

**ASCH Business Meeting
Hyatt Regency Denver
January 7th, 2017**

ASCH President Ron Rittgers called the meeting to order.

Anne Wills moved to approve the minutes of the 2016 Business Meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Ron Rittgers recognized all past ASCH presidents in the room.

Ron Rittgers formally recognized and thanked outgoing Executive Secretary Keith Francis, reading the motion of thanks approved by the Council in response to Dr. Francis' resignation announcements. Rittgers also thanked Dr. Francis at length, acknowledging his work in making the ASCH much more competent, organized, and "professional."

Ron Rittgers also thanked Melanie Pickard, Keith Francis' assistant.

Ron Rittgers introduced the new Secretarial Team – Caleb Maskell, Bryan Bademan, and Andrew Hansen, who were received warmly, by acclaim.

Ron Rittgers described the motion that was passed at the Extraordinary Business Meeting (1/6/2017), to plan the 2018 meeting *adjacent to but independent of* the AHA.

Constitution and By-Laws

Margaret Bendroth, Thomas Noble, and Joel Carpenter presented on the new Constitution and By-Laws, developed by the Taskforce on Governance, for review by the membership during 2017. Copies of the new Constitution and By-Laws, as well as a summary document, were distributed. (These documents are available at www.churchhistory.org)

Bendroth explained:

A new Constitution and By-Laws were necessary in order to:

- Preserve institutional memory, especially on the Council
- Clarify the work and authority of the Council and staff, especially regarding transparency in financial matters.

Major points of change include:

- The breaking up of the Executive Secretary's role, into four different positions.
- Reviews of staff performance.
- Restructuring of the Council to include the Chairs of the Standing Committees, six "at-large" positions, a graduate student, and the staff.
- Presidential nomination process, **with more than one candidate**
- Church History Editor nomination process

The membership should review the documents, sending any comments, suggestions, or concerns by January 31st, 2017 to caleb.maskell@churchhistory.org. These will be reviewed by the Taskforce on Governance. In the late Spring, the Taskforce will host a conference call, in order to facilitate discussion with interested members. By September 1st, 2017, the revised documents will be posted on the ASCH website for review. A membership-wide vote will be taken on the new Constitution and By-Laws at the 2018 ASCH Annual Meeting.

Thomas Noble reinforced Bendroth's comments, and underscored the significance of the upcoming process of review by the membership. The hard work of the committee notwithstanding, "these are documents that are being proposed, not imposed" upon the society.

Budget

Richard Heitzenrater reported on the Budget. As in previous years, the budget is incomplete at this point. However, the Finance Committee will be presenting a final budget to the Council at its first conference call.

Recognition of Incoming President Ralph Keen

Prizes

Anne Wills thanked the Prize Committee for their work.

Jane Dempsey Douglass Prize is awarded to Julia Kelto Lillis, for her article "Paradox in Partu: Verifying Virginity in the Protevangelium of James" *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, Volume 24, Number 1, Spring 2016.

The Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize is awarded this year to Lerone C. Martin, *Preaching On Wax: The Phonograph and the Shaping of Modern African American Religion* (NYU Press, 2014)

The Prize Committee gave an Honorable Mention to David Mislin's *Saving Faith: Making Religious Pluralism an American Value at the Dawn of the Secular Age* (Cornell University Press, 2015) and Heath Carter's *Union Made: Working People and the Rise of Social Christianity in Chicago* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Executive Secretary Caleb Maskell noted that we will next year awarded the 2015 Schaff Prize, the 2016 Outler Prize, the 2017 Schaff Prize, the 2017 Brewer Prize, and the 2017 Jane Dempsey Douglass Prize.

In Memoriam

Maureen Tilley

Spring Meeting Announcement

Randi Walker described the Spring Meeting Call For Papers in detail, inviting everyone to Berkeley in April.

Concluding Remarks

Ron Rittgers communicated the tremendous sense of optimism felt by the leadership about the things that are to come. He formally recognized President-Elect Candy Brown for the very hard work that she has done this year.

Ron Rittgers adjourned.