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# VOX SCHOLARIUM

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NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF SCHOLARS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



North Transept and bell tower of Washington National Cathedral with choir to left and nave to right

This newsletter has been established to provide some regular communication with the members of the Guild. The *Vox Scholarium* intends to communicate important information about membership, member activities, annual meetings, forthcoming deadlines and dates as well as other messages from the Executive Committee. The newsletter should be considered a work in progress, one that over time will be able to fill its need very well. The Corresponding Secretary is the first editor, but editorial direction and management will undoubtedly at some time pass to some other member(s) of the Guild.

From time to time, the editor will put out a call for images or documents to be published in the newsletter. However, Guild members are welcome to suggest content in addition to what the editor and Executive Committee offer. The editor will announce deadlines and prerequisites for the format and submission of both images and texts.

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Two issues a year will include these topics:

**Winter issue:** a report on the just completed annual meeting, including photographs of the various activities, minutes of the business meeting, treasurer's final report, etc.; information about the next annual meeting; an initial call for papers, including the format for submitting a topic; reminders about nominations for new members, including the appropriate information to provide about a nominee; news of members.

**Summer issue:** update on plans for the annual meeting, reminder to pay annual dues and make reservations for annual meeting; news of members; outline of activities, events, and papers to be presented at the annual meeting; logistical information about flight arrivals and transportation issues.

**The supposition is that two issues each year will cover what needs to be covered.**



*Interpretation of a classical scholar as a scribe or an evangelist in the Ebbo Gospels (816-35).*

### **CALL FOR IMAGES: the ALBUQUERQUE MEETING**

Members who took digital pictures of the Bosque Center or any of the activities that took place at the 2018 meeting are urged to submit them. They must be in one of the following forms: .jpg, .gif, .tiff or .png. The subject matter must be clearly identified. Photos from earlier meetings are also welcome.

Photos that do not get published in the Newsletter or on the Guild web site will be held in an archive, organized by subject and date for future reference.

**Please send photos to Bob Benson, editor, at [bensonra@miamioh.edu](mailto:bensonra@miamioh.edu)**

### **Officers of the Guild**

Ed Hansen, President ([hansen@hope.edu](mailto:hansen@hope.edu))

E. Rozanne Elder, Vice-President, Program Chair, ([e.rozanne.elder@wmich.edu](mailto:e.rozanne.elder@wmich.edu))

Nick Birns, Recording Secretary ([nicbirns@aol.com](mailto:nicbirns@aol.com))

Bob Benson, Corresponding Secretary, Editor of the newsletter ([bensonra@miamioh.edu](mailto:bensonra@miamioh.edu))

Alec Valentine, Treasurer ([acvalenti@yahoo.com](mailto:acvalenti@yahoo.com))

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### **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church, Bosque Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 20, 2018**

In attendance: Norman Austin, Debora Shuger, Bennett Brabson, Ed Hansen, Mary Ellen Bowden, Charles Huttar, Nicholas Birns, John Gatta, Alec Valentine, Allyn Reilly, Peter Williams, Marsha Dutton, E. Rozanne Elder, Later joined by new members Royce Boyer, Dabney Park, Warren Smith, Tim Graham, Jameela Lares.

Dutton called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Huttar moved acceptance of the 2017 minutes, Shuger seconded. The motion was approved.

Huttar moved the acceptance of proposed new members, Birns seconded, motion was approved. New members entered and were congratulated.

Huttar gave the Corresponding Secretary's report. This was his last report as Corresponding Secretary. Huttar received a nice e-mail from U. S. Dhuga who has not been able to attend since 2014 but sends his greetings. Lew Overaker wished the Guild a happy and successful time in New Mexico. Huttar reflected on his time as corresponding secretary, saying that the position was equal parts providing information, answering pleas for help, and connecting and reconnecting with members and potential members.

Huttar made three requests for feedback:

First, should there be a Guild newsletter? He did one issue of such; is this something we would like to continue?

Second, should we employ blind copying for mailings so that list could not be used by entrepreneurs?

Third, we have followed the practice of regarding members who were invited as still invited even if they did not come in the year they were invited. Should we continue?

Huttar mentioned that there was some confusion about the new member recruitment invitation process and the clarity of the nomination process. Shuger asked if we have policy for spousal membership, For instance, if one member of an academic couple was an academic, but a less prominent one than their spouse? Dutton said that question was asked and answered last year; our criteria are flexible.

Dutton said she was grateful for work of the New member Committee: Mary Ellen Bowden, David Smith, and Bob Benson. She urged nominations be sent to just the chair of the committee.

Shuger asked re: Guild newsletter, if something is posted on the website do you get push notifications? The answer was no, thing implementing this potentially should not be hard, if we were able to hire a webmaster. The executive committee would mull combining newsletter and the web site.

Lares mentioned that other organizations similar to ours have a members only website. Huttar said we tried but could not implement this. Elder asked if we could hire a webmaster.

Huttar said there are currently two different e-mail lists, one for members in good standing and another for inactive members or members who had not engaged with the organization for quite some time. Should we continue this?

On the issue of inviting people, Elder said if candidates have not written back after three years, that means they are not interested. Smith asked what the qualifications for membership were. Dutton said that the organization has no set policy, and although we have defined what a "scholar" was in reasonably strict terms, we have not yet found an adequate definition of "Episcopalian". Lares asked how members are asked to pay dues. Huttar said that dues notices are always sent out July 1.

Dutton thanked Huttar for his service as Corresponding Secretary.

Elder gave an update on Sewanee, our 2019 meeting. She said there were two major possibilities for housing, but we need more information before deciding. 2020 meeting: Shuger asked if it would be feasible to double up in NYC In terms of two people in twin beds in the same room?

Dutton gave a quick update on the Guild's chaplain, Father Bob Wright, who is frail but still active as a scholar and thinker and sends best wishes to all.

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Valentine gave the Treasurer's report. After paying the Bosque Center, we have a \$4000 surplus. He questioned how to use these funds? Possibilities include: subventions for untenured faculty, awards to younger Episcopal academics (which would mandate a committee), or a donation to the meeting venue? Maybe the surplus makes NYC more affordable? The most popular solution was to hire a professional to do the web site, though Dutton suggested leaving that to the executive committee

Smith asked if the Guild ever considered publishing papers in or as a periodical?

Dutton said we have discussed sending papers with *Anglican Theological Review* Although that would necessarily limit the exposure to papers with a certain theological subject. Elder said published papers based on Guild talks should acknowledge the Guild.

Williams asked if we can publish papers on web site. Not all members were enthusiastic about the prospect or felt that it would yield any professional advancement or exposure for them.

Dutton announced the Nominating Committee completed its work. Reilly gave the report of the Nominating Committee which also included John Krantz (chair) and Norman Jones. Ed Hansen for President, Robert Benson for Corresponding Secretary for 2018 to 2021. They were unanimously elected after motion was made by Huttar.

Dutton said she was willing to sit on the Executive Committee for a time to ease the transition.

Huttar moved an item of old business. Two years ago, he said, Dutton, Williams, and David Holmes developed statement on a membership policy. The process was approved, a straw vote was taken, but we never got to that point in the agenda last year because of time. Huttar made a motion that it be postponed *sine die*. The motion was seconded and carried.

On new business, the critical issue was the whereabouts of the 2020 meeting. Dean Kurt Dunkle of General Seminary has meeting rooms and will give reception but cannot provide accommodation. There is accommodation available in the area, but not enough to handle all the group at any one time, and only some of it affordable. Elder said that the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota has a retreat center on the grounds of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota; a shuttle provides regular round-trip transportation from the Minneapolis airport for \$100 a person. The DeKoven center in Racine, Wisconsin, was another possibility as well as returning to Holland, Michigan, or Cincinnati. The Sisters of Mercy have retreat centers near the airport at both St. Louis, Missouri, and Burlingame, California. There is also the Duncan Center in Delray Beach, Florida close to the Palm Beach airport.

Dutton thanked Graham and Valentine for the work of the logistical arrangements for the conference, and also the speakers for their fine contributions.

Huttar proposed that the Executive Committee develop a statement of its own powers, structure, and responsibilities for presentation at the 2019 business meeting. Huttar made such a motion, Boyer seconded, which was voted on and approved.

Birns ended the meeting by reading two passages from Willa Cather's novel *Death Comes For The Archbishop*. The meeting adjourned at 2:35.



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Aerial view of the campus of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in the fall, site of next year's annual meeting of the Guild. Pictured below, the interior of All Saints' Chapel.



## The 2019 Annual Meeting at Sewanee, Tennessee

The dates of the Sewanee 2019 Guild meeting are the weekend of October 25-27. We will be staying at the **DuBose Conference Center**, located on 65 acres of fields and mountain woodlands atop Monteagle mountain, some seven miles from Sewanee. Transportation will be provided to and from Sewanee, where we will both meet and worship. A shuttle runs from both Chattanooga and Nashville International airports and stops at Monteagle.

In addition to the Annual Business meeting there will be the customary four sessions:

**Norman Austin** (Professor Emeritus of Classics, The University of Arizona) will speak on *The Last Christian Missionary in China*, a book ending at the expulsion of missionaries, a talk given two years ago by Kitty Ferguson on the seventeenth-century Jesuit mission to China.

**David Middleton** (Professor Emeritus of English and Poet in Residence Emeritus, Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana). will introduce us to *The Life, Poetry, and Prose of Alabama Poet John Martin Finlay (1941-1991)*

**Nick Birns** (NYU), **Ben Brabson** (Indiana University), **Charles Huttar** (Hope College) and **Deborah Shuger** (UCLA) will constitute a panel surveying *The Guild of Scholars: Past, Present, Future*, and facilitate a discussion among members on the role of the Guild and its potential contribution to the Church eighty years after its foundation.

**Warren Smith** (Professor Emeritus of Classics, The University of New Mexico) will counter an early pagan slur that Christian worshipped a donkey by presenting evidence of *The Ass as a Christian and Muslim Symbol*.

Final information on lodging, meals, local transportation, free time opportunities, costs, schedule and worship will be announced in the spring.

## 2020 Meeting

Members willing to propose a presentation for the 2020 (or a subsequent) meeting are asked to send a draft abstract (with title) and brief curriculum vitae to the Program Chair at any time between the fall meeting and early December. Those accepted then have until January 10th to submit a final abstract, with title, a biographical sketch of 100-120 words, and list of AV requirements. If more are offered than can be accepted -- because there are only four sessions -- all other submissions will be filed away for future meetings, with priority for the patient.

### Deadlines for Submissions:

- **Draft abstract** (with proposed title) and brief curriculum vitae: **December 10**
- **Final abstract** (with title), biographical sketch, list of AV requirements: **January 10**

Send all materials to E. Rozanne Elder, Program Chair, at [erelder@gmail.com](mailto:erelder@gmail.com).

**New members accepted at the 2018 meeting:**

**D. Royce Boyer**, D.M.A. (proposed by Alec Valentine) holds the title of Professor of Music Emeritus, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he initiated music activities on the new campus in 1966, retiring after thirty-two years. His scholarly interests are in the areas of choral music and American music history. He has conducted many academic and church choirs, touring with them in the Americas, Europe and Asia. His special research and writing interest currently is a biography of the American composer, conductor, and music administrator Philip James (1890-1975). Royce now lives in Jackson, Mississippi, where he occupies much of his time and interest as a life-long piano technician. He holds degrees from Jordan Conservatory of Music (now of Butler University), The Catholic University of America, and The University of Texas at Austin.

**Philip Jenkins** (proposed by Sanford Schwartz) was educated at Cambridge University. From 1980 through 2011, he taught at Penn State University, where he holds the rank of Emeritus Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Humanities. In 2012, he became a Distinguished Professor of History at Baylor University, where he also serves in the Institute for Studies of Religion. His 27 books include *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (2002), *The Lost History of Christianity* (2008), *Jesus Wars* (2010), *The Great and Holy War* (2014), and, most recently, *Crucible of Faith: The Ancient Revolution That Made Our Modern Religious World* (Basic Books, 2017). He has published extensively on issues of terrorism and political violence and on new and emerging religious movements.

**Jameela Lares** (proposed by Charles Huttar) is Professor of English and Charles W. Moorman Distinguished Professor of the Humanities for 2017-19 at The University of Southern Mississippi, where her main academic specialties are Milton, English Renaissance and seventeenth-century literature, Bible and biblical style, and history of rhetoric. She has also taught children's and young adult literature for many years in both the US and UK, has served on the International Committee and the Book Award Committee of the Children's Literature Association, and is currently working on academic articles on Winnie-the-Pooh and British children's fantasy. Her publications include *Paradise Lost*, Books 11-12 in the series *A Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton*; *Milton and the Preaching Arts* (2001); articles in *Milton Studies*, *Ben Jonson Journal*, *Cithara*, *Notes & Queries*, *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *MLA Approaches*, and *The Milton Encyclopedia*; and numerous reviews.

**Dabney Park** (proposed by Marsha Dutton) is retired from a career in executive search and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations. A Fulbright Fellow (Italy, 1966-67) with a PhD in medieval history from Tulane (1971), he has returned to his first love while easing into retirement since 2008. He has contributed to Dante Studies and Franciscan Studies and is working on a book about Nicholas III (Dante's damned pope). At the University of Miami (Florida) he teaches a course entitled "To Hell and Back with Dante: Women, Men, Poetry, and Politics." He has also taught at the University of Cincinnati, Staten Island Community College, and Florida International University. He has served on the standing committee of the Southeast Florida diocese and the boards of trustees of the University of the South and Seabury-Western Episcopal Seminary. In 1990 the Episcopal Church Center published his study of the eleven Episcopal seminaries, *The Care of Learning: Resources for Theological Education in the Episcopal Church*.

**Warren S. Smith** (proposed by Norman Austin) was a founder of the Classics program at the University of New Mexico where he retired in 2010. He has also taught at St. Andrews Theological Seminary in Quezon

City, Philippines in the 1990's and at Bishop Hannington Institute for Theology in Mombasa, Kenya, 2010-2012. He has written several dozen articles on Classical and post-Classical literature and was a translator and editor of Erasmus for University of Toronto Press. He has also translated and edited works of the Spanish Golden Age author Juan Maldonado, who wrote in Latin. His books include *Satiric Advice on Women and Marriage from Plautus to Chaucer* (Michigan 2005), and he co-authored *A Colony of Heaven: Bishop Hannington and Freretown* (Outskirts Press 2016). He is active in his church and in prison ministry.

### How to Nominate Someone for Guild Membership

Membership in the Guild of Scholars is by invitation. It is ordinarily initiated by someone who is already a member (although inquiries are always welcome from scholars who have visited our website or otherwise become aware of the Guild; see <https://www.guildofscholars.org/how-to-join/> for the protocol of dealing with them). All members are encouraged to identify persons, whether in their own discipline or not, and whether or not they know them personally, whose membership believes would enhance the Guild as well as being of benefit to them.

The document "Membership Policy" states the qualifications for membership and outlines in broad fashion the process, from nomination early in the year through to election at an annual business meeting of the Guild. Below are listed the steps a member should take in proposing a new member.

1. Identify a good prospective member from among your acquaintances (at church, at your institution, or met at conferences, for example) or a professional colleague not known personally but for whose scholarly contributions you have a high regard.
2. Verify that, in your judgment, the person is both an Episcopalian and a scholar.
3. Gather material to submit in support of your nomination. A person's CV may be on an institutional or personal web site. A dossier can be put together listing significant publications, creative works, awards, recognitions, offices held in professional societies or consultative bodies.
4. Send your nomination, with supporting evidence for both basic qualifications (Episcopalian and scholar), to our Corresponding Secretary Bob Benson at [bensonra@miamioh.edu](mailto:bensonra@miamioh.edu). He will forward the materials to the New Member Committee and the President. Be sure to do this by the deadline: six months before the year's annual meeting. The earlier the better regarding a timely decision by the committee and the chance that the nominated scholar will have the meeting date open, once invited.

Committee members review the nomination, seek further information from written or oral sources, as they deem necessary, discuss the candidate, and determine whether to recommend the person for membership. All nominations are sent to the President with the committee's recommendation pro or con. The President, if in agreement with the Committee, writes a letter inviting the person to attend the next Annual Meeting, for a mutual opportunity to get acquainted. The President also notifies the nominator regarding the decision made—at which point you may play a role in answering questions and encouraging the candidate to visit.

It is best if the candidate does not know he or she is being nominated to avoid risk of embarrassment. This is not an ironclad rule, however. When convenient, you should make the person aware of the Guild by



### How to Nominate, cont'd.

relating your own experience, pointing to our web site and gauging the potential nominee's degree of interest in joining.

When an invited candidate is unable to attend the next Annual Meeting (as sometimes happens) but does not decline membership, our practice has been to assure them that they are welcome when they can come, and then to stay in touch, ensuring that they are kept informed about the Guild's activities.

### Looking for news of members to publish in Vox Scholarium

What have you been doing that you'd like to share with the rest of the Guild? Have you given lectures outside your institution, done research abroad or in new and interesting ways, have a book published or forthcoming, honors and awards, participated in a professional meeting, done some exciting work on sabbatical, or personal news? Please write up your activity, send it in digital form (Word is best) along with any images you may have (in .jpg, .gif, .tiff or .png format) to the editor: Bob Benson ([bensonra@miamioh.edu](mailto:bensonra@miamioh.edu)).



Chapel of General Theological Seminary, New York City, the early venue of Guild of Scholars meetings.