelsay for a decade of leadership will be Thursday, 4-6pm with James Johnson focusing on the theme of religion and violence and more specifically military intervention to address egregious violations of basic human rights.

PLEASE NOTE: In case you misplace this mailing, all of these and *other documents for the meeting are to be found on the SCE website* http://www.scethics.org/future_annual_meetings.html.

See you in January!



Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas
Executive Director