



THE SOCIETY OF
CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Office of the President
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Dear Friends:

The 2021 annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics is scheduled to begin the evening of Thursday, January 7, 2021, at the Palmer House in Chicago. With this letter I am calling for proposals for that meeting.

Conference Theme and Plenary Panels

The conference theme for the 2021 annual meeting will be **Questioning the Human**. While proposals need not address the meeting theme, I particularly invite paper, panel and poster proposals that reflect on humanity and human equality in light of the *imago dei*, decolonial theory and practice, animal ethics, disability ethics, human rights, the microbiome, epistemic injustice, Christology, critical race theory, trauma, and/or the transhuman. Anne Phillips speaks with many theorists today when she notes in *The Politics of the Human* that the category ‘Human’ “has operated to exclude as much as to include. The characteristics deemed essentially human have turned out, again and again, to be modeled on particular groups of humans, and the history of the term has been more marked by hierarchy than equality.” Is there a shared humanity? What moral-theological work does the category of the human perform? What does it occlude? Can human equality be vindicated?

I am pleased to announce that the 2021 Annual Meeting will feature two plenary panels. The first of these will mirror the theme of the conference as a whole, **Questioning the Human**, with panelists John Bowlin, Victor Carmona, Jonathan Tran, Andrea White, and Grace Kao as convener. The second, **Forming the Political**, will relate Christian ethical reflection on shared humanity to the challenges of cultivating a common life in the midst of increasing political polarization and partisan antipathies in the U.S. and around the globe. Here we will be addressed by panelists Nichole Flores, Cathy Kaveny, Vincent Lloyd, and Melissa Snarr, with Luke Bretherton convening. I look forward with anticipation to the contributions of these fine colleagues.

Poster Session

Following up on a successful first year, we will be continuing our experimental poster session in 2021. Note that posters can be employed in a variety of ways, i.e., to present a condensed version of an article, trace a longer-term trajectory in your work, discuss a pedagogical experiment, and more. The poster session allows us to expand opportunities for participation in the Annual Meeting, and offers a flexible format for the sharing of ideas. I encourage you to

consider submitting a poster proposal for the coming year. If your poster proposal is selected for presentation at the 2021 meeting, it will not affect your eligibility to submit paper or poster proposals for our 2022 meeting.

Submitting Proposals

All proposals (from individual members, Interest Groups and Working Groups alike) are **due Monday, March 16, 2020**. Proposals that are submitted after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the 2021 meeting. Proposals will be accepted only from members whose 2020 SCE dues have been paid. (FYI: In order to receive the next issue of *JSCE* 2020 membership dues must be paid by March 1.) All the relevant policies governing proposals for papers, panels and posters are summarized in the document “Submitting Proposals,” which is available on the SCE website along with the array of forms to be used for the online submission of dues payments, proposals and nominations. (See the end of this letter for the full list of documents that are posted at <https://scethics.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting>).

The International Scholarly Relations Committee wishes to announce that two \$500 **scholarships** will be available to support conference-related expenses for international scholars who wish to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting. Priority will be given a) to applications from the global South, and b) to those presenting at the meeting. Applications will be due by May 1, 2020, with notifications by June 1. Instructions on how to submit applications will be available on the SCE webpage by mid-March.

Call for Nominations

It is also my happy task in this letter to call for nominations. Note that Monday, March 16, 2020 is also the deadline for proposing names to the **Lifetime Achievement Award** Committee. For more information about the selection committee and the submission process, see the document “Nominations for Lifetime Achievement Award,” posted at <https://scethics.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting>.

The Nominations Committee also invites your recommendations of well-qualified candidates for the office of **vice president** and for seats on the **Board of Directors**. Please know that self-nominations are also welcome. This year the chair of the Nominations Committee is Darlene Weaver. She can be reached at weaverd1@duq.edu. Other members of the committee—Luke Bretherton, Hak Joon Lee, Karen Ross, Melissa Snarr, and Shatavia Wynn—would be equally happy to hear from you.

The deadline for members to nominate persons to serve as the **2022 Global Scholar** will be October 14, 2020. More complete information about this nomination process, with its fifteen-month timeline, can be found in “Bring a Global Scholar to the SCE” included in the supplemental documents posted at <https://scethics.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting>. If

you have immediate questions, feel free to get in touch directly with the current chair of the International Scholarly Relations Committee, Christine Pohl (Christine.pohl@asburyseminary.edu).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer A. Herdt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail on the "t".

Jennifer A. Herdt

The following information is available on the SCE website:

- 2021 Call for Proposals
- 2021 Call for Volunteers
- Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award
- Bring a Global Scholar to the SCE Annual Meeting
- 2020 Membership Dues Form

<https://scethics.org/annual-meetings/upcoming-meeting>