

APM Association of Professors of Mission

Call for Paper Proposals

Deadline: February 15, 2016

**2016 Annual Meeting
University of Northwestern - St. Paul, MN
June 16-17, 2016**

Teaching Christian Mission in an Age of World Christianity

The Association of Professors of Mission extends an open call for paper presentation proposals for its annual meeting. Anyone interested in presenting at APM should submit a proposal title with a 150-200 word abstract and a 30 word biography to Angel Santiago-Vendrell, APM President, at angel.santiago-vendrell@asburyseminary.edu by February 15, 2016.

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the APM will examine the theme, "Teaching Christian Mission in an Age of World Christianity." Mission and world Christianity are terms that seem to exclude each other. If Christianity is already a world religion, what is the need for mission? By the late 1970s, Andrew Walls drew attention to the fact that Christianity in the twentieth century was spreading and gaining most converts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America while at the same time Europe and North America were experiencing stagnation and decline in numbers and fervor. This demographic shift and the recognition of seeing Christianity as a world religion spread in all six continents has given way to conceiving the study of mission, ecumenics, and interreligious studies under the new nomenclature of world Christianity. The new field of world Christianity studies the Christian faith as expressed in all six continents, placing emphasis on the experiences of the poor, women of color, and marginalized communities in the Majority World. These churches were called at one time in missionary circles the 'receiving' or 'younger' churches. Given that the majority of Christians now live in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and that the gospel was spread mostly through indigenous Christians, how are we teaching mission in North American colleges, universities, and theological seminaries? If

the explosion of Christianity in the Majority World was possible because Christianity was already being contextualized by local agency, what role do the European and North American churches play today? Are the experiences of Christians in the Majority World at the center of our teaching of mission in North America? What are the new resources for teaching mission in an age of world Christianity?

Themes for Proposal:

Theological and Historical Perspectives on Teaching Mission in an Age of World Christianity. What theological metaphors or models for excellent teaching and learning are most generative for thinking about teaching mission studies in an age of world Christianity? What historical, biblical, or theological factors seem to be contributing to the changes one observes in mission studies in an age of world Christianity?

Gender, Mission, and World Christianity. What changes in one's own teaching or in an institution's curriculum are necessary for promoting gender equality in mission studies? What case studies or other instructional methods best promote gender specific mission practices? What would the study of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America look like if scholars put women into the center of their research? What does putting the experiences of majority world women at the center of our research agendas mean for professors in North America? How could this process be achieved?

Anthropological Considerations for Teaching Mission in an Age of World Christianity. How do different cultural contexts and related constructs (e.g. conceptions of the self, face, power-distance, etc.) affect teaching and learning for mission in an age of world Christianity? What strategies are most effective in working with such differences in any given teaching context or in a multicultural classroom? What are the ways for professors to mediate the spiritual experiences of Christians in the majority world to their students in North America?

Other subjects. Topics of particular interest to APM contributors but not directly related to the conference theme may still be submitted and will be considered by the conference organizers.

SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Paper proposal deadline: February 15, 2016

Notification of accepted papers: February 29, 2016

Submission of completed papers and confirmation of meeting attendance: May 23, 2016

For the purposes of online publication of presentations, submitted papers may be up to 5,000 words in length including notes and references (about 20 double-spaced pages) and should conform to the style guide of the journal *Missiology: An International Review*, available at: <http://asmweb.org/assets/pdf/Style-Guide-2011.pdf>. The full text of all papers approved for the conference will be made available to the members of APM online as *The Proceedings of the Association of Professors of Mission, 2016*

Presentations at the meeting will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes (about 5-7 pages of text, if read), plus additional time for discussion depending on the number of presentations accepted.

Please direct all submissions and questions to **Angel Santiago-Vendrell, APM President** at angel.santiago-vendrell@asburyseminary.edu.

**Registration materials will be available on the website in the Spring 2016.
We look forward to seeing in June!**