

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
First-Day Conference Schedule ● November 20, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center

OPENING ACTIVITIES

8:00am-8:00pm Continuous Registration
*Registration and membership are processed at www.relcomm.org
Registration is required for access to conference sessions
No additional cost is required beyond membership*

8:30-9:00am Conference Opening (includes continental breakfast service)
Room TBA

PANEL SESSION 1 ● 9:00 to 10:15 am

Session 1A **Rhetoric of the Christian Left: Religious Communication for the Greater Regard**
Room TBA Chair: Jim Vining, Governors State University
Respondent: Bethany Mannon, Appalachian State University
Material Rhetorics of the Episcopal Church, Elaine Schnabel, Weber State University
Feminine Metaphors: Sarah Bessey's Enthusiastically Feminine Rhetorical Style for Christians on the Left, Sarah Kornfield, Hope College
Cornel West: A Progressive Christian Voice for the 20th and 21st Centuries, and the Relevance of Prophetic Pragmatism in Religious Rhetoric, Theon Hill, Wheaton College
Repenting Toward a Greater Love: William Barber's Use of Public Repentance in His Pride Month Sermon, Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar
Resignifying Discipleship: Sr. Joan Chittister's Pathways of Dissent, "Anti"cedents, and Arguments for Women's Priestly Ordination, Christopher Oldenburg, Illinois College

Session 1B **Current Lesser Regard Issues That Negatively Impact the Church from Working in Unity to Accomplish the Greater Regard: Church Ministry**
Room TBA Chair: Cecil Kramer, Jr., Liberty University
Co-Chair: John R. Katsion, Northwest Missouri State University
A Shallow Ocean? Seeker Sensitive Worship, Chris Underation, Gordon College
The "Go Home" Controversy: Beth Moore, John MacArthur, and Pastoring in Regards to Gender, Gregory Knight, William Carey University
Claims of the KJV Only Adherents: High Regard or Idolatry? Cecil Kramer, Liberty University
Sermonic Apologia: An Ideological Criticism of Public Opinion and Pastoral Responsibility in Alistair Begg's Sermon, "Compassion vs. Condemnation," John Dunkle, Liberty University

Session 1C **The Chronicles of Narnia: Communication with Greater Regard**
Room TBA Chair: Jeffrey Miller, University of Memphis
Explaining the Popularity of "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe," Steven Beebe, Texas State University

Entering the Jovial World: A Pedagogy of Narnian Laughter, Terry Lindvall, Virginia Wesleyan University

The Lion's Roar: Lewis, Blake, Lacan, and the Tapestry of Meaning, Vasupradha Srikrishna, Madras Christian College

PANEL SESSION 2 • 10:30 to 11:45 a m

Session 2A
Room TBA

Vice Presidents Roundtable | Black Feminist Voices for Greater Cultural Regard in Religious and Other Spaces

Chair: Annette D. Madlock, Independent Scholar

Presenters:

Kami J. Anderson, Independent Scholar

Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis

Kimberly P. Johnson, Tennessee State University

Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University

Melva Sampson, Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Michelle Meggs, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Natonya Blackmon Listach, University of Memphis

Session 2B
Room TBA

The Intersection of Culture, Politics, and Religion: Regarding the Disregarded Description

Chair: L. Ripley Smith, Bethel University

The Long Shadow of William Jennings Bryan's Foreign Policy Rhetoric: The Political "Prince of Peace" and the Imago Dei, Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Regard for Missions: A Movement Stage Analysis of the SVM (Student Volunteer Movement) with Emphasis on the Rhetoric and Strategies Used by Three Prominent Leaders: Robert Wilder, A.T. Pierson and John Mott, and Its Eventual Decline into Disregard, Cecil Kramer, Liberty University

Piety in Plato's Euthyphro: A Virtue at the Intersection of Politics and Religion, David Gore, University of Minnesota Duluth

Session 2C
Room TBA

RCA 2024 Scholarship Awards Panel I

Chair: Theon Hill, Wheaton College

Mentor of the Year

Book Chapter of the Year

Dissertation of the Year

BUSINESS MEETING | BOX LUNCH • 12:00 to 1:15 p m

PANEL SESSION 3 • 1:30 to 2:45 p m

Session 3A
Room TBA

Regarding the Disregarded: Religious Communities and Thinkers, Franz Fanon's "The Damned of the Earth," and Engagement with Injustice

Chair: Kellie Carstensen, University of Memphis

The Rhetorical Power of Pain: Analyzing James Baldwin's "The Uses of the Blues," Theon Hill, Wheaton College

Women's Advice Ministries: The Rhetoric of Equivalence, Sarah Kornfield, Hope College

Regarding Friendship in Place-based Development for Colleges and Universities, Craig Mattson, Calvin University

The Natural World as “the Damned of the Earth”: Decolonizing Clifford Christians’ Account of Human Dignity and the Persistent Problem of Anthropocentrism, Naaman Wood, Saint Paul College

Session 3B
Room TBA

Communicating Leadership through Greater Regard for Religious Communication: Four Case Studies

Chair: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

New England Elijah: The Prophetic Rise of Senator Bernie Sanders, Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Nicholas of Cusa on Leading with Blurred Vision, Michael Kearney, Duquesne University

Howard Thurman: Model of Religious Communication Leadership, Leah Nelson, Duquesne University

Fr. Vincent Donovan: Model of Spiritan Leadership, Janie Fritz, Duquesne University

Session 3C
Room TBA

To Include or Not to Include, Is It Really a Question? On Discussing The (Dis)Placement of Inclusion in Religious Discourses

Chair: Lakelyn E. Taylor, University of Vermont

Care, Concern, and Community in the Preaching Classroom, Michelle Shaw, Belmont University

The National Prayer Breakfast 2016-2023: Presidential Rhetorics of Religious Inclusion and Exclusion, Andrea Terry, California State University, Sacramento

Mollifying Mormon Women: A Critical Assessment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints’ Instagram Posts about Women and the Priesthood, Nance Heise, Texas A&M University

Neuroqueer Rhetorical Theology: Advocating for Liberation, Not Cures, Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar

Reaching Beyond Religious Fundamentalism: Towards an Inclusive Gospel, Lionnell Smith, San Francisco State University

PANEL SESSION 4 • 3:00 to 4:15 pm

Session 4A
Room TBA

President’s Roundtable | Religion and Politics: A Reflection on the Election

Chair: Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

Presenters

Jeff Miller, University of Memphis

Cassandra Gould, Eden Theological Seminary

Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar

Amariah McIntosh, Phillips Chapel CME Church

Andrea Terry, Sacramento State University

Thomas Fuerst, Memphis Theological Seminary

Session 4B
Room TBA

Nonverbal Communication, Culture, and Worship

Chair: Breanna Prater, University of Missouri-Columbia

“Ring by Spring”: Nonverbal Immediacy Cues and Motivations of Christian Romantic Relationships, Amanda Fischer, Biola University

God, Is That You?: Imagined Interactions and Christian and Jewish Prayer, R. Ryan Beaty, University of Oklahoma

Should I Raise My Hands? Students Navigating the Worship Culture of a Christian University, Ehud Lee, Biola University

Making Sense of Christian Discipleship: Unpacking Communication About What it Means to Follow Jesus, Kaela Berretta, Biola University

Session 4C
Room TBA

RCA 2024 Scholarship Awards Panel II

Chair: Theon Hill, Wheaton College

JCR Article of the Year

Article of the Year

Edited Volume of the Year

Book of the Year

PANEL SESSION 5 • 4:30 to 5:45 pm

Session 5A
Room TBA

RCA Top Student Papers Panel

Chair: Leela Mogadam, Texas Christian University

“Obviously I Wouldn’t Be a Pastor”: Baptist Women Leaders’ Nested Identity Construction, Performance, and Reconciliation, Breanna Prater, University of Missouri-Columbia

“On Earth and in Heaven”: Studying Identity Tensions in Underrepresented Church Workers, Autumn Buzzetta, Colorado State University

As Above, So Below: A Rhetorical Theory of Sacrality, David Dockery, Texas A&M University

Discursive Struggles Reflected in the Communication of Conservative Christian Parents and Their Adult Children with Differing Religious Beliefs and Values, Braedon Worman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 5B
Room TBA

Persuasions of God: The Inventions of Theorhetic

Chair: Christian Lundberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Theorhetic in Persuasions of God: Ignatian Spirituality, Jesuit Political Theology, and Post-Heideggerian Rhetoric, Steven Mailloux, Loyola Marymount University

A Response to Paul Lynch’s Persuasions of God: Inventing the Rhetoric of René Girard: Arguing with God in the Christian Tradition, David Frank, University of Oregon

A Response to Plato and to Contemporary Calls for Theorhetic: Using Rhetorical Field Methods in Encounters with and Articulations of the Divine, Meghan Dunn, St. John’s University

Desiring the Holy: The Future of Theorhetics, Paul Lynch, Saint Louis University

Session 5C
Room TBA

The Rhetoric of Faith

Chair: Cecil Kramer, Jr., Liberty University

A Common Framework for Interfaith Dialogue, L. Ripley Smith, Bethel University

Communicating about Faith with Greater Regard: A Christian Communication Higher Education Faith Integration Model Considering the Rhetorical Situation, Julie Borkin, Taylor University

Decentered Preaching: A Proposal for Preaching in White Churches, Jeffrey Miller, University of Memphis

AWARDS BANQUET • 6:00 to 8:00 pm

6:00pm	Dinner Served
6:30-7:00pm	RCA Scholarship Awards Program
7:00-7:30pm	RCA Scholar of the Year Keynote Address
7:30-8:00pm	Post Conference Mingle