

Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS)



Monograph

Prepared by Lois E. Olena, chair of the SPS 50th Anniversary Committee
and former SPS Executive Director, 2011-2016

Dedication

*SPS gratefully remembers
the service of the following past presidents
who have gone to be with the Lord during the Society's fourth decade:*

William Menzies (Co-Founder)

Horace S. Ward (Co-Founder)

Vinson Synan (Co-Founder)

Edith Blumhofer

Ithiel Clemmons

Donald W. Dayton

Ralph Del Colle

R. Hollis Gause

Manuel Gaxiola-Gaxiola

Jeff Gros

Peter Hocken

Stanley M. Horton

Leonard Lovett

William MacDonald

J. Rodman Williams

Table of Contents

<i>Dedication</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Welcome!</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Purpose Statement</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Historical Documents</i>	<i>7</i>
SPS Officers (including past presidents), Administrators, and Editors from 1970 to Present	<i>7</i>
The Beginnings of the Society for Pentecostal Studies	<i>7</i>
Report of the Society's Organizational Meeting	<i>7</i>
SPS 30th Anniversary Monograph	<i>7</i>
SPS 40th Anniversary Monograph	<i>7</i>
"The First Fifty Years of the Society for Pentecostal Studies: A Brief History"	<i>8</i>
First SPS Newsletter	<i>9</i>
<i>Executive Committee and Support Staff</i>	<i>11</i>
Secretary-Treasurers	<i>12</i>
Administrative Assistant Kimberly Roebuck	<i>12</i>
Webmasters	<i>13</i>
<i>Interest Groups</i>	<i>14</i>
A History of the Interest Groups	<i>14</i>
Biblical Studies Interest Group	<i>15</i>
Christian Ethics Interest Group	<i>16</i>
Ecumenical Studies Interest Group	<i>17</i>
History Interest Group	<i>18</i>
Missions and Intercultural Studies Interest Group	<i>18</i>
Philosophy Interest Group	<i>19</i>
Practical Theology/Christian Formation Interest Group	<i>20</i>
Religion & Culture Interest Group	<i>20</i>
Theology Interest Group	<i>21</i>
<i>Committees</i>	<i>22</i>
Program Committee: 2021 Annual Meeting	<i>22</i>
Library and Research Committee	<i>22</i>
Editorial Committee and <i>PNEUMA</i> Book Awards	<i>23</i>

Membership Committee	26
Nominating Committee	26
Diversity Committee	26
<i>Ithiel Conrad Clemmons Student Travel Scholarship</i>	29
<i>Caucuses</i>	30
Women's Caucus.....	30
Student Caucus	31
<i>Young Scholars' Award</i>	32
<i>Affiliations and Special Appointments</i>	33
Canadian Symposium/Canadian Pentecostal Research Network	33
Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue.....	33
SPS Liaison to the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and Program Unit Chair for SBL Annual Meeting (US).....	36
SPS at SBL International	39
SPS Liaison: Interfaith Relations Commission - National Council of Churches: USA (NCCCUSA)	40
SPS Liaison: Faith and Order Commission - National Council of Churches: USA (NCCCUSA)	40
<i>Our Social Media</i>	44
<i>Program Summaries (2013-2021)</i>	45
<i>Pneuma: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies</i>	49
Current Editorial Team	49
Previous <i>Pneuma</i> editors (1979-present)	49
Listing of Issues and Articles (1979-present).....	49
Article Index (through 2015):	49
Book Review Index (through 2015):	49
<i>Greetings from Past and Current Presidents, Pneuma Editors, and Executive Directors</i>	50
Alexander, Estrelida.....	50
Alexander, Kimberly Ervin.....	51
Althouse, Peter	52
Archer, Ken	53
Argue, Don.....	53
Beaty, James.....	54
Butler, Anthea	56
Cartledge, Mark	57

Charette, Blaine	58
Coulter, Dale	59
Cross, Terry.....	59
Daniels III, David D.....	60
de Alminana, Margaret English	61
Dempster, Murray	63
DuPree, Sherry Sherrod	64
Faupel, D. William.....	66
Grey, Jacqueline.....	69
Hinkle, Adrian	70
Hunter, Harold	71
Johns, Cheryl Bridges	72
Kydd, Ron	73
Land, Steven J.	73
Macchia, Frank	74
Martin, Lee Roy	74
Medina, Néstor.....	75
Pierce, Yolanda	76
Mittelstadt, Marty	76
Olena, Lois	77
Oliverio, Bill	79
Palma, Anthony	80
Robeck, Cecil (“Mel”)	81
Roberts, Anthony.....	83
Roebuck, David G.....	84
Skaggs, Rebecca	86
Solivan, Samuel	86
Spittler, Russ.....	87
Stronstad, Roger	88
Thomas, John Christopher.....	89
Villafa�e, Eldin.....	90
Wacker, Grant	90
Waddell, Robby	90

Wariboko, Nimi.....	91
Wilkinson, Michael	91
Yong, Amos.....	92
<i>Lifetime Achievement Awards (2013-2020)</i>	93
2021 – To be announced at the 2021 meeting	93
2020 – Roger Stronstad	93
2020 – David Reed	93
2019 – William K. Kay and Allan Anderson	94
2018 – Cheryl Bridges Johns	95
2017 – John Christopher Thomas	96
2016 – Murray Dempster, Byron Klaus, Doug Petersen	97
2015 – Frank Macchia	99
2014 – Estrela Yvonne Alexander	99
2013 – David William Faupel	101

Welcome!

As the Society for Pentecostal Studies celebrates its 50th year, we have prepared this monograph as a compendium to previous historical documents related to the Society for Pentecostal Studies. In this time, we pause to celebrate the goodness of God in His continued faithfulness to guide our steps. As the prophet Samuel did when he set a stone as a marker between Mizpeh and Shen (1 Sam 7:12), we pause to say, "Hitherto hath the LORD helped us."



Society for Pentecostal Studies

November 6 at 2:16 PM · 🌐



SPS Celebrates 50 Years! November 6, 1970 marks the organizing meeting for the Society for Pentecostal Studies in Dallas, TX.



(L-R) officers elected at the 1970 SPS: Edward Wood (Treas.), Wm. Menzies (Pres.), R. Hollis Gause (Pres-elect), and Vinson Synan (Sec.)

Purpose Statement

The Society for Pentecostal Studies began in 1970 and is an organization of scholars dedicated to providing a forum of discussion for all academic disciplines as a spiritual service to the kingdom of God. The purpose of the Society is to stimulate, encourage, recognize, and publicize the work of Pentecostal and Charismatic scholars and scholars of Pentecostalism; to study the implications of Pentecostal theology in relation to other academic disciplines, seeking a Pentecostal world-and-life view; and to support fully, to the extent appropriate for an academic society, the following statement of purposes:

- To encourage fellowship and facilitate co-ordination of effort among Pentecostal believers throughout the world.
- To demonstrate to the world the essential unity of Spirit-baptized believers, fulfilling the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ, “That they all may be one” (John 17:21).
- To cooperate in an endeavor to respond to the unchanging commission of the Lord Jesus, to carry His message to all people of all nations.
- To promote courtesy and mutual understanding, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, until we all come in the unity of the faith” (Eph 4:3, 13).
- To afford prayerful and practical assistance to any Pentecostal body in need of such.
- To promote and maintain the scriptural purity of the Society by Bible study and prayer.
- To uphold and maintain those Pentecostal truths, “most surely believed among us” (Luke 1:1).

The Society publishes ***Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies***. The Society also holds an annual meeting for members and friends. Each meeting includes plenary sessions related to a particular theme, numerous paper sessions organized by discipline-based Interest Groups, worship, fellowship, and networking opportunities.

Historical Documents

Historical documents prior to this monograph are located on the SPS web site (<http://sps-usa.org/home/bylaws-and-history>) and include the following:

SPS Officers (including past presidents), Administrators, and Editors from 1970 to Present

The Beginnings of the Society for Pentecostal Studies

by Vinson Synan

Report of the Society's Organizational Meeting

as it appeared in the *Pentecostal Holiness Advocate* 54:18 (January 2, 1971)

SPS 30th Anniversary Monograph

Commemorating thirty years of annual meetings (1971-2001)

SPS 40th Anniversary Monograph

Commemorating our fourth decade of annual meetings (2002-2012)



Bill Faupel, Cheryl Bridges Johns, Jennifer Miskov, and Russ Spittler

2013 "SPS at 40" Session

Further SPS history can be gleaned from its past programs and conference photos here:

<http://sps-usa.org/meetings/past-meetings>.

“The First Fifty Years of the Society for Pentecostal Studies: A Brief History”

by Glen W. Menzies

Pneuma The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (Vol. 42, Issues 3-4)

Brill has graciously provided full access to this article. Use link below. If this link does not work by clicking on it, COPY the link and PASTE it into your browser.

<https://bit.ly/2KxS3Ud>

The screenshot shows the Brill website interface for the article. The title is "The First Fifty Years of the Society for Pentecostal Studies" by Glen W. Menzies. It is published in *Pneuma*, Volume 42, Issues 3-4, in December 2020. The article is 335-369 pages long. The abstract states: "The Society for Pentecostal Studies has reached an important milestone: It is now fifty years old, what Robby Waddell calls 'the Pentecost of SPS.' This article aims to tell the Society's story over this past half century and place that history within the larger context of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, in order to shed light on the SPS's identity and self-understanding." The page also includes a sidebar with journal information and a search function.

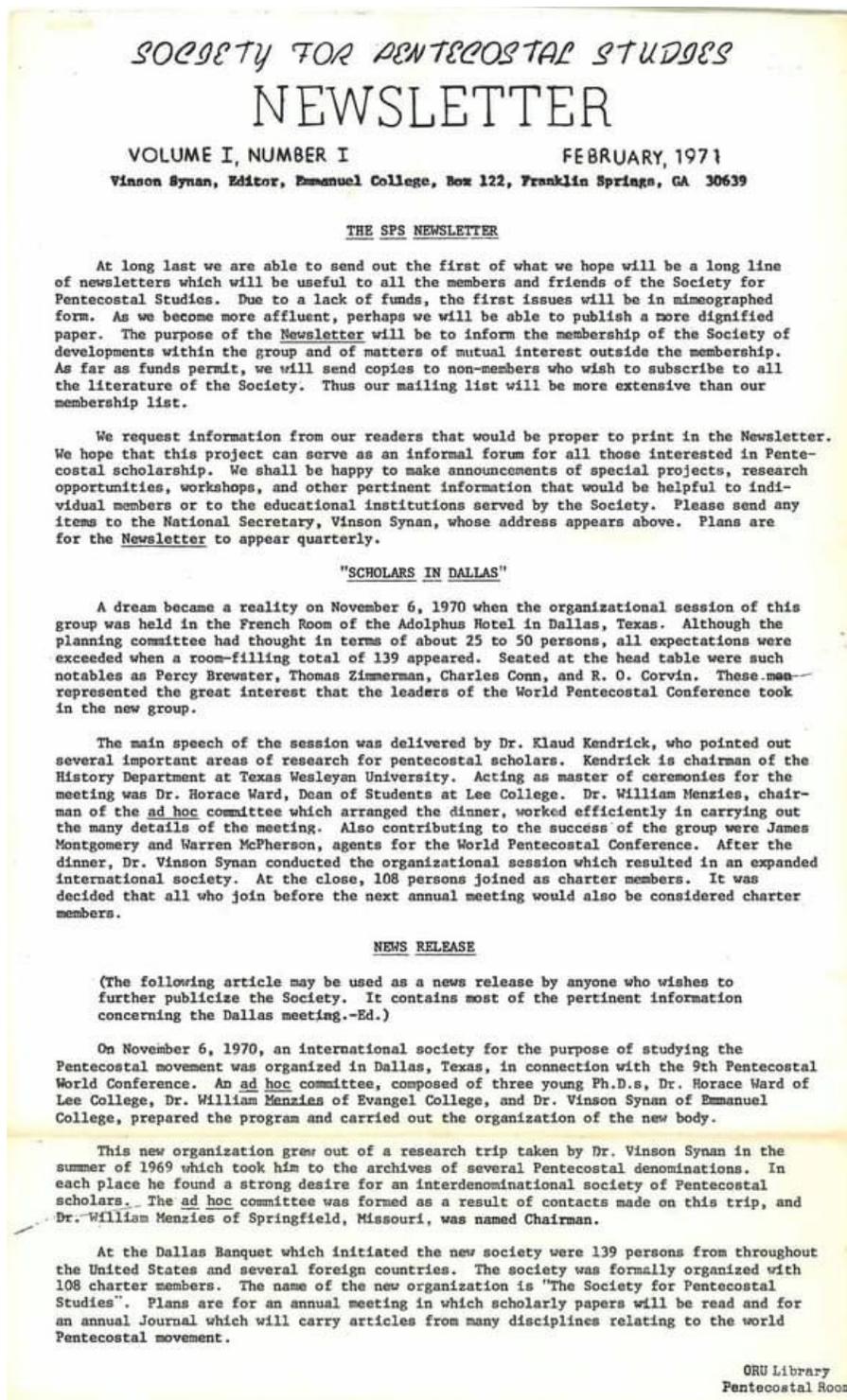
Abstract: The Society for Pentecostal Studies has reached an important milestone: It is now fifty years old, what Robby Waddell calls "the Pentecost of SPS." This article aims to tell the Society's story over this past half century and place that history within the larger context of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, in order to shed light on the SPS's identity and self-understanding.



(L) William Menzies, SPS co-founder, who passed away on August 15, 2011
 (R) 2012 SPS Glen Menzies receiving a memorial to his father, William Menzies

First SPS Newsletter

created by Vinson Synan, sent out after the first meeting. Compliments of Daniel Isgrigg, Director; Holy Spirit Research Center, Oral Roberts University



-2-

The overall purpose of this new society is "to offer pentecostal scholarship in all academic disciplines as a spiritual service to the Kingdom of God." Also listed as specific objectives were: "to recognize and publicize the work of pentecostal scholars, to serve pentecostal graduate students in non-pentecostal schools, to serve pentecostal ministers and leaders with opportunities for continuing education and resource materials, and to serve the church world by providing an authoritative interpretation of the pentecostal movement." In the first meeting, the scope of the society was increased to include members from the worldwide pentecostal community. Many nations of the world are now represented in the membership list.

Officers elected to lead the new society were: President, Dr. William Menzies (Chairman of the Department of Biblical Studies, Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri); Vice President, Dr. Hollis Gause (Chairman of the School of Religion, Lee College, Cleveland, Tennessee); Secretary, Dr. Vinson Synan (Chairman of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Emmanuel College, Franklin Springs, Georgia); Treasurer, Rev. Edward Wood (President of Eugene Bible College, Eugene, Oregon). The next national meeting of the society will be in November, 1971, in Des Moines, Iowa in connection with the annual meeting of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America.

Membership in the society is open to any person who wishes to study the world pentecostal movement and who can subscribe to the PFNA statement of faith. Any others who desire may be listed as a subscriber and receive all the newsletters and publications of the society. Membership is on the following levels: Full members - persons who hold earned graduate degrees; Associate members - persons without graduate degrees but otherwise qualified for membership (such as school teachers, administrators, etc.); and Student members - students currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.

Annual fees will be: Full members - \$5; Associate members - \$3; Student members - \$2; Subscribers - \$3.

DECISIONS OF THE DALLAS MEETING

At the organizational meeting of the Society many far-reaching decisions were made concerning the nature of the organization and its first year of operation. Since so many persons were present from many nations, it was early decided that the Society would be an international organization with provision for regional meetings where feasible. The constitution offered by the ad hoc committee was adopted as a provisional constitution for the first year with the understanding that the officers would make changes for a permanent document in November. The new constitution will be sent to the members at least 30 days before the annual meeting. After a discussion about the best place for the annual meeting, it was decided to meet in connection with the PFNA convention in Des Moines, Iowa, on November 5-6, 1971. The possibility of future meetings on college campuses was favorably discussed.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

In view of the high first-year costs of the organization, the officers asked the editor to request those interested in the SPS to give a special contribution. Perhaps there are those who would give for this cause because of a particular interest in promoting pentecostal scholarship. Any contributions will be tax-deductible and should be sent to: Rev. Edward Wood, Eugene Bible College, 1231 Olive Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401

Don Bryan

BREAKFAST MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

On November 7, 1970, a group of college administrators and teachers met in Dallas, Texas to exchange information about international study programs in the various pentecostal colleges and Bible schools. The guiding light of the session was Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft, President of Evangel College. Of the several schools which have such programs, Evangel College and Lee College seem to have done the most in developing credit courses in this area. For further information please write to: President J. Robert Ashcroft, Evangel College, Springfield, Mo., 65803; or Dr. Donald Aultman, Lee College, Cleveland, Tenn., 37311

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Memphis, Tennessee was the scene of the first meeting of the executive officers of the SPS on January 23, 1971. Hospitality was offered by the Rev. Leburne Dryden and members of the Christian Heritage Pentecostal Holiness Church. Membership as of February stands at some 130.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Enclosed you will find an application blank for membership in the SPS. If you joined in Dallas but failed to fill in the information, please fill it out for our record files. If you know of a prospective member, please encourage him to make application. Send all checks and applications to Edward Wood, who is chairman of the membership committee as well as treasurer. His address appears above.

Don Bryan

Executive Committee and Support Staff

	President	Martin Mittelstadt, Ph.D. Professor of New Testament Evangel University mittelstadtm@evangel.edu
	Executive Director	Adrian Hinkle, Ph.D. Vice President of Academic Affairs Southwestern Christian University adrian.hinkle@swcu.edu
	First Vice President and 2020/2021 Program Chair	Melissa Archer, Ph.D. Chair; Associate Professor of Biblical Studies Southeastern University mlarcher@seu.edu
	Second Vice President	Peter Althouse, Ph.D. Professor of Theology Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Oral Roberts University palthouse@oru.edu
	Immediate Past President	Mark J. Cartledge, Ph.D., FRSA Principal London School of Theology principal@lst.ac.uk
	Secretary & Treasurer	Jesse Heath, M.Div. Director of Assessment and Curriculum Design Southwestern Christian University jesse.heath@swcu.edu
	<i>Pneuma</i> Co-Editor	Nimi Wariboko, Ph.D. Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics Boston University nimiwari@bu.edu
	<i>Pneuma</i> Co-Editor	Bill Oliverio, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Public Theology Northwest University Bill.oliverio@northwestu.edu

Secretary-Treasurers

The following individuals served on the SPS Executive Committee as Secretary-Treasurers, and we are deeply grateful for their sacrifice of time, labor, and skill devoted to the Society:

<p>1971 Edward Wood 1972-1973 Donald Bryan 1974 Russell P. Spittler 1975 Horace S. Ward 1976 Joseph Nicholson 1977 John B. Parker</p>	<p>2008-2011 Dan Neary</p> 
<p>2012-2019 Zach Tackett</p> 	<p>2019-present Jesse Heath</p> 

Administrative Assistant Kimberly Roebuck

Kim Roebuck began serving the Society for Pentecostal Studies in 2003 while working on the staff of the Dixon Pentecostal Research Center. At that time, she assisted SPS Executive Director David Roebuck with many of the clerical responsibilities of the Society including membership



services. When SPS met on the campus of Lee University in 2007, Kim’s oversight of the conference registration highlighted her indispensable work with communication and coordination of countless conference details. She has continued as administrative assistant to each Executive Director including managing onsite registration at each meeting.

Any SPS member who has attended annual meetings during Kim’s tenure has

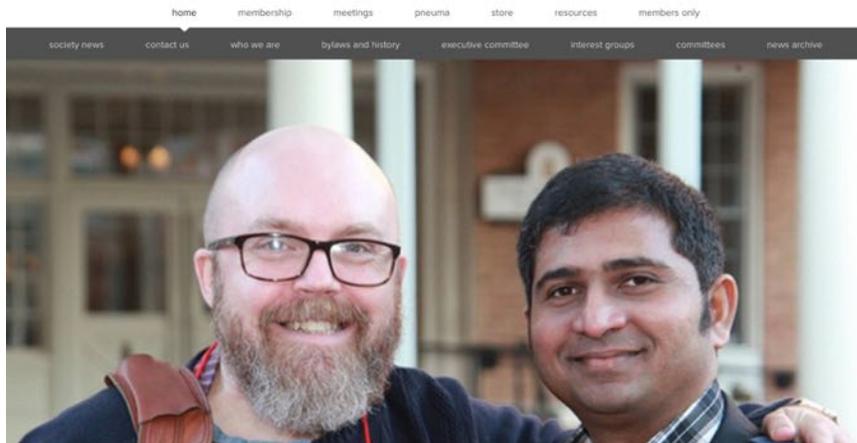
appreciated her helpful assistance. Her Christlike servant leadership and patience while assisting with all the intricacies of planning an annual conference have always helped to steady the ship as the Society continues to grow and change.



Webmasters

Special thanks also to those who have stewarded the SPS website:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 2005 | Harold Hunter |
| 2006-2017 | David Massey |
| 2018 | Lauren Riley |
| 2019 to present | Adrian Hinkle |



Interest Groups

For a list of current Interest Groups as of 2020, see: <http://sps-usa.org/home/interest-groups>

A History of the Interest Groups

by Bill Faupel, SPS Executive Director, 1997-2003

During several business meetings in the late 1980s, Chris Thomas of Pentecostal Theological Seminary called for the Executive Committee to consider establishing interest groups. Although by that time we had sufficient numbers of papers to run parallel sessions, no set pattern of plenary and parallel sessions had been established, and most of the papers tended to focus on Pentecostal history.

When I became program chair in 1991, I set the lunch hour on Friday as a time for people interested in Biblical Studies, Theology, History, Pastoral Care, and Religion and Culture to meet in separate rooms. I arranged with Southeastern University in Lakeland where we were meeting to provide brown bag lunches and asked five persons to serve as conveners for the meetings.

They were given the following agenda:

1. Each person attending was to introduce themselves and tell why they were interested in attending that group.
2. A time for individuals to tell what projects they were working on.
3. A time to discuss whether they would like to form an ongoing interest group.
4. If the group wanted to form an interest group, they would then elect a chair from the group for a two-year term.
5. Get a list of those attending, with emails.
6. Encourage the persons attending to think about submitting a paper proposal for the next year.

The five groups were all well-attended, and all voted to become an ongoing group and elected a chair. During the course of the following year, the Executive Committee developed bylaws to regulate the interest groups and the process by which additional groups could be formed. Bylaws changes were approved at the following meeting at the Assemblies of God Seminary in Springfield.

Within a couple of years, the parallel sessions were labeled by the area of the established interest group. It took several years before the interest group leaders assumed full responsibility for their set of parallel papers. Some assisted the program chairs to various degrees of suggesting names for presenters, but for the first five years or so, their main responsibility was to run the business meeting and encourage people to submit papers. When I became Executive Secretary a few years later, I was able to convince the leaders to assume the responsibilities they hold now.

Biblical Studies Interest Group

Meghan Musy (Report by Lee Roy Martin)

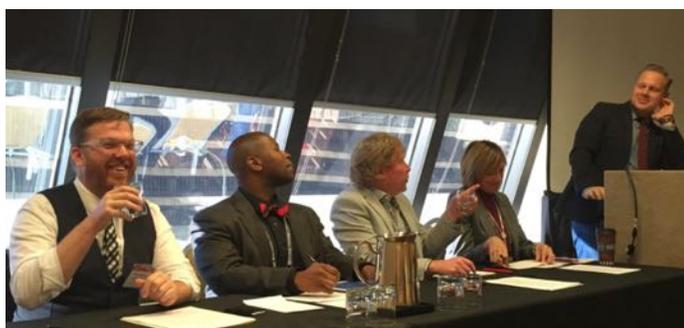


In the early days of SPS, the number of presentations were limited (less than twenty per year from 1970-1989), and the meetings revolved around history, theology, and ecumenism. In 1988, John Christopher Thomas presented a proposal for a Biblical Studies Section. A new format for the annual meetings was adopted by SPS (to begin at the 1991 meeting), which featured four Interest Groups that would meet in parallel sessions:

Biblical Studies, Christian Praxis, History, and Theology.

The following people have served as Biblical Studies Interest Group Leaders:

Chris Thomas	1990-1997
Rick Moore	1997-1998
Blaine Charette	1998-2004
James Shelton	2004-2007
Lee Roy Martin	2007-2012
Scott Ellington	2012-2018
Meghan Musy	2018-



In order to accommodate the increasing number of paper submissions and to facilitate growth, the Biblical Studies Interest Group created a pre-conference symposium, which met for the first time in 2003 at Asbury. All papers were distributed in advance, and the meeting itself consisted entirely of discussion. The all-discussion format continued until 2007, when the symposium took on the structure of the regular SPS parallel sessions.

Invited by the Society of Biblical Literature to become a part of their annual meeting, the Biblical Studies Interest Group has met in conjunction with SBL from 2007 to the present. Organized by Blaine Charette, these meetings have featured book dialogues, Old Testament papers, New Testament papers, and engagements with scholars from outside the Pentecostal tradition.

Now the largest of the Interest Groups, the Biblical Studies Group has benefited from the long-term participation of many of its members. The Group has been guided by a vision that includes several important components, such as (1) making time for discussion, (2) the inclusion of as many participants as possible, (3) the welcoming of students as presenters, (4) the involvement of women scholars and minority scholars, (5) striving for international participation, (6) an atmosphere of collegiality, mentoring, and pastoral concern, (7) the collaboration of Old Testament and New Testament scholars, and (8) frequent dialogues with scholars from outside the Pentecostal tradition (e.g. John Goldingay, Craig Koester, James D.G. Dunn, Walter Brueggemann, Fred Gaiser, Luke Timothy Johnson, John Levinson, Mark Boda, Richard Bauckham, Terence Fretheim).

Christian Ethics Interest Group

Daniela Augustine and Caroline Redick



The Christian ethics section represents an emerging field within Pentecostal studies. As such, it manifests the creativity of young scholars who work to build a Pentecost-inspired vision of a just world with the resources of the tradition. Under the guidance of Daniela Augustine, the section has been intentionally dialogical, welcoming interdisciplinary conversation as

necessary for transformative reflection and action. The growth of the section reflects a maturing of Pentecostal studies into a discipline that not only understands its own history and theological articulation, but also its particular charism for the world.



2013-2019 meetings have been well-attended and vigorous contributions to scholarship in the field of Christian ethics. Details can be found in the SPS programs here: <http://sps-usa.org/meetings/past-meetings>. For example, in 2013 we did a joint symposium with the Philosophy Interest Group to discuss Nimi Wariboko's *Pentecostal Principle*. Reviewers included Douglas Olena, Duane Loynes, Sr., Jack Wisemore, Christopher Stephenson, L. William Oliverio, Jr., with Wariboko responding. Wariboko and Daniel Castelo also served as panelists for "Pentecostal Ethics: Identity, Challenges, and Future." On the topic of Christian Ethics: Between Eschatological Escapism and Political Engagement: Ethics, Holiness, and Society," James Baker presented on "Kant's Reasoning on Eschatology, Ethics, and Holiness" and Dallas Gingles on "Innocence: Christian Ethics, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Political Engagement" with Erica Ramirez responding. Another session addressed "Embodied Holiness and Gender Relations," with presentations by Samuel Martinez, "Re-membering Chastity: Gregory of Nazianzus' Eighth Theological Oration" and Leah Payne, "Pants Don't Make Preachers': Gender, the Body, and Sexual Ethics in Early Pentecostal Revivalism." Katherine Attanasi responded.





Ecumenical Studies Interest Group

Daniel Tobin

(Paragraph from Wolfgang Vondey)

I began the Ecumenical Studies Interest Group in 2001. I sent letters to the membership in 2000 to see if there would be support for the group and received so many responses that we opened the group with SPS approval at the next meeting. I served as IGL chair until 2005, which was then taken on by David Cole (2006-2009). Subsequent leaders have been Tony Richie (2009-2015), Christopher (“Crip”) Stephenson (2015-2018), and Daniel Tobin (2018-present).

Since its formation, the Ecumenical Studies Interest Group has encouraged worldwide Pentecostal participation in ecumenical concerns, sponsored Roman Catholic–Pentecostal conversations at the annual meetings of the Society, invited international scholarly debates, engaged in a study process on ecumenical consensus statements, and attended to the younger generation of ecumenical scholars.

In 2010 a selection of essays representative of more than fifty scholarly presentations and panel discussions sponsored by the ecumenical studies group during the first decade of its existence was published as *Pentecostalism and Christian Unity: Ecumenical Documents and Critical Assessments*.

In its original form, the group represented the only organized ecumenical think-tank among Pentecostals in North America. It contributed to critical reflections on consensus statements and invited non-Pentecostals to the Society. It is also unique in that its business meeting is always apart from the other interest groups so that all groups can choose to join an ecumenical gathering of scholars.

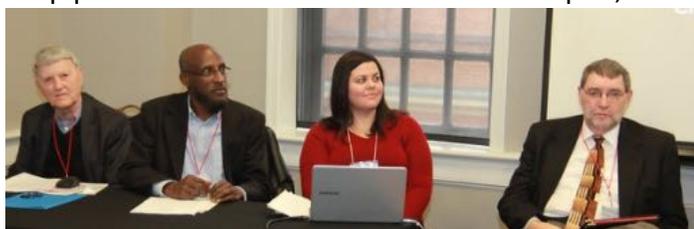




History Interest Group

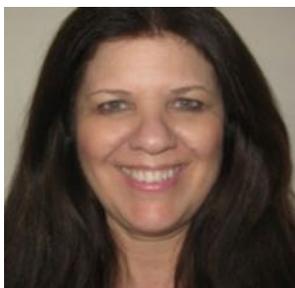
Andrea Johnson

The History Interest Group has played a key role in the Society's move to expand scholarship on Pentecostal movements. While focused on scholarship that recounts the pasts of those who have identified as Pentecostals, the group has served as a place not only for church-based historians but also for scholars from the broader academy to meet and exchange ideas. In recent years, this has been reflected as members of the group have produced scholarship recounting a more diverse picture of the Pentecostal experience along the lines of gender, race and ethnicity, as well as theology. While most of the scholarship presented tends to be on American topics, the group hopes that as the Society grows, there will be an increased number of projects on the international history of Pentecostalism.



Missions and Intercultural Studies Interest Group

Valerie Rance



The earliest Interest Group leader known to Missions IG members in 2020 is Ken Gill, who was serving as the Associate Director of the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton at the time (no one knows the date he started). He was a very proactive leader. He turned the leadership over to Byron Klaus (Vanguard) in 1997 who led the group until 2000. Rob Gallagher (Wheaton) started his tenure in 2000 and led until 2005. Joe Castleberry (Academic Dean of AGTS and President of Northwest University) took up the reins from 2005 to 2008.

DeLonn Rance (Intercultural Doctoral Studies director at AGTS) led the group from 2008 to 2011. Corky Alexander took over the leadership from 2011 through 2014. The next leader voted in was Sarita Gallagher (now Edwards) (Fox University) who led from 2014 through 2017, following which time I (Valerie Rance, AGTS) was voted in and have led the group from 2017 through 2021. Our group comprises people involved in missions and/or cross-cultural ministries. Papers presented have been outstanding; however, the best part of our group is the friendships that have formed, which expand beyond our times at SPS's annual conference.





Philosophy Interest Group

Doug Olena

(via Bill Oliverio, *Pneuma* 42/2, p. 172)

In the year 2002, and on his way to becoming one of the more influential North American Christian philosophers, James K.A. Smith provided the initiative for beginning the Philosophy Interest Group of the SPS. He did so with the encouragement of some key figures in Pentecostal studies, including especially that of

Amos Yong. In 2003, Smith wrote an influential article entitled “Advice to Pentecostal Philosophers,” which appeared in an issue of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*.^[1] Drawing on the Reformed Christian philosopher Alvin Plantinga’s noted “Advice to Christian Philosophers,” which called on Christian philosophers to draw on their own Christian affirmations about reality in Christian philosophical projects,^[2] Smith called on Pentecostal philosophers to do philosophy from their own Pentecostal understanding of the world, embedding theological and faith assumptions into the task of philosophy.^[3]

The Philosophy Interest Group, since led by Jack Wisemore, (2002-2005), Doug Olena, (2005-2008), one of your editors—L. William (Bill) Oliverio, Jr. (2008-2014), and then Doug Olena again (2014-Present) has engaged in significant dialogues regarding the relationship between philosophical work and Pentecostal studies. Significant philosophical voices (several of whom overlap disciplinary domains) including Harvey Cox, D. Stephen Long, James K.A. Smith, Charles Taylor, Merold Westphal, and Amos Yong, among others who deserve to but cannot all be listed here, have participated in sessions sponsored by the Group since, and your two editors of *Pneuma*, respectively, have primarily identified with the [sic] it in their SPS membership and participation.

^[1] James K.A. Smith, “Advice to Pentecostal Philosophers,” *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 11:2 (October 2003): 235-247.

^[2] Alvin Plantinga, “Advice to Christian Philosophers,” *Faith and Philosophy: Journal of the Society of Christian Philosophers* 1:3 (July 1984): 253-271.

^[3] See also James K.A. Smith, *Thinking in Tongues: Pentecostal Contributions to Christian Philosophy*, Pentecostal Manifestos (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

Practical Theology/Christian Formation Interest Group

Marcia Clarke and Susan Maros



The distinctiveness of the Practical Theology/Christian Formation Interest group is an integrative conversation between different disciplines and between the academy and the work of practitioners in local congregations. PT/CF has hosted scholars working in biblical studies, theology, psychology, sociology, and congregational leadership, among others. In many ways, this interest group has been a microcosm of the kind of connections being made across Pentecostal scholarship as a whole because of the interdisciplinary nature of the conversation. PT/CF has sought to facilitate discussion from a diverse group, highlighting in particular the work of women and scholars of color, while also developing issue-oriented panels that reach outside practical theology proper, such as hosting a conversation about theological education or African American hermeneutics. Our hope for the future is to continue to host a robust discussion across disciplines that serves the needs of practitioners engaging academic content in their local ministries.

Religion & Culture Interest Group

Clifton Clarke



The Religion and Culture Interest Group has made a valuable contribution to the Society for Pentecostal Studies annual meetings over the years. This group hears papers on a broad array of topics, such as morality, worldviews, critical texts, ethics, culture, and organizations. The goal of this group is to engage discourse concerning how religion, religious systems, rituals, symbols, art, and other cultural factors intersect.

One of the most memorable sessions of the Religion & Culture Interest Group during my tenure as the interest group leader was putting on a panel discussion in Ferguson during the protest surrounding the brutal murder of Michael Brown. The Religion & Culture Interest Group also played a valuable role in the launching of the organization, Alliance for Black Pentecostal Scholarship. As the Interest Group leader in this 50th anniversary we celebrate this very important milestone and look forward to future growth and developments.



Theology Interest Group

Sammy Alfaro



Since its inception, the Theology Interest group has provided a space for Pentecostal theological inquiry. Over the years, the group has focused on the main theological doctrines with a marked Pentecostal and Pneumatological focus. However, with the rise and spread of Pentecostal scholarship around the world, this Interest Group has sought to create opportunities for a variety of contextual and global approaches for doing Pentecostal theology. Though the group continues to be hospitable to more traditional Pentecostal theological themes and practices, the group values having a diversity of voices that

represent the global Pentecostal presence.

In addition, understanding the vision and direction provided each year by the program chair, the group attempts to align the majority of its sessions to focus on the theme of the conference. Lastly, in an effort to be more inclusive with regard to levels of scholarship, the annual Interest Group sessions aim to include representative voices from students, independent scholars and ministers, and traditional scholars at different career levels.



Thinking of the future of this interest group, we hope to continue to innovate by focusing on relevant biblical, cultural, and social issues bordering on theological topics.



Committees

Program Committee: 2021 Annual Meeting

Melissa Archer, Chair (2021)
 Daniel Davis, Site Coordinator
 Adrian Hinkle, Executive Director (2024)
 Meghan Musy, Bible (2021)
 Daniela Augustine and Caroline Redick, Christian Ethics (2021)
 Anthony Roberts, Diversity (2019)
 Daniel Tobin, Ecumenical Studies (2021)
 Andrea Johnson, History (2021)
 Ruthie Oberg, Library and Research (2022)
 Valeri Rance, Missions (2020)
 Doug Olena, Philosophy (2020)
 Marcia Clarke and Susan Maros, Practical Theology/Christian Formation (2021)
 Clifton R. Clarke, Religion and Culture (2019)
 Sammy Alfaro, Theology (2020)

Many thanks to our current and previous Program Committee members who work hard throughout each year, planning the annual meeting. You are a great blessing to the Society!

Library and Research Committee

Ruthie Oberg, Chair (2022)	Peter Neumann (2021)
Mark Cartledge (<i>ex officio</i>)	Alexander Stewart (2019)
Rick Wadholm (2020)	

Thank you to our SPS members serving on the Library and Research Committee!



The Library and Research Committee of the Society for Pentecostal Studies began in 1970 due to the need to support the collections of various libraries and archives and to maintain access of

those materials for researchers. Each year the importance of this committee has been abundantly clear as its member organizations are consistently referenced in the footnotes and bibliographies of presented papers.

Committee members host a luncheon held during the Society's annual meeting. Updates are given by representatives of various archives, which have included the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center (Springfield, Missouri), the Dixon Pentecostal Research Center (Cleveland, Tennessee), the IPHC Archives and Research Center (Bethany, Oklahoma), the Holy Spirit Research Center (Tulsa, Oklahoma), the Center for the Study of Oneness Pentecostalism (Wentzville, Missouri), the Fuller Theological Seminary archives (Pasadena, California), the Foursquare Heritage Center (Los Angeles, California) and others. Individuals representing personal collections and those who share an interest in preserving and promoting the documents of the Pentecostal movement also attend and bring valuable perspective.

The diversity of the committee is reflected in the race, gender, geography, and theology (including Keswickian, Holiness, Trinitarian, and Oneness persuasions) of those who attend its hosted meetings. This provides access to a wholistic approach to Pentecostal studies.

Over the years, the Library and Research Committee has offered an "early bird special" for members arriving to the annual conference the day before the official program begins. These events have included tours of Church of God in Christ historic sites in Lexington, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee; the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center in Springfield, Missouri; Duke Divinity School Library special collections in North Carolina; Church of God historic sites in Tennessee; Life Pacific University Archives in San Dimas, California; and the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Many of these sessions have included training for those interested in expanding their skill set in archival and library management.

The committee continues to provide a place for discussion during the year through its social media pages, encouraging collaboration between the various members and providing resources for research. It also takes seriously the duty of providing training and practical support for those organizing personal and topic-specific collections.

Editorial Committee and *PNEUMA* Book Awards

Adrian Hinkle, Chair (2024)	Christopher Stephenson (2022)
Lisa Stephenson (2022)	Douglas "Jake" Jacobsen (2020)
Néstor Medina (2021)	Nimi Wariboko, <i>Pneuma</i> Co-Editor (<i>ex officio</i>)
Bill Oliverio, <i>Pneuma</i> Co-Editor (<i>ex officio</i>)	
Anthony Roberts, <i>Pneuma</i> Book Review Editor (<i>ex officio</i>)	

Thank you to our SPS members serving on the Editorial Committee!

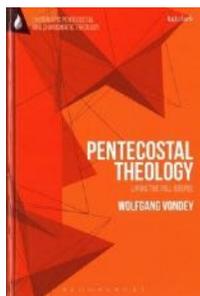
The editorial committee is chaired by the executive director and also consists of the *Pneuma* editors plus four other individuals elected at each annual meeting, with the senior member

retiring. The committee oversees the Society's [Newsletter](#) and serves as judges for the *Pneuma* Book Award given at the annual meeting of SPS. The SPS *Newsletter* was edited 2010-2013 by Mark Roberts of ORU and Darrin Rodgers of the FPHC but more recently has taken the form of a regular e-news update from the Executive Director.

The following lists the *Pneuma* Book Award winners since 2012:

2020: No meeting was held due to Covid-19. However, the Executive Committee still awarded Daniel C. Augustine as *Pneuma* Book Award winner for her book, *The Spirit and the Common Good: Shared Flourishing in the Image of God* (Foreword by Miroslav Volf), (Eerdmans, 2019).

2019: Judith Casselberry, *The Labor of Faith: Gender and Power in Black Apostolic Pentecostalism* (Duke University Press, 2017).



2018: Wolfgang Vondey, *Pentecostal Theology: Living the Full Gospel* (Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2017).

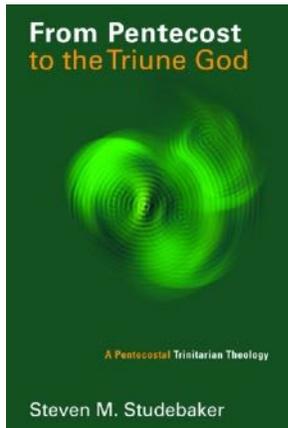
2017: Daniel Ramirez, *Migrating Faith: Pentecostalism in the United State and Mexico in the Twentieth Century* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015).



2016: Leah Payne, *Gender and Pentecostal Revivalism: Making a Female Ministry in the Early Twentieth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).



2015: Angela Tarango, *Choosing the Jesus Way: Native American Pentecostals and the Fight for the Indigenous Principle* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).



2014: Steven M. Studebaker, *From Pentecost to the Triune God: A Pentecostal Trinitarian Theology* (Eerdmans, 2012).

2013: Lisa P. Stephenson, *Dismantling the Dualisms for American Pentecostal Women in Ministry: A Feminist Pneumatological Approach* (Brill, 2012).



2012: Estrela Alexander, *Black Fire: One Hundred Years of African American Pentecostalism* (IVP Academic, 2011).



Membership Committee

Peter Althouse, Chair (2020)	Marcia Clark (2020)	Andrew Gabriel (2020)
Adrian Hinkle (2021)	Meghan Musy (2021)	
Bradley Truman Noel (2022)	Jonathan Alvarado (2022)	

Thank you to our SPS members serving on the Membership Committee!

From our Bylaws: “The membership committee shall be composed of the second vice president, who shall serve as chair, together with six other members, two of which shall be elected at each annual meeting, the two senior members retiring. The membership committee shall help promote membership in the Society and review all applications for the membership to the Society and make recommendations to the Society in accordance with the qualifications established in Article III of these bylaws.”

Nominating Committee

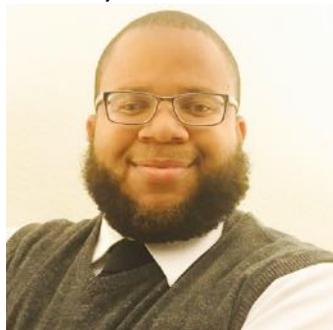
Mark Cartledge, Chair (Immediate Past SPS President)
Interest Group Leaders (see Program Committee above)

Thank you to our SPS members serving on the Membership Committee!

From our Bylaws: “The nominating committee shall consist of the immediate past president, who shall serve as chair, together with the interest group leaders of the Society. The nominating committee shall consult with each of the other Society committees and interest groups to identify potential nominees for office. The committee shall then nominate candidates for all available offices and committee assignments.”

Diversity Committee

Anthony Roberts



The SPS Diversity Committee exists to promote a plurality of approaches, voices, and issues related to the study of Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity with the Society for Pentecostal Studies.

Since 2013, there have been three committee chairs:

Anjulet Tucker (Emory University, 2009-2013),
Meghan Musy (Assemblies of God Theological Seminary,
2014-2017), and

Anthony Roberts (Southeastern University, 2017-present).

Dara Delgado currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Diversity Committee.

Thank you to our SPS members serving on the Diversity Committee!

The committee has hosted several engaging sessions during the annual meeting on a variety of topics, including holy dance, linguistic/cultural diversity within Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity, the origins of the North American Pentecostal movements, global hermeneutics, cultural competence, the impact of socioeconomics on education, and Black Pentecostal archival research. The following lists the 2013-2021 Diversity sessions:



2013 (Seattle, WA)

“Panel Discussion: Ecstasy, Agency, and the Holiness of Dance”

Chair: Eric Lewis Williams, Ashland Theological Seminary

Panelists: Deidre Crumbley, North Carolina State University; Anjulet Tucker, Boston University School of Theology; Alisha Lola Jones, University of Chicago Divinity School

2014 (Springfield, MO)

Speaking in Tongues: Exploring the Language and Cultural Diversity within the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements

Meghan D. Musy, McMaster Divinity College, Diversity Chair

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements have been comprised of diverse groups since their inceptions. Stories originating around the world from people of different tongues highlight the work of the Spirit among various groups and reminds us of the unifying power of these movements. Join the Diversity Committee's tailored tour and discussion of the diverse roots of Pentecostal and Charismatic movements at the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.



2015 (Lakeland, FL)

Pentecostal Beginnings: Azusa Street and/or Polynucleate Origins

Meghan D. Musy, McMaster Divinity College, chair

Estrela Alexander, William Seymour College

Michael McClymond, University of Birmingham and St. Louis University

Anthony Richard Roberts, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology and Southeastern University, respondent; Leah Payne, George Fox University, respondent; Paulo Ayres Mattos, Methodist School of Theology, Methodist University of São Paulo, respondent

2016 (San Dimas, CA)

Global Hermeneutics - Meghan Musy, McMaster Divinity College, chair

Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary, 'The Sighs, Signs, and Science of Interpretation: Some Asian American Pentecostal Questions about Hermeneutics in a Multi-, Inter-, and Transcultural World'

Craig Keener, Asbury Theological Seminary, 'Confessions of a Western Reader'

2017 (St. Louis, MO)

Diversity Committee (Panel Discussion) "A Pentecostal Approach to Cultural Competence"

Chair: Meghan Musy, McMaster Divinity College

Panelists: Clifton Clarke, Fuller Theological Seminary; Jacqueline Grey, Alphacrucis College
Abraham Antonio Ruelas, Patten University

2018 (Cleveland, TN)

Diversity Committee Panel Discussion "Poverty in Education? – A Pentecostal Conversation on Learning, the Spirit, and Lack"

Chairs: Anthony Roberts (Southeastern University, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology) and Dara Coleby Delgado (University of Dayton)

Panelists: Estrela Alexander, William Seymour College; Bob L. Johnson, University of Alabama; Frederick L. Ware, Howard University

2019 (Hyattsville, MD)

Panel Discussion: Deepening the Black Pentecostal Archive: On Archaeologies of Black Pentecostal Knowledge

Chair: Anthony Roberts, Southeastern University, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Eric Williams, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

David Daniels III, McCormick Theological Seminary

Sherry DuPree, Pentecostal Holiness Center

Glenda Goodson, The Center for African American Church History and Research

Ida Jones, Morgan State University

Yolanda Pierce, Howard University

Darrin Rodgers, Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center

William C. Turner, Duke Divinity School

2021 (Dallas, TX)

“The Spirit of Cultural Healing: The Restorative Work of Native American and Aboriginal Australian Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity”

Chairs: Anthony Roberts, Southeastern University; Dara Coleby Delgado, University of Dayton

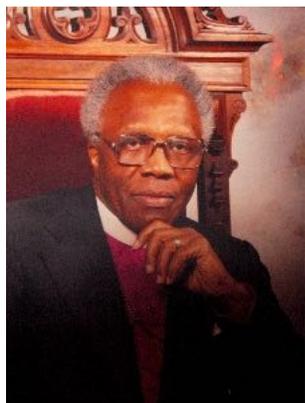
Benjamin Jacuk, Princeton Theological Seminary: “The Spirit of Cultural Healing: The Restorative Work of Alaskan Native American Pentecostalism”

Tanya Riches, Hillsong College: “Addressing Community Trauma via Dadirri or Aboriginal Australian Charismatic Inner Healing”

Additionally, the committee continues to annually award the Bishop Ithiel Conrad Clemmons Student Travel Scholarship to three graduate students attending the annual meeting.



Ithiel Conrad Clemmons Student Travel Scholarship



The Ithiel Conrad Clemmons Student Travel Scholarship was established in 2001 to assist minority and female students in attending the SPS Annual Meeting. Funds are available through the generous donations of SPS members during the registration process. Recipients must apply for the scholarship in the autumn prior to the annual meeting and are awarded at the annual meeting during the Diversity Committee’s business meeting. The award is in memory of Bishop Ithiel Clemmons, who served the Society for four years on the SPS Executive Committee: 1979 (2nd Vice President), 1980 (1st Vice President), 1981 (President), and 1982 (Immediate Past President).

Caucuses

Women's Caucus

Jacqueline Grey

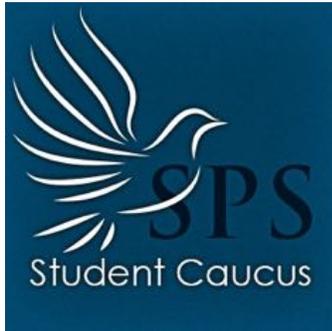
The SPS Women's Caucus meetings emerged as a result of a plenary paper at the 2001 SPS Annual Meeting delivered by Pamela Holmes. Holmes had argued that if pentecostalism had stayed faithful to its original ideals, then a feminist movement may never have been needed. The paper sparked much discussion and desire for a space within SPS for women to network and provide mutual support. As a result, the first breakfast meeting was held in 2009 with over thirty women in attendance. The subsequent Women's Caucus meetings have focused on mentoring, publishing, sharing scholarship, and networking. This strategic meeting has allowed women of SPS to stay central within their various interest groups while providing a forum to support one another and connect across disciplines. It has welcomed all women scholars, from students to early career, to established scholars.

The group has been led by Pam Holmes (2009-2003, 2015-2016); Linda Ambrose (2014, 2017); and Jacqueline Grey (2018-present). The SPS Women's Caucus has helped foster friendships, scholarship, and has even helped nurture some publication projects such as *Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry: Informing a Dialogue on Gender, Church, and Ministry*, edited by Margaret deAlminana and Lois Olena (Brill, 2016) and the special issue of the *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* Vol 41, Issue 1, 2019) 'Pentecostal Studies and the #MeToo movement' with guest editors Linda Ambrose and Kimberly Alexander.



Student Caucus

Rick Wadholm



The SPS Student Caucus was birthed out of the 2012 Annual Meeting of SPS in Virginia Beach, VA, under the student leadership of Justin Gottuso, Daniel Levy, and Rick Wadholm. The concern was to provide better integration of student members into the Society, encouraging student members toward scholarship and maturation within their respective fields of study and within the Society as Pentecostal scholars. The first Student Caucus gathering at SPS commenced at the 2014 Annual Meeting with guest speakers Mel Robeck and Russ Spittler.



Young Scholars' Award

The Young Scholars' Award was launched in 2013 through an initial generous gift (by a donor who wished to remain anonymous) to launch an award for the "Best Student Research Paper." Funding has continued thanks to subsequent donations by SPS members.

Applicants must qualify according to instructions sent to the SPS membership each year, including being enrolled as a full-time graduate student (Master's level, not doctoral), submission of a proposal to an interest group by the deadline, registration for the conference, submission of a paper by the January deadline, and attendance at the annual conference (including the banquet). Interest Group leaders will coordinate with the chair of the SPS membership committee to select the best student research paper.

The winning paper is noted in the SPS program and the student receives his or her award at the SPS annual banquet. The following students have received the award since its inception:

2020: Daniel Topf, Fuller Theological Seminary, "Addressing the Economic Dimension of Global Violence Against Women: Threats and Opportunities in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution"

2019: Skylar D. McManus, Regent University, "Parsing Pentecostal Oneness Christology."

2018: Dara Coleby Delgado, University of Dayton, "The Practicality of Holiness: A Historical Examination of Class, Race, and Gender within Black Holiness Pentecostalism, Bishop Ida Bell Robinson, and the Mount Sinai Holy Church of America."

2017: Elizabeth Krueger, Lee University, "Refusing to Perpetuate Otherness: Hospitality as the Ecclesial Response and Prevention of Sex Trafficking"

2016: Alex Mayfield, Boston College, "Seal of the Spirit: The Sacrament of Confirmation and Pentecostal 'Spirit Baptism'"

2015: William Kyle Clukey, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, "A Kenotic Ethic of Peacebuilding and Reconciliation"

2014: Brandon Hubbard-Heitz, Wake Forest University, "The Devil Can Go and Commit Suicide": Explorations and Implications of the Early Pentecostals' Hermeneutic of Space"

Anthony Roberts, Southeastern University, "A Cautious Hermeneutical Relationship: The Influence of Ludwig Feuerbach's Philosophical Framework within James H. Cone's God of the Oppressed"



Affiliations and Special Appointments

Canadian Symposium/Canadian Pentecostal Research Network

Michael Wilkinson

The Canadian Symposium at SPS has its origins in the Canadian Pentecostal Research Network (CPRN) that was initiated by Michael Wilkinson and Peter Althouse. The first major event of CPRN took place at Trinity Western University in 2006 when the contributors for the book *Canadian Pentecostalism* met to discuss their research. The workshop participants were highly encouraged by the interaction and discussed further avenues to share their work. One of the options was to organize a session at SPS to bring together some of the work, and with the success and interest of those early sessions the Canadian Symposium established its own time and space as a pre-conference event by 2009. The symposium was an opportunity to support the growing development of scholarship on Canadian Pentecostalism from which other projects emerged, including a journal, conferences, workshops, presentations, and graduate work. A Canadian dinner was also initiated at SPS and has proved to be a highlight for the participants. The strong relationship between SPS and Canadian researchers has facilitated numerous discussions on a range of topics that allowed for the development of scholarly work over the past decade, which has greatly enhanced Canadian scholarship.



Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue

Christopher A. Stephenson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
Department of Theology, Lee University

Daniel Tobin
Doctoral cand. in Systematic Theology
Catholic University of America

The Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue reflects, within the context of an academic society, some of the interests of the continuing international dialogue between Catholics and Pentecostals, which was the first bilateral international dialogue with a Pentecostal team. The

SPS Dialogue has fostered Catholic participation in SPS annual meetings over the years. In addition to the final reports from the international dialogue, topics of discussion at the SPS Dialogue have included perceptions of the two church traditions in popular imagination, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Mary in light of the witness of Luke-Acts, holiness, healing, discernment of spirits, Christianity among Hispanics and Latin Americans, and evaluations of literature on church unity by John Paul II and the World Council of Churches.

“The SPS 30th Annual” lists the Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogues from 1971-2001:
http://storage.cloversites.com/societyforpentecostalstudies/documents/sps_30_anniversary_monograph.pdf

“SPS 4th Decade” lists the Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogues from 2002-2011:
http://storage.cloversites.com/societyforpentecostalstudies/documents/sps_history_2002_to_2012.pdf

SPS Programs here: <http://sps-usa.org/meetings/past-meetings> list the 2013-2021 dialogues below.

2013

Chair: Dale Coulter, Regent University School of Divinity

Presenter: Donald Dayton, Independent Scholar, “Pentecostal, Catholic, and Holiness: A Common Evangelical Heritage?”

Respondents: Cheryl Bridges Johns, Pentecostal Theological Seminary;

Thomas P. Rausch, S.J., Loyola Marymount University

2014

Pentecostal and Catholic Responses to “The Church: Towards a Common Vision”

Daniel Tobin, Glenmary Home Missioners, chair

Frank D. Macchia, Vanguard University, respondent

John W. Crossin, OSFS, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, respondent

2015

Pentecostalism and Ecumenism at 70: A Retrospective

Anthea Butler, University of Pennsylvania, chair

David Daniels, McCormick Theological Seminary

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Jean Daniel Pluss, Independent Scholar, Switzerland

Leslie Callahan, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

Cecil M. (“Mel”) Robeck, Fuller Theological Seminary, respondent

2016

Discernment of Spirits in Catholic and Pentecostal Traditions

Dale M. Coulter, Regent University, co-chair

Daniel Tobin, Catholic University of America, co-chair

C. Colt Anderson, Fordham University, Catholic presenter

Nimi Wariboko, Boston University, Pentecostal presenter

2017

Reflections on the Report of the Sixth Phase of the International Dialogue:
 "Do Not Quench the Spirit": Charisms in the Life and Mission of the Church
 Daniel Tobin, Catholic University of America, chair
 Christopher Stephenson, Lee University, Pentecostal Respondent
 John Gresham, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, Catholic Respondent
 Joel Elowsky, Concordia Seminary, Lutheran Respondent

2018

Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue—After 50 Years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal:
 Catholic and Pentecostal Reflections on Spirit Baptism
 Daniel Tobin, University of America, chair
 David Perry, Alphacrucis College, Pentecostal Presenter
 Mary Healy, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Catholic Presenter

Several SPS Members Participate in 2018 International and Local Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue



<https://dioscg.org/international-pentecostal-catholic-dialogue-gathers-in-springfield/#more-31655>

2019

"The Formation of CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service):
 Prospects and Possibilities"
 Dale M. Coulter, Regent University, chair
 Deacon Darrell Wentworth, Liaison for the Catholic Fraternity's North American Leaders

2021

"Mary's Role in Redemption Through the Lens of Luke's Gospel"
 Christopher Stephenson, Lee University, chair
 Daniel Tobin, The Catholic University of America, chair
 George T. Montague, St. Mary's University, chair
 Daniel Tomberlin, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, respondent

SPS Liaison to the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and Program Unit Chair for SBL Annual Meeting (US)

Blaine Charette, Professor of New Testament, Northwest University



The Society for Pentecostal Studies has been holding a meeting at the annual conference of the Society of Biblical Literature since 2007.

Each November we host three sessions: an Old Testament session, a New Testament session, and a special session featuring a conversation with a scholar outside of the Pentecostal tradition. The sessions, especially the dialogue session, often attract a wide-ranging audience. We also occasionally hold a reception or dinner for SPS members in attendance at SBL. Several years, this reception was co-sponsored by SPS and

the Wesleyan Theological Society.

As of 2020, the current members of the SPS at SBL committee are Blaine Charette (who serves as the liaison between the two societies), J. Christopher Thomas, Jacqueline Grey, and Reed Carlson.



Jacqui Grey and John Goldingay



SPS Members Participate at the American Academy of Religion Meetings (AAR)

Over the years, many SPS members have also participated in AAR sessions on Pentecostalism in the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Group, particularly in years when SBL was held concurrent to AAR. Though SPS does not have an official relationship with AAR, these sessions have certainly contributed to the scholarship of SPS members in meaningful ways. Below are a couple of reports from session chairs from recent meetings:

2015 SPS Annual Meeting Report about 2014 AAR meeting:

Chairs: Arlene Sanchez-Walsh and Michael McClymond

This year's November meeting was in San Diego, CA. We had a film showing of David Di Sabatino's award-winning film, *Frisbee: The Life and Death of a Hippie Preacher*. Both the film showing and the panel discussion (two separate sessions) were well attended. In our estimation, the panel that followed was the best session we had this year. The conversation involved film analysis (e.g., the question of what is meant by "truth" in a documentary movie), discussions of sexuality (Frisbee's same-sex involvement and his ambiguous relationship to the gay community), and reflections on the Jesus movement (how and why Frisbee's role has not been fully acknowledged). Terry Todd (Drew University) and Jeannette Reedy-Solano (California State University) both did a fine job of responding to the film, and engaging David Di Sabatino, who was present for the discussion.



Another panel was devoted to discussion of William Seymour and Race, with David Daniels III (McCormick Theological Seminary) providing the response. The timing of the session was challenging for us because President Jimmy Carter's plenary speech took place at the very same time. Justin Doran's work on Lucy Farrow was a highlight, and all the more because he is still at present a PhD student.

Our panel on Pacific Rim Pentecostalism—under the title "Ring of Fire"—seemed a promising topic (with Sung-Deuk Oak of UCLA presiding), but the discussion ended up being rather confessional, and focused on evangelistic strategies rather than on the deeper cultural issues that we had hoped to explore. The paper on Papua New Guinea invoked—but did not clearly define—the term "syncretism," which was used in a pejorative way to describe what some might view as appropriate Papuan indigenization. The last paper was the best of the group, and was delivered by Michael McClymond, because the Australian presenter had to pull out at the last minute.

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Group, meeting in Atlanta in 2015, welcomes paper proposals and full panel proposals on the following themes: (1) the "New South" as a center of global migrations, immigration, and transnationalism, migrations to and from the New South, and/or the effects or impacts of transnationalism; (2) immigration(s) of peoples from the Global South affecting Pentecostalism in North America, and/or the effects or impacts of transnationalism; (3) Pentecostalism and gender, especially in relation to the "gender paradox" in particular cultural or national contexts, i.e., a seeming contradiction between "official" gender teachings and actual experiences and practices; (4) "Performing Scripture" (for possible co-sponsorship with an SBL Program Unit) to explore Pentecostal-Charismatic ideas,

experiences, and practices regarding performative utterances; the power of the spoken, preached, or sung word; and/or musical, homiletic, or dramatic adaptations or enactments of scripture. (5) "Gospel Music of the American South" (for a possible co-sponsorship with the Music and Religion Group) to explore distinctive forms of gospel music that have developed in the American South and how they have shaped or been shaped by traditions of spirituality, biblical interpretation, theological thought, or socio-political perspectives within the black church. Proposals featuring performed music especially welcome." The committee also welcomes proposals related to divine healing, prophecy, and the prosperity gospel.

2014 SPS Annual Meeting Report about 2013 AAR meeting:

Chair: Katy Attanasi

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement Group was part of **three sessions** at the November meeting of the AAR. The group co-sponsored with the Ethics Sections, African Religions group, Religion and Migration Group, and Religious Conversions Group a panel on the theme *The Politics and Ethics of Conversion: Pentecostalism and Migration in African Contexts* with Alison R. Marshall, Brandon University, presiding. Panelists included Laura Tilghman (University of Georgia) with a paper entitled "The Rapture and the Rupture: Pentecostal Conversion and Weakened Rural Linkages of Migrants in Northeastern Madagascar," Devaka Premawardhana (Colorado College and Harvard University) with "Between River and Road: Circular Migrations and Reversible Conversions in Northern Mozambique," Hans Olsson (Lund University), with "With Jesus in Paradise? Pentecostals and Migrants in Contemporary Zanzibar" and Marybeth Acac (Tempe University) with a paper entitled "From Catholic to Born Again Christian: Overseas Filipina Workers in Cairo." Michael J. McClymond, Saint Louis University, responded.

The **second session** was co-sponsored with the Black Theology Group on the theme *Race and*



Global Renewal: Mulattic Tongues and Hybridic Imaginations to the Ends of the Earth, with Erica Ramirez, Drew University, presiding. Participants included Néstor Medina (Regent University) with a paper entitled "Transgressing Theological Shibboleths: Culture as Locus of Divine Activity," Cheryl J. Sanders (Howard

University) with "Wanted Dead or Alive: A Black Theology of Renewal," Angela Tarango (Trinity University) with "The Land is Always Stalking Us': Pentecostalism, Race, and Native Understandings of Sacred Land," Paul Lim (Vanderbilt University) with "An Asian-American Reformed/Renewal Critical Engagement with Duke University Theologians of Race," Nimi

Wariboko (Andover Newton Theological School) with “Pentecostal Theology as a Discursive Site for Weight of Blackness in Nigeria.” Willie Jennings (Duke Divinity School) responded to the work.

The **third session** was on the theme *Apocalypse and Authority in Weberian Perspective*, with Arlene Sanchez Walsh, Azusa Pacific University, presiding. Panelists included Jeremy Sabella (Boston College) with a paper entitled “Apocalypses Now: The Convergence and Clash of Millennial Visions in Cold War Guatemala,” Leah Payne (George Fox University) with a paper called “By What Authority Are You Doing These Things? The Theory(ies) of authority in American Pentecostal Historiography” and Trad Nogueira-Godsey (University of Johannesburg), whose paper was entitled “Weberian Sociology and the Study of Pentecostalism: Historical Patterns and Prospects for the Future.”

This was my last year as co-chair. Michael McClymond will be joined by Arlene Sanchez Walsh as co-chair for 2014.

2013 SPS Annual Meeting Report about 2012 AAR meeting:

Chair: Katy Attanasi

The AAR Pentecostal Charismatic Group sponsored one session at the November meeting in Chicago. The panel was called *Glocal Pentecostals: Local Cultures in a Globalized Movement*, and the papers all used historical and ethnographic methods to describe the encounter between Pentecostalism and local cultures. Particular attention was given to how the globalized Pentecostal movement both adapts to and modifies existing religious beliefs and practices. The presentations included the following: “The Italian Evangelicals of Chicago: Jerusalem of the Italian Pentecostal Movement” by Paul Palma, Regent University; “Why is the Fire Falling in Cuba? Explaining Pentecostal Growth,” by Rose Caraway, Northern Arizona University; “Sociopolitical Aspects of Charismatic Renewal in Togo, West Africa,” by Sheila H. Gillams, City University of New York; “Nigerian and Ghanaian Pentecostals in Italy: Spiritual Power and Aesthetic Practices,” by Annalisa Butticci, Harvard University; and “The Curse of the Dragon: Theological Shifts in the Cosmology of a Modernizing Sikkimese Hill Tribe and the Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Christianity,” by Lydia Marie Reynolds, Biola University.

SPS at SBL International

Adam White, Alphacrucis College



For a time when SPS an “affiliate society” with SBL, we were given space at the international meeting. During that time, we held three meetings in Buenos Aires (2015), Seoul (2016), and Berlin

(2017). In Buenos Aires, we did a panel review of Jacqui Grey's *Three's a Crowd*, which was attended by about twelve people (a good size relative to the usual number at an SBLI meeting). In the following two years, we did an open call for papers, with about twenty in attendance in Seoul and ten in Berlin. The meetings were all a success and naturally attracted a number of Pentecostal scholars to take part. They also fostered further connections with these attendees and SPS. Now that SBL has given SPS "additional meeting status," we no longer have a place. A few years ago, SBL determined that our mission statement is "too confessional" for us to continue to be accorded "affiliate society" status. The picture on the previous page is of Jon Newton presenting in Buenos Aires.

SPS Liaison: Interfaith Relations Commission - National Council of Churches: USA (NCCCUSA)

Tony Richie



In 2004 the SPS Executive Committee ventured into uncharted territory when it appointed Amos Yong as liaison to the National Council of Churches of Christ Interfaith Relations Commission (IRC). The next year (2005), upon Yong's recommendation, Tony Richie was appointed as co-liaison, and subsequently assumed the role entirely. (Amos Yong served as liaison 2004-2007.) Since 2008 until the present (2020) Richie has continued as liaison although reconfigurations within NCC itself have greatly reduced opportunities. The SPS liaison reports to SPS membership at the SPS Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Committee renews the position annually. As an academic society, SPS offers no financial support. Liaisons travel on behalf of SPS at their own expense. Occasionally, when IRC invites the SPS liaison to participate in some additional task, the NCC helps with attendant expenses.

The SPS liaison attends the biannual meetings of the IRC as a non-member (i.e., non-voting special guest) yet with a voice in discussions. Non-member status has been an SPS preference, not IRC's. As the relationship has evolved, there has been movement toward more formal participation. Meetings include ecumenical interaction with representatives of various Christian bodies and dialogues or activities with representatives from other religions (Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, etc.). Uppermost among concerns for NCC IRC has been addressing antisemitism, Islamophobia, and responses to religion-related terrorism across the board. SPS liaisons have worked steadily toward developing an inclusive theology of religions in continuity with the Pentecostal tradition.



SPS Liaison: Faith and Order Commission - National Council of Churches: USA (NCCCUSA)

SPS expresses thanks to Terry Cross for serving in this role 2003-2012, and Peter Althouse 2013 to the present. The reports below are from Peter Althouse as recorded in SPS annual meeting minutes.

2017 Report: Baltimore, Maryland, December 1-3, 2016

The National Council of Churches' Convening Table on Theological Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order: At this meeting study groups finalized their work on mass incarceration, which will be published by Paulist Press. The study groups also transitioned into new study groups addressing the priority of peacemaking and interfaith relations. New study group foci include:

1. Theology of Climate Justice
2. Reception of and responses to the World Council of Churches' documents "Christian Witness in a Multi-faith World" and "Who Do We Say We Are? Christian Identity in a Multi-faith World."
3. Violence in an Age of Mass Genocide

The next meeting will be hosted by Azusa Pacific University, Los Angeles, California, May 11-13, 2017, where we will continue addressing the priority of peacemaking and interfaith relations.

Finally, the National Council of Churches is concerned about and responded to policy decisions and divisive rhetoric emerging from President Trump and the White House, especially as they pertain to NCC concerns on poverty and social justice. Some of these missives are found at <http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/>. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with them.

2016 Report: Washington, May 7-9, 2015

NCC met for its Christian Unity gathering to continue to discuss issues of mass incarceration and interreligious dialogue with a focus on peace. This meeting offered opportunity for intense subgroup discussions and fruitful cross-fertilization with other groups. Faith and Order met a second time in Chicago from December 3-6, 2015 in order to work on its book project on mass incarceration, scheduled to be published by Paulist Press. Only Faith and Order met during this time. The next Christian Unity Gathering will be held on May 4-7, 2016 in Baltimore. The theme is "Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age." My contribution to Faith and Order is through the Justice Informing Theology subgroup. Papers are expected to be completed by the next meeting. Faith and Order is also involved in Ecumenical Advocacy Days, April 15-18, 2016 with several members giving presentations.

2015 Report: Washington, May 18-20, 2014

The NCC met for its Christian Unity gathering, the first meeting since the restructuring, and much of the time was taken to discuss how Faith and Order would function under the new structures and how to implement the new directives of mass incarceration and interreligious peace. A number of plenary sessions introduced the attendees to issues of mass incarceration and its relationship to race and the prison industrial complex, in which mass prisons are now corporately owned and the government must guarantee ninety percent capacity.

The Convening Table on Theological Dialogue on Matters of Faith and Order had a lengthy discussion on how to implement the new directives under the restructured order. We brainstormed on different approaches to moving forward and eventually decided to divide into three subgroups: Bible Engaging the Issues, Theology Leading to Justice and Justice Informing

Theology. The meeting ended with a plenary session in which all the convening tables dialogued with one another in an effort to provide a vehicle for table cross-fertilization. Overall the gathering was informative and a valuable vehicle for discussing issues of mass incarceration.

On November 14, 2014 we convened via conference call at which point we were updated on NCC developments. It was reported that the governing board met in St. Louis and then in Ferguson where a statement was issued on the grand jury's decision on the Michael Brown shooting and the desire for justice: <http://www.nationalcouncilofchurches.us/news/2014-11fergusonnoindictment.php>

We also discussed upcoming events including Ecumenical Advocacy Days to be held April 16-20, 2015 in Washington, D.C. The theme is "Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation," and the plan is to address issues of mass imprisonment, exploitation and forced labor. <http://advocacydays.org/2015-breaking-the-chains/>

The 2015 Christian Unity Gathering to be held in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for May 7-9, 2015. The plan is to have 10-12 hours for the convening tables and their subgroups to do the work of the council. There will be time for the tables to interface and plan writing projects. One of the issues that has come up in the new restructuring is the frustration of the convening tables with only one face-to-face meeting. The Executive Committee has endorsed the idea of moving back to a biannual schedule, but there are budgetary issues for the sending bodies that need to be addressed. The hope is that there may be possibilities for subsidies and scholarships for sending bodies that would be financially affected, but this is not yet in place.

2014 Report

The NCC has just gone through a *major restructuring*. On November 12, 2013 we met via telephone conference to discuss some of these changes. Officially the commission no longer exists. In its place, the council has established convening tables that will address specific areas of concern of the council, but they are designed to be more flexible. The timeline for addressing issues is more flexible as well. Instead of the typical four-year terms of past commissions, convening tables will work through different timelines as needed by each table. The council has also changed the way participants meet. Instead of biannual meetings in geographical locations in the United States, one meeting will be at a preselected geographical location and the other a virtual meeting using available technologies.

The new convening tables include:

- Theological Dialogue and Matter of Faith and Order
- Interreligious Relations and Collaboration on Topics of Mutual Concern
- Christian Education, Ecumenical Faith Formation, and Leadership Development
- Joint Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace

A fresh emphasis is placed on integration of these four areas so that theology, relationship-building, education and advocacy can be brought together more effectively for the church's common witness. The council has identified *two priorities for the next 2-3 years* that will be addressed by each convening table: mass incarceration and interfaith relations focusing on

peace. Economic, gender and racial justice perspectives will be lenses aiding the work and relationships of the convening tables.

2013 Report: Seattle, WA, October 18-19, 2012 and San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 13-15, 2013

The Faith and Order Commission is currently undergoing a self-evaluation to deal with a restructuring process that is part of a larger task force on re-envisioning and restructuring the NCC in order to move forward and effectively to fulfill its mission *to seek visible unity in Christ and work for justice and peace*. The previous two Quadrennia, 2004-2007 that included SPS members produced the document "A Journey to Open Up Other Journeys: Justice and Salvation" that is expected to be published in *Ecumenical Trends*. The NCC also produced Talking Points on Religion in the 2012 Presidential Election because it was concerned with how religion was being used negatively by all parties in the election, stating that it was "improper for any candidate to use religious affiliation as a criterion for one's suitability for service."

Currently, there are three working groups: "Polity, Church Unity and Divisive Issues," "Contextual Theology from the Margins" and "Violence." The working group on violence has produced an Open Letter to the Churches in response to the growing violence in the world. The group is inviting the churches to participate and prayerfully reflect on the extent of violence as counter to the love of God and hope for peace and reconciliation. If you have any comments or thoughts regarding the document, please contact me at pfalthouse@seu.edu, and I will forward them to the appropriate chairperson.

2012 Report

The Chair announced that Terry Cross is not present to be able to report and expressed thanks to him for serving for the past nine years.

Our Social Media

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/sps.us/>

facebook

SPS Page	https://www.facebook.com/spsusa/
History IG	https://www.facebook.com/groups/319508611454615/
Library & Archives	https://www.facebook.com/groups/599538663408983/
Philosophy IG	https://www.facebook.com/spsusaphilosophy/
Practical Theology IG	https://www.facebook.com/groups/426818610668850/
Student Caucus	https://www.facebook.com/groups/sps.student.caucus/
Theology IG	https://www.facebook.com/groups/976144475731761/
Women's Caucus	https://www.facebook.com/groups/SPSWomensCaucus/

Affiliated Groups:

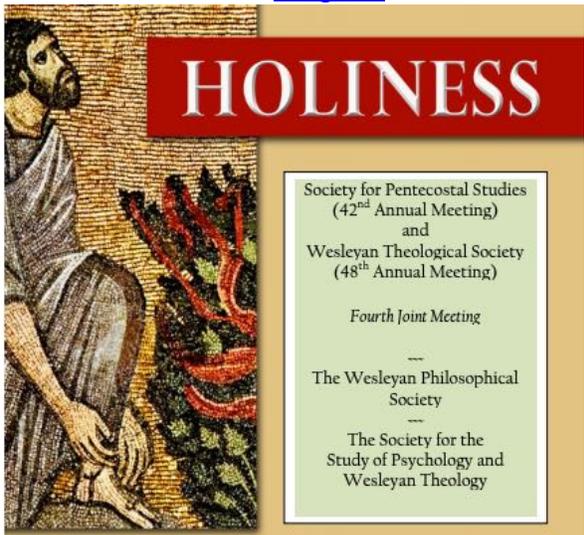
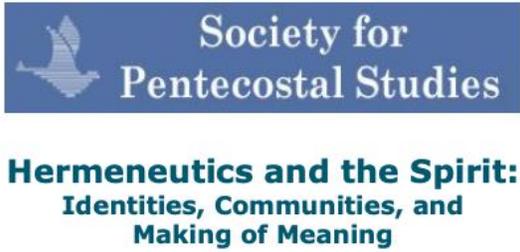
#MeToo Working Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/197720864123896/
#Pentecostalsisterstoo	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1728374687201421/
Pentecostal Justice Coalition	https://www.facebook.com/Pentecostal-Justice-Coalition-110701554001679
Alliance for Black Pentecostal Scholarship	https://www.facebook.com/allianceforblackpentecostalscholarship



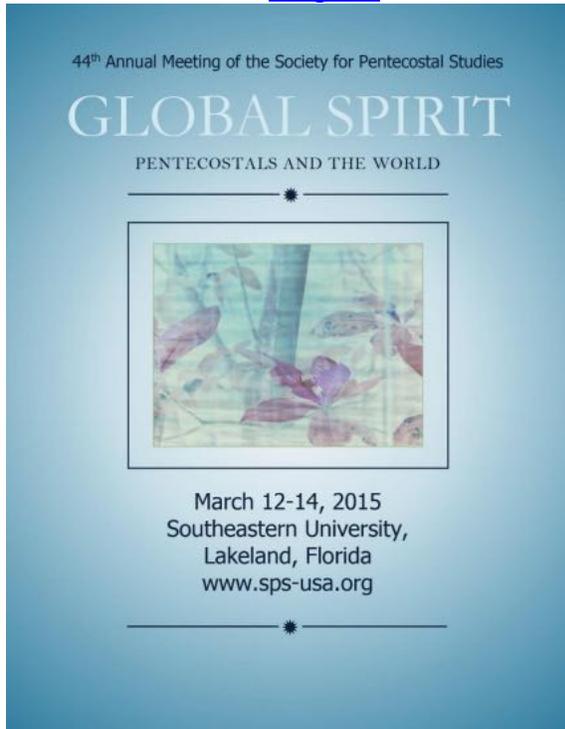
SPS Web page <http://sps-usa.org/home>

Program Summaries (2013-2021)

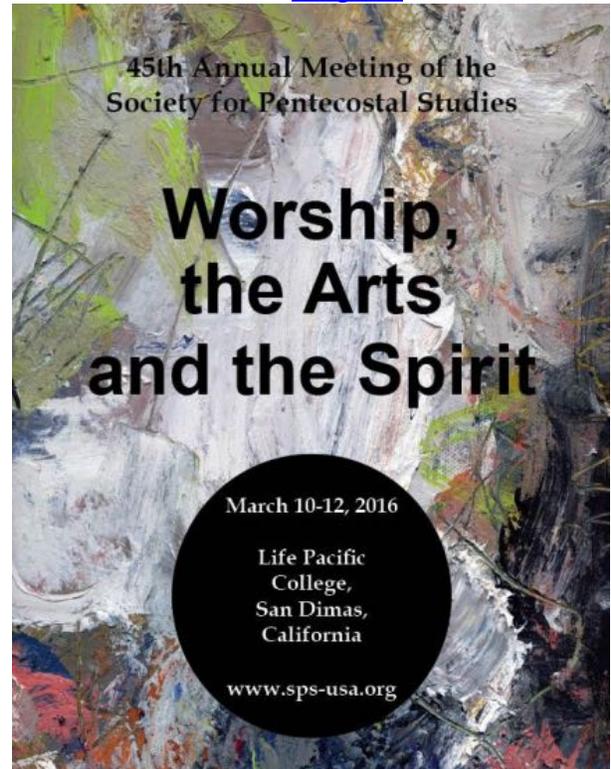
A list of all past SPS programs from 1970 to the present, with links to photo galleries and papers are posted here: <http://sps-usa.org/meetings/past-meetings>

<p style="text-align: center;">2013 Program</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Society for Pentecostal Studies (42nd Annual Meeting) and Wesleyan Theological Society (48th Annual Meeting) <i>Fourth Joint Meeting</i> --- The Wesleyan Philosophical Society --- The Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seattle Pacific University Seattle, Washington March 21-23, 2013</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2014 Program</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Hermeneutics and the Spirit: Identities, Communities, and Making of Meaning</p> 
	<p style="text-align: center;">SPS 43RD ANNUAL MEETING Evangel University Springfield, Missouri March 6-8, 2014</p> 

2015 [Program](#)



2016 [Program](#)



2017 [Program](#)



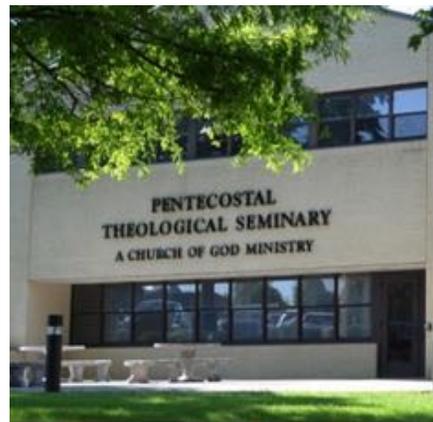
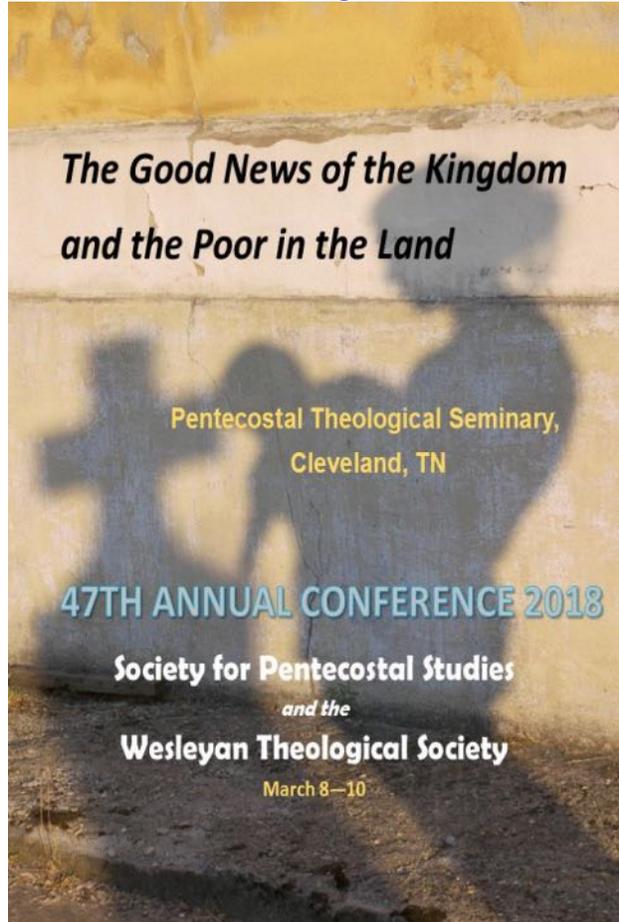
SOCIETY FOR PENTECOSTAL STUDIES



46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017
Society for Pentecostal Studies
March 9—11
“Pentecostalism and Culture”



2018 [Program](#)



2019 [Program](#)



SOCIETY FOR PENTECOSTAL STUDIES



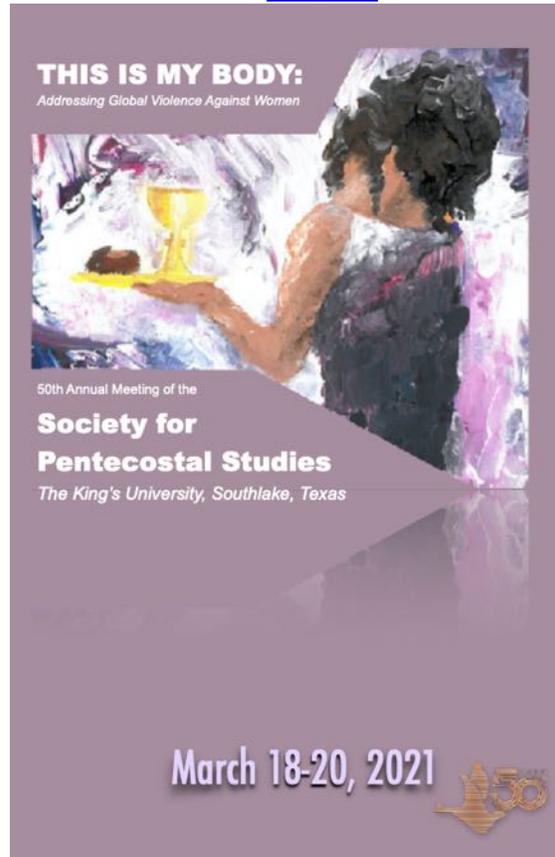
48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019
Society for Pentecostal Studies
 February 28—March 2
“Reception History: Receiving Scripture in the Pentecostal and Charismatic Traditions”



Hosted by William Seymour College
 Held at College Park Marriot Hotel
 & Conference Center

2020 Program was to be at Vanguard University but was cancelled due to Covid-19. The theme for 2020 carried over to 2021.

2021 [Program](#)



Download searchable index of SPS papers here:

<http://sps-usa.org/meetings/papers-and-awards>

Direct link:

<https://app.box.com/s/zj4caeqvh9he6lpkdmamlboeqbqxyco>

Pneuma: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies

Current Editorial Team



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Pneuma Book Review Editor

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Previous *Pneuma* editors (1979-present)

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Murray Dempster

Frank Macchia

Dale Coulter

Amos Yong

Peter Althouse

Robby Waddell

Book Review Editors:

Néstor Medina

Yolanda Pierce

Listing of Issues and Articles (1979-present)

<https://brill.com/view/journals/pneu/pneu-overview.xml>

"*Pneuma* is the Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS). Since its founding in 1970, the SPS has become an international society of scholars interested in Pentecostal and Charismatic studies. Though many of the more than 600 members of the Society belong to one of the Pentecostal or Charismatic churches, a number of others are involved in the Society's annual meetings from other churches or merely from university settings. In 1979, *Pneuma* first appeared as the Journal of the SPS. The Journal became a major medium for the international discussion of scholarly issues related to Pentecostal and Charismatic studies. *Pneuma* publishes peer-reviewed articles on matters related to the special interest groups of the SPS, namely, biblical studies, history, theology, missions, praxis, ecumenism, ethics, philosophy, and religion and culture. The Journal cherishes an ecumenical and an international vision as well."

Article Index (through 2015):

http://storage.cloversites.com/societyforpentecostalstudies/documents/article_index.pdf

Book Review Index (through 2015):

http://storage.cloversites.com/societyforpentecostalstudies/documents/book_review_index.pdf

Greetings from Past and Current Presidents, *Pneuma* Editors, and Executive Directors

Alexander, Estrelida

For the last twenty-five years, the Society for Pentecostal Studies has been an integral part of my academic development. It was my honor to serve as 2nd Vice President for the 2008 meeting at Duke University; 1st Vice President and Program Chair for the 2009 meeting in Eugene, Oregon; President for the 2010 meeting in Minneapolis, where my presidential address was, “When Liberation Becomes Survival;” and Immediate Past President at the 2011 meeting. Throughout my time with the Society, I have also given numerous papers presentations and served on various panels and committees.



SPS does an important work in both refining and promoting the scholarship of new, up-and-coming scholars as well as continuing to allow a platform for some of the most celebrated scholars representing a wide variety of traditions, disciplines, and viewpoints to be heard.

Whether through *Pneuma* or the Annual Meeting, SPS has always been a safe space to explore ideas and hold critical conversations about both the historical and contemporary issues that inform the life of the Church and Academy and challenge all of us toward excellence in our work.



My prayer is that God continues to bless the ongoing work of this organization and that this year, as with every previous one, the Annual Meetings provide time set aside to reconnect with valued colleagues and continue to make new friendships that will last a lifetime.

Alexander, Kimberly Ervin

Executive Committee: 2009-2012

2008-2009 – 2nd Vice President2009-2010 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2010-2011 – President (Presidential address: “Standing at the Crossroads: The Battle for the Heart and Soul of Pentecostalism”)

2011-2012 – Immediate Past President

SPS History Interest Group Leader: 2006-2009

Committees: Nominations, Member, Bylaws, Minutes



Happy 50th Anniversary to the Society for Pentecostal Studies—something to really celebrate! Fifty years ago, fearless leaders, pioneers, and scholars had a vision for something that continues to this day. It’s my home. It’s a place I have found a spiritual, academic, and scholarly home. It’s a place where scholarship can stand up to the best of it everywhere, where we nurture each other—where young scholars are nurtured, where I was nurtured. It’s a place where we find our voice in ways that we might not find it even in other places we frequent. So, thank you, for fifty years! Let’s celebrate!

For nearly half of its fifty-year history, the Society for Pentecostal Studies has been an important and vital part of my journey, both professionally and spiritually. I first attended an SPS meeting in Cleveland, TN in 1983, in my first year of formal theological studies at what is now Pentecostal Theological Seminary. But it was in 1998 when I was in the early stages of my doctoral research that I began attending on an annual basis. That meeting was a significant launching pad for my work because it was a joint meeting with the Wesleyan Theological Society (WTS); it was there I had my first personal introductions to the Wesleyan and Pentecostal scholars whose work I would build upon and who would become important dialogue partners for me. It was also there that I had my first of many delightful conversations with Bill Faupel, who encouraged and inspired me. The next year, in Springfield, thanks to History Interest Group Leader (IGL) David Bundy, I gave my first response. It was daunting to look out over that room of scholars—but so much fun!

Serving first as an IGL for History, and then on the Executive Committee was an honor, though one not without its challenges. I am forever grateful to those with whom I served for their support and encouragement when I faced the tests unique to an SPS program chair: meeting the twin goals of furthering Pentecostal studies and scholarship and serving the Pentecostal movement and its churches.

I began by saying SPS has been a vital part of both my professional and spiritual journey, and I stand by that! For those of us called to a vocation of Pentecostal scholarship, we need the encouragement and affirmation, but also the provocation that SPS offers. So, SPS—its annual meetings, publications, and especially the ongoing relationships and conversations it provides—is home. It’s a place where young scholars are nurtured, as I was nurtured. Because of its

intentionality about diversity, it has been a place where those often marginalized find our voice in ways we might not find it even in other places we frequent.

In my 2011 presidential address, I challenged the Society that we were at a crossroads. Ten years later, we're still there, as movements of the Spirit always are. I pray that in the next years, young voices, young scholars, with new visions will continue to rise to the challenges—and they are many—and speak to us. I pray we will have ears to hear.

Althouse, Peter



2019 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President
 2019 – Chair, Membership Committee
 2017 – Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements Steering Committee, AAR
 2015 –2019 – Co-editor of *Pneuma* with Robby Waddell. Concurrent service on SPS Editorial Committee.
 2012 – 2018 – SPS Liaison to the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches: USA (NCCCUSA)
 2012 – 2017 – Library Committee
 2009-2014 –Interest Group Leader for Theology Interest Group.

2009-2013 – Co-organizer with Michael Wilkinson of Canadian Pentecostal Symposia

1992 – Became a member of SPS

Celebrating a golden anniversary is a notable milestone for the society and its journal. I have watched the society develop since my first conference in the mid-1990s, and I have been privileged to become friends, colleagues, partners, and co-conspirators in scholarly pursuits with many of you. I am grateful for the benefit of sage advice and thoughtful insights from long-time members in my early days as a student and young scholar, and I am



encouraged by new up-and-coming scholars as they cut their own paths. The many fruitful conversations, inspired by new perspectives, encouraged by emotional support—these are the intangibles that make SPS a dynamic community. I am thankful for the opportunity and trust the society placed in me along with my co-editor Robby Waddell to shepherd *Pneuma* during our tenure as editors. Robby has a knack for searching out good ideas and organizing writers to creatively engage them. He is a good friend, colleague, and dialogue partner, with whom I had a special working relationship, both as co-editors and with other projects. The repertoire and quality of journal articles is encouraging and speaks well for the vitality of the journal and Pentecostal scholarship generally. I look forward to the coming years, the new conversations, and forging paths for the academy.

Archer, Ken

(Transcript of video greeting):

I'm Ken Archer, past president of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. My program theme was on hermeneutics. And I just want to congratulate the Society and celebrate its achievements. I look forward to its future contribution of shaping confessional scholars to minister in the twenty-first century.

**Argue, Don**

During my first year as campus pastor at Evangel University, Bill Menzies invited me, along with several other Evangel people, to attend the inaugural meeting of what became the Society for Pentecostal Studies. The meeting was to be held in conjunction with the Pentecostal World Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. Since my graduate studies were not in theology or biblical studies, I was honored to be invited. Denominational leaders attending the Pentecostal World Fellowship meeting were, in some cases, suspect of a new Pentecostal academic society. One highly respected leader was vocal with his concerns and suspicions.

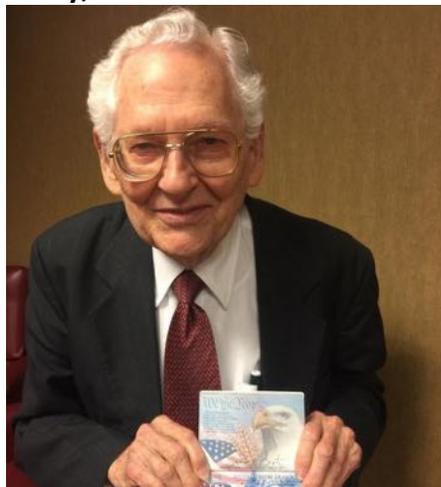
The Chairman of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, Percy Brewster, Pastor of City Temple, Cardiff, Wales and General Superintendent of Elim Fellowship, was invited to speak at the SPS luncheon. He gave his blessing and encouragement: "Our work is evangelism. We need scholars who will provide the academic foundation for Pentecostal Theology." At that time Brewster was one of the most highly respected Pentecostal leaders in the world. His endorsement and encouragement were vital to the establishment of SPS.

In 1975, serving as Vice President of SPS, my assignment was to work with the Program Committee to develop the schedule for the next annual meeting. Noted scholar and church historian, Timothy L. Smith, was invited to present the banquet address. His Harvard PhD dissertation was the catalyst for publication of his book, *Revivalism and Social Reform*. He was serving as a Nazarene pastor and tenured professor at John Hopkins University. The banquet address was titled, "Speaking the Truth in Love" (Ephesians 4:14-15). "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, SPEAKING

THE TRUTH IN LOVE, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ.” For the next approximately forty minutes, in a scholarly presentation, he endeavored to systematically challenge classical Pentecostal Theology. You can imagine, the discussion and questions following were intense and lively.

The Society survived and thrived! Congratulations to all in attendance at this historic 50th Anniversary of SPS.

Beaty, James



Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Society for Pentecostal Studies,

It is with real joy that I greet you and wish the very best of God’s blessings for both the Society that we all esteem highly and for each of you in that part of the vineyard where God has placed you.

My name is James M. Beaty. I served on the Executive Committee of the Society for eight of the first ten years of existence. I was born January 30, 1925, finished college (A.B.) in 1945, and began my seminary studies at Vanderbilt that fall. I took off the second year (1946-1947), because I was asked by the Church of God World Missions to serve in Haiti, but I returned in 1947 and finished the B.D. (M.Div.) in 1949.

I was married in 1948 to Virginia Green and in 1949, after we had both graduated, she from George Peabody College (B.A.) and I from Vanderbilt School of Religion (B.D., later M.Div.), we went to the Dominican Republic, where I was the Overseer, without the title. There, I bought the property that later became the campus of the Bible School and built a home on it.

In 1952 we were assigned to Haiti to start a Bible School. There, I purchased seventeen acres and, with the help of a fellow missionary, built the campus for a seminary that still thrives with 300 students.^[1]

In 1959 I returned to the States and enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Vanderbilt in (Biblical Studies, New Testament). In 1962 I was appointed Superintendent of South America, and worked out of Nashville for one year as I finished the degree. My wife, Virginia, taught in a high school, the four years we were in Nashville.

We moved to Chile in 1963, after I received the Ph.D. that spring. About that time, James Franklin Hopewell (1929-1984), who was the Director of the Fund for Theological Education of the World Council of Churches and had a passion for the development of theological education in the developing countries was in contact with the leaders of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Chile.^[2] Since Protestantism in Chile is 90 percent Pentecostal, and I was the only Pentecostal with a Ph.D. degree, I was elected as vice-president of the board of directors of the “Theological Community” (Comunidad Teológica) and served as president, after the president

was in a bad accident that put him in the hospital for six months. At one point I taught a course in New Testament Greek and served as vice-president until my return to the States in 1967.^[3]

Christian Lalive d'Épinay (1938), a Swiss sociologist, arrived in Chile in 1965.^[4] Lalive spoke German and French, but not English or Spanish. And since I was the only missionary in Chile who spoke French, I became his personal assistant to get settled in Chile.^[5]

I met Vincent Synan in Chile, in 1967, when he and Raymond O. Corvin, a professor of Oral Roberts University, had come to Chile to investigate the possibility of starting a Pentecostal University in Chile and to explore the possibility of union between the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and the Methodist Pentecostal Church in Chile, with its megachurch in Santiago^[6] (the Jotabeche congregation).^[7]

In 1967 I returned to the States in order to help Lee Junior College expand into a four-year liberal arts institution. It is now Lee University. In 1968, I was appointed as a charter member of the Church of God General Board of Education and, at the first meeting (January 1969), I was elected as the Secretary. I attended the annual meeting of the AATS that year, became the prime voice for a COG theological seminary, started a newsletter ("Seminari-News") for COG seminarians in other seminaries, and started a meeting of Seminarians at our General Assembly. The General Assembly of 1970 approved the Board's motion to start a seminary, when deemed feasible by the General Executive Committee. That turned out to be 1974 (with the first class in 1975).

I did not get to go to the World Pentecostal Fellowship meeting in 1970, where the Society for Pentecostal Studies had its origin, but I attended the second [sic, third] meeting (1972) in Oklahoma City and was elected as the secretary. I served on the Executive Committee for eight of the first ten years of the Society, four years as secretary [1973-1977] and four years on the Presidential track [1977-1980]. I became president in 1978 and gave the Presidential address in Vancouver, British Colombia (1979). This was the first meeting of the Society outside the USA and the year that *Pneuma* appeared.

The third meeting was held at Lee College in Cleveland; Synan put the program together and had invited Martin Marty, of Chicago, to speak at the banquet. Since Cleveland was my home-base, I was the local arranger. The morning before the banquet that night, Marty called me from Chicago saying that his secretary had bought his ticket and that, when he got to the airport, he found out that he should be at the other airport and that there was not enough time to get there. He suggested that I contact AT&T and set up the needed equipment for him to do the lecture by phone. I did, and he did, and we got through it.

One final thing: at the third meeting in 1977 in Springfield, Harvey Cox had been invited. After he had been there a while and we all had met him, I asked him, "Harvey, have any of these Pentecostals hugged you?" He said, "No!" So I grabbed him and gave him a warm Pentecostal hug. Blessings, James M. Beaty

Endnotes

^[1] Walter N. Hollenweger, who was gathering data on Pentecostalism and writing his multi-volume doctoral dissertation in German, included data from Haiti and listed my name in the German edition. The one-volume work in English did not include this detail.

[2] Hopewell was born in 1929, finished the bachelor's degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1951 and attended the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1951-1954. In 1958 he completed a doctorate in the History of Religions from the Department of Religion of Columbia University. Hopewell is noted for his contributions to the development of theological education in developing countries. In 1954 he was ordained in Liberia to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church. He served as Professor of Bible and Comparative Religion at the Cuttington College and Divinity School in Suacoco, Liberia from 1954 to 1960, and as the Dean of the Divinity School and Vice President of Cuttington College from 1958 to 1960. As the Associate Director (1960-1964) and later, as the Director (1964-1970) of the Theological Education Fund Committee of the World Council of Churches, Hopewell traveled extensively, visiting theological faculties in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

[3] Years later, after Hopewell contracted cancer and while I was Academic Dean of our seminary in Cleveland, at a meeting of the American Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada, I sat with Jim (as he had been known to us in Chile), and we talked about those days.

[4] Lalive had been "hired in 1964 by the World Council of Churches to formulate and direct a research program on the evangelical movements in Latin-America. Prior to this, Lalive had done studies in sociology and reformed theology in the universities of Heidelberg, Paris, and Geneva as well as a Masters degree in both sociology and theology at Geneva, after which he had worked as an assistant in sociology in Geneva for two years." (From the Internet: Université de Genève, Centre Interfacultaire de Gérontologie et d'Études des Vulnérabilités, Équipe, Christian Lalive d'Épinay).

[5] From the acknowledgements (xiii) of *Haven of the Masses*, "I also wish to ... express my gratitude to Pastors S. Araya, J. Beaty, Enrique Chavez and Victor Pavez, who initiated me into Chilean Protestantism."

[6] After many years and much negotiation, this was signed on February 4, 2018.

[7] Jotabeche (literally, J. B. Ch., apparently, somebody's initials) is the name of the street, and the street was named Jotabeche in honor of the mass of molten lava, which bears that name, under the South American plate in the region of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. That should keep a church on fire!

Butler, Anthea

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

2003 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

2004 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2005 – President (Presidential Address: "Traditions Pentecostals Should Pass On: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Pentecostalism")

2006 – Immediate Past President



2015 SPS



Picture from <https://antheabutler.com/>

Cartledge, Mark

(Transcript of video greeting):



Hello, my name is Mark Cartledge, and I work at the London School of Theology. So, greetings from LST, as we call it, to the Society for Pentecostal Studies. I became a member of the Society in around '95, I think it was, '95-'96, and my very first conference was in 1998 in Cleveland, TN. I was elected to be the Second Vice President in 2016, and I organized the conference in Tennessee in 2018. The conference theme was "Good News of the Kingdom and the Poor in the Land." I was very delighted to be involved in that conference, and I felt like in some ways I was calling Pentecostals back to the gospel of the anointed Messiah preaching good news to the poor, and thinking about the Church as the anointed Church, also preaching good news to the poor. In 2019, I had the privilege of becoming the President and giving the presidential address, and that was very exciting for me. I chose as my topic, "Being Human and Sex Trafficking: A Theological Response in the Light of Pentecost." And I was really excited by that conference in Maryland. It was a theme that was close to my heart, having been prompted by daughter to look at it. And I still think that's really exciting, and it was great to see the presidential address also published in *Pneuma*.

I've been shaped by the conference year on year, and the Society over many years, and many of you are my friends, and you know you are my friends. And I've been influenced by you in my thinking and in my writing. So in a sense SPS for me is a kind of scholarly community, a family, and I belong to that family and have been influenced by it significantly. So, thank you for all that you have done in my life in terms of scholarship but also



my personal discipleship as well as I seek to follow Jesus Christ.



Going forward, what would I like to see from the Society? I would love for the Society to become even more international than it is already. The Society attracts people from all over the world, and I would love to see more people be able to

travel to its conferences and be part of its community. So, I look forward to being with you, not in 2021, sadly, because of COVID. But also, I'll be online. I'll be giving a paper virtually. But I look forward to seeing you hopefully in 2022, and I wish you every blessing in the years to come, that you may flourish as a Society, that I may continue to be part of it as well even though I'm back in London now where it all started for me, at the London School of Theology. So, every blessing for this conference and for the years to come.



**Charette, Blaine**

Hello, and Welcome to 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. My name is Blaine Charette, and I served as the President of SPS in 2006. I believe that I first became aware of SPS while I was a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in the early 1980s. Throughout the remainder of the 1980s I was teaching in Canada and later working on my Ph.D. in England and, consequently, did not have the means or opportunity to attend SPS meetings. While studying at the University of Sheffield, I became good friends with Chris Thomas and through conversations with him came to appreciate the value of the Society. When I completed my Ph.D. I was offered a teaching position at Emmanuel College in

Franklin Springs, GA (thanks to the recommendation of Chris) and was able to attend my first meeting of the Society in November 1991 at Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL. Since then I have attended every SPS meeting with the exception of the 1993 meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico and, of course, the 2020 meeting.

Throughout the years I have tried to be an involved member of the Society. I served as the Chair of the Biblical Studies Interest Group from 1997 until 2003. During that time, we in the Biblical Studies Interest Group introduced a slate of Thursday sessions which was quickly adopted by other Interest Groups and thus expanded the SPS conference to three full days. During that period, I also served as the on-site coordinator for the 2000 meeting which was hosted by Northwest University (Kirkland, WA). At the 2003 meeting (Asbury Theological Seminary) I was elected to the Executive Committee of the Society and served on the Executive from 2004 until 2007. I delivered the Presidential Address (“Reflective Speech: Glossolalia and the Image of God”) at the 2006 meeting hosted by Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA). Since 2006 I have served as the official liaison between the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the Society of Biblical Literature and in that role organize an SPS meeting (focusing on biblical and hermeneutical topics) within the annual meeting of SBL.

I have found the Society for Pentecostal Studies to be of great benefit to both my spiritual and professional development. Many of us who teach in colleges, universities, and seminaries within the classical Pentecostal tradition recognize that involvement in SPS provides the friendships and encouragement that go a very long way to mitigating the frustrations, and often loneliness, that can be all too common in such contexts. It has been especially enriching for me to expand my sphere of Pentecostal colleagues over the years, including those who have been in the Society from the beginning (such as Vinson Synan), and to forge long-term friendships with Pentecostal peers close to my own age. It is also a great blessing to be able to welcome and encourage younger and emerging scholars within the Pentecostal tradition. The annual meeting of SPS is without question one of the highlights of my year. It would be impossible for me to imagine my personal journey as a Christ follower or my professional career as a New Testament teacher and scholar without the influence of SPS. I hope and pray that the Society remains faithful to its mission and continues to be the supportive environment it has been to so many for so long.

Coulter, Dale

2010 - 2015 Co-editor of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

2016 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

2017 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2018 – President (Presidential Address: “Recovering a Wesleyan Vision of Pentecostalism: Five Theses”)

2019 – Immediate Past President



Cross, Terry



Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

2006 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

2007 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2008 – President (Presidential Address: “The Divine-Human Encounter: Towards a Pentecostal Theology of Experience”)

2009 – Immediate Past President

Daniels III, David D.

In 1978, I attended my first annual meeting of SPS in Valley Forge, PA during my last year in seminary at Yale. The annual meetings included only a few dozen of attendees back then, if my memory is correct. At that meeting, I met people who have become lifetime colleagues and friends. Over the years, I have stayed in conversation with many of these friends as well as engaged in conversations with new many colleagues. At times, these interactions have produced collaborative book projects.

SPS has been pivotal in my academic journey as a seminarian, doctoral student, and seminary professor. It has been a place where I presented, tested, and revised my research as well as learned fresh perspectives.

As a major site of theological production within the academy and the church, I hope that the Society for Pentecostal Studies will continue to generate knowledge that will add critically and substantively to scholarship, exposing toxic expressions of Pentecostalism, challenging misinformed and distorted interpretations of Pentecostalism, uncovering transformative currents within Pentecostalism, and envisioning forms of Pentecostalism that will advance the movement in vital ways.

I hope the Society will continue to be a community of scholars where thinking prayer and prayerful thinking influence each other as well as shape the generation of knowledge. I hope the Society will treasure the office of “doctor of the church” as a vocation in which the church and guild are key interlocutors. As a Society that studies a complex, growing, and influential global movement, I hope that SPS will continue to be open to movement leaders who are scholars and scholars who are thought leaders in the movement along with scholars who study the movement from a very far distance.

May the future of the Society shine bright!

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

2005 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

2006 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2007 – President

2008 – Immediate Past President



de Alminana, Margaret English*Years and Roles of Service*

In 2014, I began working with Lois Olena as the Southeastern University's Site Coordinator for the 2015 Annual Meeting. Following the conference, Lee Roy Martin, then SPS President, asked me to consider serving as Executive Director. In 2016, at the Annual Meeting of the Society in San Dimas, CA, Lois Olena of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary/Evangel University passed the torch of service to me. I served until 2019 when Adrian Hinkle from Southwestern Christian University stepped into the role.

A Special Memory; How SPS Shaped My Life

I will always remember all the kind and brilliant friends at SPS who reached out to affirm and encourage me and so many others. Most memorable are the times of special spiritual encounter, whether during a session or a group gathering. There have been many such times. One of the most notable for me was at Southeastern University when I presented for the Ethics Interest Group on "Moving Toward an Ecclesiology of Biblical Gender Justice." During the presentation, it felt as if the Holy Spirit swept the room, and as I was touched by that special presence I cried. I looked around to see others being touched as well. A few women later noted how discouraged they had been feeling about issues of gender justice in the church, and how hearing the presentation gave them a sense of encouragement and renewed hope. For all the hard work and the many battles that we as leaders faced, such moments made it all seem worthwhile.

I started attending the Society in 2011. I have thoroughly enjoyed the presentations of others and the opportunity to present my own work in this collegial, scholarly, and godly atmosphere. Hearing from and interacting with such brilliant and spiritually passionate scholars was always a deeply enriching experience.

Without doubt, collegiality and respect for all people, coupled with a love of scholarship, are priceless qualities I love the most. The Society offers a safe space where young scholars can be mentored by more seasoned ones, and where researchers can 'think out loud' without fear of reprisal. The fellowship and the mutual respect offered to all—even to those who might differ—is a unique feature and a treasure from God that must be nurtured and protected.

In some sense, my tenure has been a transitional one, as I was blessed to help steer the Society through certain challenging winds. Personally, I have grown to love the Society as well as the people in it. What makes it exceptional is the quality of its members who gather to learn, share scholarly work, and fellowship in the dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit. SPS members together form a prophetic body of scholars and practitioners who help to light the way in troubled times.

Prayers and Blessing for SPS in the Future:

My prayer for SPS is that it might continue in its love for God and Pentecostal scholarship. May it always offer the warmth of fellowship to other scholars, and may it continue to shape the great leaders in the academy and church for the next fifty years.



Dempster, Murray

Greetings to the President and my colleagues at the Society of Pentecostal Studies. I am proud of my affiliation with and contribution to SPS as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. I am sorry that I am unable to be with you all, even virtually, but I have these words to thank you all for shaping my academic and professional life.

I was proud to serve as the Second Vice President in 1989, followed by the role of First Vice President in 1990. In that year, I was Program Chair of the Twentieth Annual Meeting of SPS. It was in 1991 that I took the role of President of SPS. These thirty years to date have brought fond memories and new challenges in my role at SPS and the Society's journal. In fact, it was my time as the President of SPS that would contribute to my managerial experience when I became Provost at Vanguard University of Southern California (1999-2000) and President of Vanguard University.

From 1993 to 2000, I served as Editor of the Society's Journal, *PNEUMA*. I particularly recall very fun exchanges with Jerry Camery-Hoggatt and Augustus Cerillo around a table stacked with articles and drafts piecing together editing notes and returned edited drafts. We were slim on sleep but thick on humor and laughter, as it should be. These moments bonded me to these two dynamic editors and scholars. They became my closest friends along with Doug Petersen and Byron Klaus, all who were also submitting articles and participating in SPS. It was these friendships that supported me through all parts of my professional and administrative undertakings.

I cannot state enough how SPS served as a vibrant environment for my professional growth and personal exchange. I have retired from professorial and administrative roles but will always cherish my ongoing relationship with the Society for Pentecostal Studies. In that role, I look to the future of the Society and trust that it will keep on track with its focus on social justice to advocate for gender equality, racial voice, and the economic stewardship that fosters care for the disadvantaged. SPS is poised in this 50th year of its scholarly endeavors and social awareness to make a difference in the world.

DuPree, Sherry Sherrod

(Transcript based on video greeting):

Director of the DuPree African American Holiness-Pentecostal Center in Gainesville, Florida.



I have been a member of the Society for Pentecostal Studies since 1985. The organization is now 50 years of age in 2021. I am very proud that I am a part of this organization. I became a part of the organization in '85 when I went to the Seymour House at Howard University and met with Dr. Tenney and a few other people in November of 1985. In 1987, on November 14, I gave my first presentation, entitled, "Documenting Black Pentecostalism" at Virginia Beach at Regent University. In 1989, I served as archivist at the Church of God in Christ, and I was put into that role on November 10.

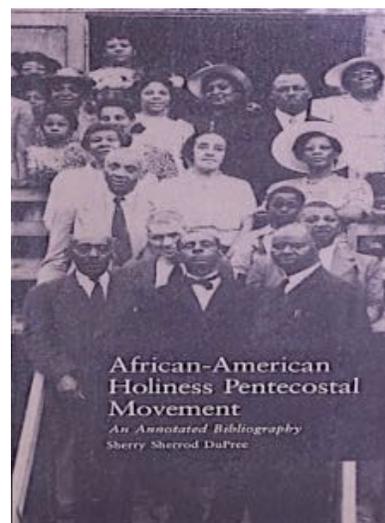
In 1990, November 9, I traveled with others to Christ for the Nations in Dallas. And that was really a wonderful trip.

We gave a presentation with Dr. Robert Spellman, from New Jersey, from the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith. Also, we had two other people who were on our panel, Alexander Stewart, also from the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, and Raynard Smith, from the Church of God in Christ. He was out of New Jersey as well. The conference was great, and I introduced my first book, a biographical dictionary on Holiness Pentecostalism. In 1991, on November 8, I did a presentation in Lakeland, FL on researching Black Pentecostalism. That was fun, and we got to meet many, many people. During that time, I was put on before as an associate editor of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, with Murray Dempster. I remained for several years in that role.

In 1997, I received the Florida award for my work on Black Religion in the State of Florida. This was given in Tallahassee.

Going back to the Society, I was then to serve as the first African American female president. In 1999 ... [I was elected] Second Vice President. In 2000, I was the First Vice President. And in 2001, I was the President. And so, as the President I had a lot of extra responsibilities. That conference was held in Seattle, Washington. So, it was a wonderful, wonderful time. Then I had the honor of giving my presidential address, at Oral Roberts University in 2001. And in 2002, I was the Past President.

So yes, I've had a lot of activities and roles with the Society, and it was wonderful to have the experience. In 2019, we had the conference at the University of Maryland, and it was very fine.



My whole family went. And of course, the Seymour College sponsored the conference. There I participated on several panels and discussions as well. We had a couple of books, the

*A Compendium:
Bishop C. H. Mason
Founder of the
Church of God in Christ*



*Prepared under the Auspices of the
African American Holiness Pentecostal
Research Project*

Sherry Sherrod DuPree—Senior Researcher
Associate Researchers
Dorcas Duffey
Carolyn Caldwell Eason
Phillip O. Granville
Raynard D. Smith
Alexander C. Stewart

A Compendium: Bishop C. H. Mason Founder of the Church of God in Christ

annotated bibliography that has gone globally and put into other languages for others to use (*African-American Holiness Pentecostal Movement: An Annotated Bibliography*). We do a lot of oral interviews [Picture of Trinity Church in Gainesville with Mrs. Jones, 101]. Then the book that came out in 2017 deals with Bishop C. H. Mason, Church of God in Christ. It is a compendium with a lot of materials in there that you will not find anywhere else concerning our Pentecostal churches.

We have several collections: One in the NY Public Library (1990), a digital collection at USC (2011), a small media collection at the University of Wisconsin (1998). The Anacostia Museum (part of the Smithsonian

in Washington, DC) (2005), and my last collection just went to the Library of Congress (2020). So, there are five African American Pentecostal collections that enhance what we already have throughout the world dealing with the history of the movement.

Thank you for this opportunity, and congratulations to the Society for fifty years! I have met so many wonderful people over the years. I have made friends with people all over the world. I am thankful to this particular organization for the growth, and for having students still contact me for information. I just did an interview the other day with a young man who needed it for his class. So, we never stop. Pentecostalism is a growing religion. It is one of the finest religions that I know of. I wasn't raised Pentecostal, but I am now! I was raised Baptist! But the main thing is, the religion grows, and that's what matters.

And we must remember William Seymour. In 1906 William Seymour and the Azusa Street movement founded the modern Pentecostal movement in the United States that traveled abroad. So thank you again, and enjoy, and all the people that are there, have a wonderful time. I do plan to be there with you for some days of the conference.

Faupel, D. William***Greetings from the 22nd President of SPS***

I am so happy that the Executive Committee has decided to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Society by, among other things, taking a look at how we as a Society have developed over the past fifty years. In asking all the former living presidents to reflect briefly on their experiences, I believe we all will get a multifaceted perception of our diverse and dynamic community of scholars interested in the study of Pentecostalism.



I first attended SPS in 1972 at the second annual meeting at Southwestern College in Oklahoma City while I was still an M.Div. student at Asbury Theological Seminary. I had learned about the existence of the Society the summer before. I had been commissioned by the American Theological Library Association to write a bibliographic essay on the major Pentecostal literature that every seminary should have in their libraries regardless of their own particular theological tradition. The first thing I did was call my former Central Bible College church history professor, Bill Menzies, to ask for help. His response was, “Bill, we have just formed a new scholarly group called the Society for Pentecostal Studies. We have been looking for a manuscript to publish. Your project seems exactly what we are looking for. If you allow our Executive Committee to work with you, we would like to make it our first publication.”

I shall never forget that first meeting when I went to deliver the booklets. There were about sixty people in attendance. All the sessions were plenary. This meeting was put together by Russ Spittler. I consider it the most stellar set of plenary sessions in our history. Bishop Floyd Williams of the Pentecostal Holiness Church gave the opening address in the context of a worship service, and Hollis Gause from Lee College who had befriended me when I was doing my research the summer before gave the presidential address. Other speakers included Donald Gelpi, a Roman Catholic Charismatic; J. Rodman Williams, then professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Athanasio Emmert, an Orthodox theologian; Clark Pinnock from McMaster Divinity College in Ontario; Josphphine Massingberg Ford from Notre Dame University; Kristel Stendall from Harvard Theological Seminary; and a Roman Catholic/Pentecostal Dialogue chaired by Kilian McDonnell and David duPlessis.

I went home with my head reeling. I was so proud of my theological heritage. It was only the beginning. As I returned to the annual meeting year after year, I was embraced and nurtured by the initial group of Pentecostal scholars who formed and led the Society so wisely during the

first generation. I made lasting friendships with younger scholars who were in process of getting their doctoral degrees.

No other organization has had a greater influence on my life or so shaped my career. To date I have missed only five meetings: the first two before I knew about the Society, two while I was in England doing my doctoral studies; and once since when I was sick.

The Society gave me the honor of being its 22nd president in 1992. It was a special joy to meet that year in Springfield, Missouri, which years earlier had given me my theological foundation at Central Bible College and Evangel College. In those years I was privileged to give further shape to the Society by introducing the Interest Groups, establishing the Diversity Committee, and changing the Constitution and Bylaws to permit the Nominating Committee to set forth a slate of candidates from which we choose our second vice-president. I have been thrilled to watch the Society continue to evolve in the years since. Throughout our history we have had our share of problems, but I believe the Holy Spirit has been at work giving guidance to our leadership to resolve them. I firmly believe the best years of SPS are yet ahead.

Greetings from the 6th Executive Secretary!

The 50th Anniversary Committee has invited all the former Presidents and Executive Secretaries to bring greetings at this significant juncture of our history, and to reflect a bit on our experience working in our Society. During the early years, it was felt that the Executive Secretaries should have served as President before being given the responsibility of running the day-to-day operations of the Society. I was the sixth and last of those elected to this office who first served as President. (Vinson Synan, the first Executive Secretary, served again in this office after his tenure as President).



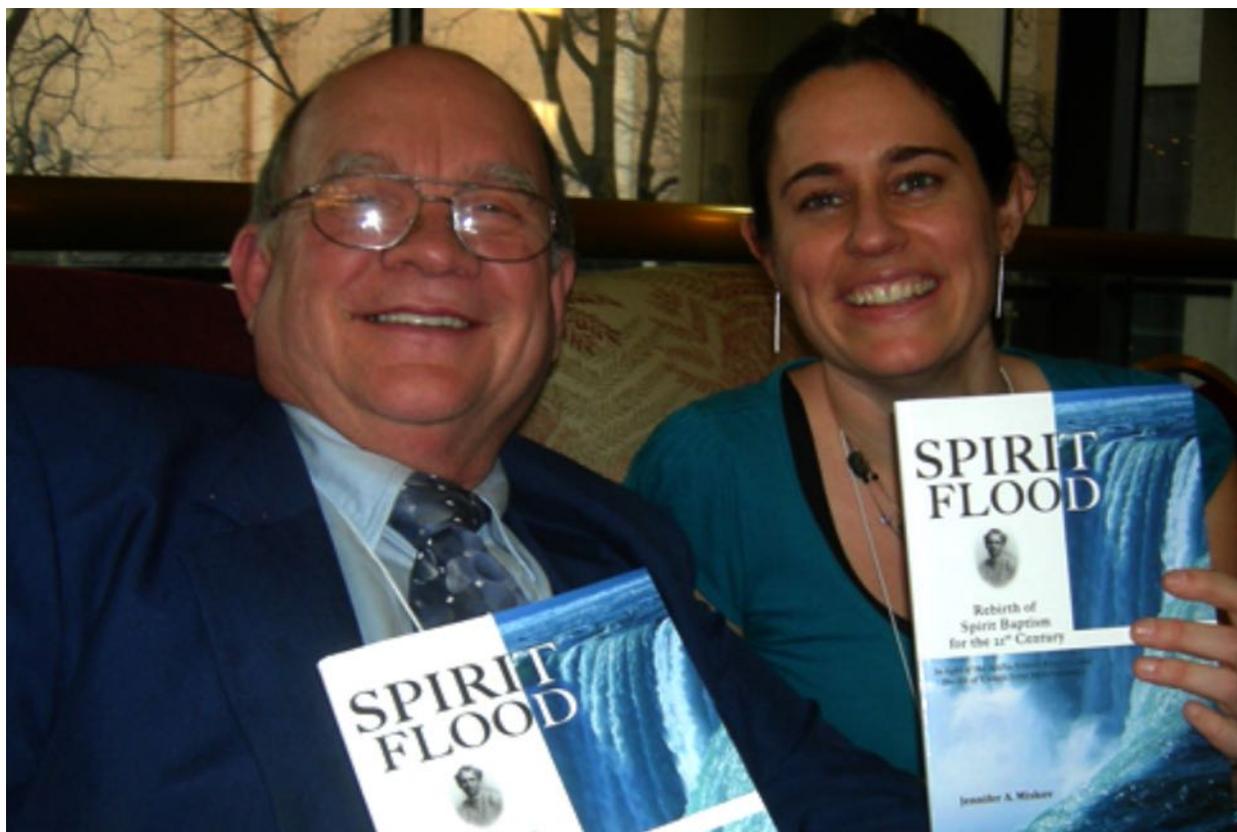
Bill Faupel and Frank Macchia, SPS 2011

I was elected to office at Patton College, Oakland, CA in 1997 and served through 2004. These were relatively stable years in the Society. Three significant events took place during that time. First, we created our **website**. Second, we made the painful, but significant, decision to ask **Brill** to publish *Pneuma*. It was painful in the sense that we lost the revenue we received from institutional subscriptions, but in the end it was a no-brainer because of the increased visibility the Society received through Brill's promotion and professionalism and for the editorial support the Society so desperately needed. Finally, the Executive Committee felt the time had come to honor those in

our Society who had made significant contributions to the Society and Pentecostal studies by giving such folk the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

The major challenge came when the Society met at Asbury Theological Seminary in 2001, two months after 9/11. We had commitments with the Marriott Hotel to purchase a set number of rooms. As the cancelations came pouring in, we were afraid that we would experience a major loss and perhaps bankrupt the Society. However, two factors saved us. First, it was a joint meeting with the Wesleyan Theological Society, so losses would be shared. Second, a number of persons who would normally have flown decided to carpool and drive. Though it was the first year the Society operated at a loss under my tenure, we had sufficient reserves to cover it.

Many significant developments have taken place since I left office in 2004. I am particularly proud of those who have followed me in the Executive Secretary's (nee Executive Director's) office. I know only too well the time commitment they have given to the Society. We have indeed been blessed with outstanding leadership through the years. I am confident that will continue in the years ahead.



Bill Faupel and Jen Miskov, SPS 2011

Grey, Jacqueline

(Transcript of Video Greeting):



G'day from Sydney, Australia! My name is Jacqueline Grey—I was the President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in 2017. I would like to express my congratulations, to us, the Society for Pentecostal Studies, on the fiftieth anniversary of our first meeting—because what is SPS if not the people, past and present, who have collectively formed our group? I was trying to think of an appropriate collective noun for Pentecostal scholars: we have a mob of kangaroos, and a parliament of owls—maybe a tongues-inspired “gaggle” of Pentecostal scholars. But anyway, the Society for Pentecostal Studies represents, for me, a very unique and special group. It is among this gaggle that I have found a home. As a researcher and scholar, lover of Jesus,

and participant in the Pentecostal community globally, there are not many places where I can find kindred, that is, people of a similar ilk. But at SPS I found my tribe.

The Society for Pentecostal Studies provides a community for scholars—a community for those who identify as Pentecostals and wholeheartedly desire to serve the Church and world through their ministry of teaching, mentoring, and writing. Others in our community may not identify as Pentecostals but are committed to the study of this dynamic, global religious group. Either way, the Society for Pentecostal Studies has always been a community that reflects hospitality and generosity—to local and international scholars—and I have confidence that it will continue to be so.

I remember my very first SPS in 2009 in Eugene, Oregon. It was scary arriving as the new kid to this conference, but I remember the kindness and welcome I received. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen gave me lift from Seattle, Lee Roy Martin had arranged to meet for dinner on the first evening along with a whole gaggle from biblical studies, including Scott Ellington. I met Lisa Stephenson at the Women’s Caucus breakfast (which incidentally was the very first Women’s Caucus). I made life-long friends and continue to do so at SPS.

So, let’s celebrate this remarkable, unique and wonderful community. Congratulations for fifty years to the Society for Pentecostal Studies.

Hinkle, Adrian

SPS Executive Director (2019 – present)



The Society for Pentecostal Studies has greatly shaped my life by giving me a sense of belonging. While my denomination and university encourage women as leaders and scholars, there are very few. I learned quickly, in my career, that glass ceilings hurt when they break, and not everyone welcomes change.

I first attended SPS in 2012, on the campus of Regent University. I was immediately welcomed, not as a newcomer, but with a sense of a long-lost friend. It was incredibly refreshing, and my spirit was more refreshed from that SPS conference than it had been in a long time. I didn't realize how hungry I had become to speak with other Pentecostal scholars with shared interests. Lee Roy Martin and Chris Thomas were both instrumental in creating that sense of acceptance.

SPS has since provided a platform for growth and trusted advisors for sharing potential research and ideas. Year after year, it fosters friendships and continues to shape my life by offering anchor points that are a juxtaposition of rooted, scholarly dialog and timely reflections on current ideas impacting Pentecostalism.

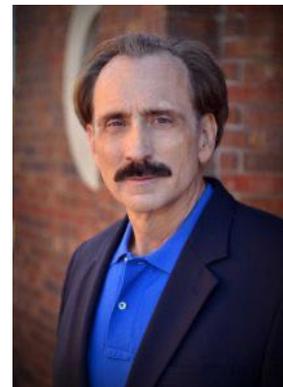
As we mark the milestone of fifty years for the Society, my hope for SPS is that it remains faithful to the vision of the early leaders and continues to step over social barriers to create space for shared heritage. I would like to see us push harder to find ways to bridge the gap for stronger global representation. In my opinion, one of our Society's greatest strengths is the ability to make room for others to participate and allow their voices to be heard.



Hunter, Harold

(Transcript of video greeting):

My name is Harold D. Hunter. I was SPS President from 1983 – 1984. My first SPS paper was read at the 1975 conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This was a patristic investigation of tongues-speech drawing from research under GW Bromiley toward my PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary. I submitted the paper to *JETS*, and they waited five years to publish the article.



A few years later, Cecil “Mel” Robeck and I were added to the SPS executive at the same time. Charter SPS members depicted us as the “young turks,” and we wore this as a badge of honor. In 1982, I was the one who changed the SPS Constitution that had linked full members and therefore officers to the PFNA Statement of Faith. The immediate result of this dramatic change was that the presidents who followed me were J. Rodman Williams, Peter Hocken, and Don Dayton. One of the other things I did that same year (1982) was to receive Manuel Gaxiola-Gaxiola as a new member. He was the first Oneness Pentecostal to join SPS. He would later become a president of SPS while I was still serving on the Nominating Committee.

During my 1983 program at the Church of God School of Theology, I wanted the keynote speaker to be James Cone. The SPS Executive Committee would not allow me to invite him, but I was able to get his mentor, C. Eric Lincoln. Another disappointment in 1983 was not being allowed by the SPS Executive Committee to invite anyone from the National Council of Churches USA. However, the next year when I was SPS President, during the conference at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, I gave over part of my time to Brother Jeff Gros. Brother Gros came representing the National Council of Churches USA Faith and Order Commission. As a result of his intervention, many of us got involved in Faith and Order, and a few years later Brother Gros would become a president of SPS.

In terms of the future, I would ask that SPS consider this: it was my vision informed by considerable international travel that gave birth to Brighton '91. This was the first global conference for Pentecostals from all points of the globe. My keynote speaker was Professor Jürgen Moltmann. We had Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Pentecostal scholars from six continents and provided live translation in several languages. This was an invitation-only event designed to strike a balance between the Global North and Global South. Peter Hocken and I raised money for those who needed financial assistance. I now invite SPS to bring to the table all the Pentecostal academic societies from around the world. I have gone to ninety countries and have been impressed with what our community is doing around the world. I would love to be able to witness, in person, a meeting that brings together all of our academic communities from around the world.

God bless as our ministry moves forward.

Harold D. Hunter, PhD, Director, IPHC Archives & Research Center
IPHA Liaison to the Greater Christian Community



Johns, Cheryl Bridges

(Transcript of Video):

I want to congratulate the Society for Pentecostal Studies on its fiftieth anniversary. My first experience with the Society for Pentecostal Studies was in 1973 when I and my future husband at that time, Jackie, were students at Lee College. We attended some sessions, and I never will forget the session where a well-known Pentecostal leader and a Roman Catholic scholar were engaged in lively dialogue. I was just enamored and

riveted by what I guess we would call my first ecumenical experience as well as my first experience with SPS.

Years later, during the mid-1980s, Jackie and I reconnected with the Society. At that time, we were completing our PhDs. And after years of studying in non-Pentecostal institutions, we found the Society for Pentecostal Studies to be a safe space wherein our ideas could be shared, where there were people of like mind, where we as younger scholars could be encouraged by those who were our elders. As the years progressed, it has been a joy of mine to see the growth and development of the Society. Many women have joined and assumed leadership roles, as well as minorities. It has been an expansion of scholarship. And as more and more Pentecostals and others with PhDs have joined the Society, we have found it to be a really good place to do constructive theological work.

I believe the Society for Pentecostal Studies has a rather unique calling, and that is to maintain the dialectic between being a robust community of *koinonia*—a community formed and called by the Spirit—as well as a place of deep scholarship, a place where, in the words of James K. A. Smith, we could “think in tongues.” It has not always been easy to maintain this dialectic, but I am convinced that this unique quality sets the Society apart and offers something as a witness to the world where so many times one’s spirituality and one’s scholarship are not allowed to be joined. The Society for Pentecostal Studies has grown and developed Interest Groups, and all types of interests have shown up. And I am excited for its future. I believe that the best days are ahead. We live in quite difficult times—a time of great culture wars and a time of global climate change—and it’s easy to be swept into some of the despair and anger that we see swirling around us. And I believe that the Society is uniquely poised as scholars to go into this future that’s somewhat difficult and to speak into the situations that we are going to encounter and to have prophetic ministry in that sense—deep scholarship, robust inquiry. And it’s encouraging to see more and more younger scholars now joining this company. We have had some very good years. I believe that we are going to have even more good years ahead. In the words of John Wesley, “Best of all, God is with us.”



Kydd, Ron

Greetings to SPS!

It was around 1975. I was a recently ordained Pentecostal preacher teaching at a prairie Canadian Bible College, holding my 'still warm from the oven' Ph.D in hand. Patristics was my field. I had called the meeting at a conference in Oxford out of which came the Canadian Society of Patristic studies. Along the way I had noticed that the history of the Pentecostal movement in Canada could use a lot of help, but as I went at it, I found I was pretty much alone. Enter the Society of Pentecostal Studies.

I immediately became interested, but I wasn't able to get to a conference until 1977. It was a terrific experience. After a storm-fractured trip, I found myself in a taxi with the late Gerrald Shepherd on our way to our rooms in Springfield.

The next day dawned, and what a day! I met Vinson Synan! As the day unfolded, I found myself chatting with Russ Spittler, Jim Forbes, and many, many others. At the banquet that evening I shared a table with Gerry Sheppherd, Jim Forbes, and a young fellow, Mel Robeck. (I got to know him a lot better years later when he was a major figure in the International Catholic/Pentecostal Dialogue, and I was tagging along.) At that conference I felt I was at home. Here were people stretching themselves and others with excellent academic work and, at the same time, they understood my spirituality.

Over the years I have attended SPS conferences whenever I could. In 1986 I was honoured to be elected as second-vice president on the SPS board. The next year I was responsible for the program held at what is now Regent University, and in 1988 I was president and read the presidential address at the banquet. In that address I was attempting to highlight the essential and intimate, interaction of the Church and the theologian. That interaction has never been more critical than it is now.

Think, my friends—the Church, the theologian. One has never needed the other more critically than now.

May God bless and lead you.

Land, Steven J.

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

2002 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

2003 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair

2004 – President

2005 – Immediate Past President



Macchia, Frank

(Transcript of video greeting):

Hi, my name is Frank Macchia, and I'd like to send my greetings to the Society for Pentecostal Studies as we approach this important 50th year anniversary, this 50th annual meeting. My first meeting with the Society was in 1978 with Valley Forge, so I guess you could say I've been with the Society a long time. What is that? Forty-two years. I've served the Society in different capacities. I've been President [2000]. For a time, I was also editor [2001-2010] of the Society's journal, *Pneuma*, and have been involved on panels and giving papers and responding to papers.



And I could say that the Society has just meant a lot to me, and not only to me, but to a lot of people. It's provided the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement, but also the larger body of Christ with valuable scholarship, and that's a wonderful gift from God. But it's also been a sort of a home away from home, a place where we could go and reconnect with friends and colleagues that we fellowship with and have worked with for many years—but also to meet new friends and new co-workers, and think out loud together, plan ventures and joint efforts at scholarship, meetings, and so on. It's just been a wonderful place to connect.

And so, I'd like to send my greetings, my love, from my heart to the Society, and just look forward to many years to come fellowshiping with you all, getting to know many of you that I haven't gotten to know yet, and working together.

Martin, Lee Roy

(Transcript of video greeting):



Hello, everyone. I am Lee Roy Martin, Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages at the Pentecostal Theological seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee. It was a great honor for me to serve as Biblical Studies Interest Group leader from 2007 to 2012. I was elected as SPS second vice president in 2011, which means that I was Program chair of the 2013 meeting and then President of SPS from 2013 to 2014. I served my final year on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President.

I first attended SPS the year I graduated from Seminary, in 1983, which means I was present for the famous dialogue between Gordon Fee and Steve Land regarding tongues as initial evidence. Fee stated that when you are baptized in the Spirit, you MAY speak in tongues, but you don't have to do so. Land responded that when the minister says to the groom, You MAY kiss the



bride, it would be disconcerting if the groom turned and asked, “Do I *have* to?” It was then off to the races.

From that first meeting until now, I have always benefited immensely from my participation in SPS. The scholarship at SPS is creative and cutting-edge. The discussions are revealing and challenging. The fellowship is encouraging and formational. The friendships are deep and enduring. I thank God for all of you and for your immeasurable influence on my life and ministry. The future is bright for SPS. I am encouraged by the young scholars who are already making a significant contribution to Pentecostal studies.

SPS has an important ministry to nurture scholarship within the Pentecostal tradition, while at the same time engaging with scholars outside our tradition. My hope for SPS is that we will continue to represent the very best of Pentecostal Charismatic scholarship in all its diversity, that we will retain the heart of Pentecostal spirituality, and that we will raise our sails fearlessly to catch tomorrow’s wind of the Spirit. What we do now, we do for our children and for our grandchildren. Along with my wife, Karen, I say, May God bless you all.

Medina, Néstor

(Transcript of video):



Hi everybody, this is Néstor Medina. I am Assistant Professor of Religious Ethics and Culture at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto. My first connection with the Society for Pentecostal Studies was as a Book Review Editor. I was hired at Regent School of Divinity, and Dale Coulter and Amos Yong were the editors of the journal [*Pneuma*]. They invited me to come along. After that I became part of the review committee to evaluate the suggestions, the nominations for Book of the Year Award. And during that period, I became aware of the broad-ranging levels of Pentecostal scholarship, which I’m really proud to be a part. Since then, I also remain active in the Society for Pentecostal Studies more broadly.

I’ve participated in multiple panels, and I’m really happy about that. And as part of that also, I am part of the Canadian Pentecostal Research Network. Along the way I have made a lot of colleagues and have made a lot of friends as well. So, I just want to say hi to you and celebrate together this momentous occasion. I think that Pentecostalism and Pentecostal scholarship has a lot to offer to the larger academic context and also to our churches, and I look forward to being part of that long history of engaging the right questions and the hard questions about what it means to be Pentecostal. Thank you and many blessings! Chao.



Pierce, Yolanda

2015-2017 Book Review Editor for *Pneuma: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*



Photo from ptsem.edu

2011 SPS Banquet Panelist

Mittelstadt, Marty

On the 50th anniversary of SPS, I have the honor of serving as President of the Society. I'll go down in history as the only president of the Society (thus far) to serve two years. When I was elected to the role of 2VP, I expected to serve as president for the 49th annual conference in 2020. However, as fate would have it, the COVID-19 crisis led to the cancellation of the 2020 conference.

When I think of SPS, I reflect immediately on my first conference at Northwest University in Seattle. At the 2000 conference, I interviewed for a position that landed me at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, where I am now in my twenty-first year as Professor of New Testament. I could not have imagined that the first conference where I met many of Pentecostal scholars I had read as a seminarian and PhD student would become lifelong friends and peers.



Marty Mittelstadt, SPS President 2019-2021



SPS has been a lifeline for me. I am a Pentecostal today because SPS colleagues have helped me better understand who I am as a Pentecostal and who we might become. I'm confident that SPS will continue to flourish and be a light to the academy and the church.

Olena, Lois

Greetings to the Society for Pentecostal Studies, and happy 50th birthday! It was my honor to serve the Society as Executive Director from 2011-2016. As Executive Director, I was greatly honored to follow in the leadership of Drs. Vinson Synan, James Beaty, Horace Ward, Russ Spittler, Peter Hocken, Bill Faupel, David Roebuck and to enjoy the remarkable leadership of Peg de Alminana and Adrian Hinkle, who followed me.



In addition to representing the Society to its many constituents and publics on a day-to-day basis, this role involved stewarding SPS through a significant bylaws revision, website update, coordinating the establishment of the Student Caucus, launching the Young Scholars' Award, and partnering with the Executive Committee in the planning of the annual meetings at Regent University (2012), Seattle Pacific University (2013), Evangel University (2014), Southeastern University (2015), and Life Pacific College (2016), training the new Executive Director, crafting a *Policies and Procedures Manual* for SPS, and laying the groundwork for the 2017 meeting in St. Louis.

One of my most cherished memories is of the Friday afternoon plenary session at Evangel University with Cheryl Bridges Johns, Kim Alexander, Ken Archer, and Anthony Roberts. I have never seen or felt such a profound and precious move of the Holy Spirit in an SPS meeting as I did that day. That 2014 conference felt like a real turning point spiritually for the Society.

I have also appreciated chairing and presenting for sessions, involvement in the Women's Caucus, partnering on writing and publication projects, and serving as professor of record for doctoral participants attending SPS for academic credit, and chairing the SPS 50th Anniversary committee. I feel so grateful for these opportunities, and I treasure the remarkable friendships that have developed through the Society since I became a member in 2006.



I have so appreciated the rich collegiality, diversity, acceptance, support, encouragement, Christian community, academic and professional opportunities, as well as the opportunity to grow deeper in my love for Christ (*and my problem-solving skills!*). I am so thankful that my husband, Doug Olena (Philosophy IGL), who first attended SPS in 2003, encouraged me to come!



One thing in particular I love about SPS is the intergenerational relationships that serve as a bridge from those like Stanley Horton, who could relay his family's stories of the early days of the Azusa Street Revival to new student members each year just beginning their academic journey in Pentecostal studies.



May our lives, like Stanley Horton's and so many others who have touched our lives through SPS, be "characterized by Pentecostal fervor, a commitment to biblical scholarship, and Christlike character."

Oliverio, Bill

My very first experience at SPS was working the registration table at the 2004 Annual Meeting at Marquette University with my then fellow doctoral student at Marquette, Lisa Palagyi (soon to be Lisa Palagyi Stephenson). The late Ralph Del Colle, systematic theologian and Marquette professor, who would become one of the charismatic Catholic scholars to serve as SPS President, had rounded up the handful of Pentecostal doctoral students at Marquette to help run the registration. The arrangement to have a credit card machine had apparently fallen through, which led to my getting to know David Roebuck very quickly, and a wonderful silver lining to that harried experience.

This scene is characteristic of what my experience with SPS has been like, where even the challenging experiences have resulted in the joy of wonderful friends.

In 2004, the Pentecostal guild was starting to come of age at that moment, and those of us who were just entering into it were privileged to stand on pioneering shoulders. I cannot even begin to describe what it did for me in the spring of my first year of doctoral studies at Marquette when I heard Jean-Daniel Pluss in the one plenary session, or when I had a conversation with Estrelida Alexander at a book table, or when I listened to Steve Land's plenary, or when Jack Wisemore took the time to get to know me, or when Arlene Sanchez-Walsh picked my brain about my own interests, or when I met David Daniels and Ed Rybarczyk. I had found my people. Pentecostal faith and hospitality met a burgeoning life of the Pentecostal mind, a combination I had been searching for.

I haven't missed an Annual Meeting of SPS since. In 2008, at Duke, I walked out, to my surprise, as the Philosophy Interest Group Leader for the next three years, and I'd serve another three-year term after that, before then turning the group back over to Doug Olena's leadership. During that time the Philosophy Interest Group had parallel sessions that included the likes of Harvey Cox, William K. Kay, D. Stephen Long, James K. A. Smith, Nimi Wariboko, Merold Westphal, Wolfgang Vondey, and Amos Yong, even beyond our wonderful little group of regular contributors. Deep thinking about Pentecostalism has been happening.

In 2019, Nimi Wariboko and I were selected as co-editors-in-chief of *Pneuma* for 2020-2024. Sadly, we were a part (as *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee) of the decision-making process in early March 2020 to cancel SPS 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The double issue of *Pneuma* as 42.3-4 that is about to come out at the time I am writing this note is indicative of where we are now at, in an issue which includes a 50th anniversary double-length historical article but then eight interpretations of the future of Pentecostalism from leading scholars around the world, whose demographics reflect the population distribution of global Pentecostals today.

It has been a joy to see Pentecostal scholarship and scholarship on Pentecostalism begin to emerge as a global force in Christian studies. The interdisciplinary agenda of the Society and *Pneuma* brings about a rich guild poised to lead as we head toward the middle of the twenty-first century. I hope that Pentecostal scholarship will be characterized by the maturation of its quality of work, breadth in what can be addressed in Pentecostal studies, and realistic hope for the future. Our guild lives on a frontier that is highly populated yet also disseminated in many directions. Many Pentecostal scholars and scholars of Pentecostalism serve as threads that connect understanding of these manifold groups and Pentecostalism as a dynamic whole with the wider world of scholarly knowledge. The work of this guild is important to the future of the Pentecostal tradition and the world.

It is a privilege to be a part of the SPS family, as few scholarly guilds carry such an ethos-pathos with them. Few sing, pray, and even dance together, as we do. Few hope as we do. As we head into a new era, our next 50 years (should the Lord tarry, as Pentecostals say) provide the opportunities for our guild to deepen and broaden its work, taking a place of leadership in religious scholarship, and for this generation of scholars to pave the way for the next, as our founders and the second generation of scholars have done for us.

L. William (Bill) Oliverio, Jr., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Public Theology | College of Ministry, Northwest University

Co-editor of *Pneuma: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*

<https://brill.com/view/journals/pneu/pneu-overview.xml>

Palma, Anthony



Anthony and Betty Palma and Byron Klaus at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO

Best wishes to attendees of the 2021 meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies! And heartfelt thanks as we think of its “founders” —Bill Menzies, Vinson Synan, and Horace Ward.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Society’s first meeting and can still recall the excitement that pervaded those sessions. Who at that time could have anticipated its endurance and success for fifty years!

I had the honor of serving on the Executive Committee from 1977-1979 as vice

president (1977), president (1978), and immediate past president (1979), chairing the program committee for the 1977 meeting, held at the Drury Inn in Springfield, Missouri. Living only about a quarter of a mile from the hotel, I was able very easily to attend to many details. One of them was to request, by telephone, that an appropriate sign be posted in the lobby. Later that

day I went to check on things and, sure enough, there was a sign directing people to the meeting of the “Pensacola Society!”

My memory of meetings I attended is that they were times not only of intellectual stimulation but also of warm spiritual and social fellowship. May the Society continue in that tradition as it now stands alongside other learned societies.

Robeck, Cecil (“Mel”)



I attended my first meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in Springfield, MO (1977), at the urging of Harold Hunter. There, we found a small group of scholars, about forty people, if I remember correctly. Among them were a number of scholars such as Russ Spittler, Vinson Synan, Bill Menzies, Tony Palma, French Arrington, James Beaty, Jerry Sheppard, and Donald Dayton. As a PhD student, I quickly found a place where people who shared my faith could help to nurture me in my scholarship.

Little did I anticipate serving as First Vice President and planning the first SPS meeting at Fuller Seminary in 1982. The theme was “Gifts of the Spirit.” Given that I was serving in Fuller’s administration, I decided to contact people like James D. G. Dunn; Fr. Donald Gelpi, S.J.; Ralph P. Martin; as well as a cadre of SPS senior scholars to offer papers. I contacted Dr. James Forbes to preach at our opening worship service. It was a great time, and many Fuller students and faculty members took part.

Following my year as President in 1983, the Executive Committee invited me to serve as the editor of *Pneuma*. I had no idea that the founding editor, Bill Menzies was retiring, and had no idea that I would be considered to serve as editor. Only after I spoke with Russ Spittler, who was Associate Dean of the School of Theology and Professor of New Testament at Fuller, did I agree to serve. I served as the journal’s editor for nine years. Because the SPS was still a relatively small, but growing group, I did not receive many articles, and I found myself spending many hours editing a few articles to bring them up to SPS standards. As a result, I decided to solicit articles. I went outside the SPS membership in my solicitations, hoping that the journal could serve



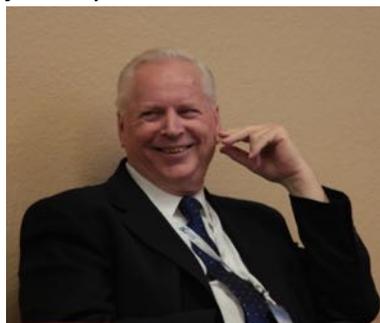
2012 SPS at Regent University reading the late Br. Jeff Gros’ Presidential Address

as a link between the SPS and the larger church world. I also began to edit particular issues around themes such as the purpose of baptism in the Spirit, “Pentecostals and Social Ethics,” “The Dark Side of the Gospel,” “Southern Religion with a Latin Accent,” and I edited an issue on ecumenism, making it the first Pentecostal publication to publish the first three reports from the International Catholic - Pentecostal Dialogue. I hated to give up the editorship of *Pneuma* in 1992, but due to personal health concerns, my increasing workload at Fuller, and my growing ecumenical involvement, it was necessary. Some days I look back and wonder how I was ever given the privilege of developing the journal in a step along the way to what it has become, a first-rate academic journal.

Because of my terms as Vice President and then President of the SPS and role in editing *Pneuma*, I served on the Executive Committee for over a decade. As a young scholar, it introduced me to those who had broken ground for scholarship to be better accepted in Pentecostal circles. It allowed me to learn from these scholars, who encouraged me along the way to stretch my own wings. I found myself giving papers and writing articles for the SPS that were typically well-received, on things like the role of “Written Prophecies,” questions related to “An Emerging Magisterium” in the Assemblies of God, the challenge that the subject of Christian Unity continues to pose to Pentecostals, the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, Racial Reconciliation following the Memphis Miracle of 1994, the difference between evangelism and proselytism in a dialogue with Ralph Del Colle, and even Azusa Street. In 2006, I was invited to speak on Azusa Street in a plenary address. It was an exciting evening for me, since the Thomas Nelson company, which had just published my book on Azusa Street, gave a lavish party and a formal book launch for my book. They gave each participant that night a free copy of the book. I was deeply touched the following year, when my book was honored by the SPS as Book of the Year for 2007.

Now I find myself in the position of a senior, if not a scholar, and I can say from the bottom of my heart, that the decision to follow Harold Hunter’s advice and join the SPS was one of several important turning points in my life. I cover the kinds of experiences that I have had through the years for our younger members.

May the Lord bless and lead you in the His ways and may the Society for Pentecostal Studies offer you many opportunities to grow as you continue your Pentecostal/Charismatic academic journey.



Roberts, Anthony

(Transcribed from Video Greeting):



Hello, friends. My name is Anthony Roberts, and I am the current book review editor for *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*. I have been in this role since 2017, but before beginning my tenure, I had the honor of being preceded by Néstor Medina and Yolanda Pierce, who also served as book review editors before me.

So, one of my most special memories of SPS, especially the annual meeting, was the first annual meeting that I went to at Seattle Pacific University. I was a young graduate student at that point, and it was around that time that I really began to have a passion for the academic study of Christian theology. I had just gotten done reading Frank Macchia's *Baptized in the Spirit* in one of my theology courses. It was a really impactful work, and honestly it really opened my eyes to the theological depth of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianities. And I remember sitting in one of the sessions, and in walks Frank Macchia! I told myself that I was going to make a point of introducing myself. Well, Dr. Macchia ended up coming up and sitting right next to me, and I was able to interact with him after the session concluded, and that was just really meaningful to me—the fact that I could meet people who, I had read their books, and interact with them. That really is one of the things I really appreciate about SPS and how it has shaped me.



2015 SPS Morning Communion

The Society for Pentecostal Studies has and continues to help me build a network of colleagues



2015 SPS Program Committee

who are truly gracious, but they also push me to ask the challenging questions that help widen and deepen the work of Pentecostal/Charismatic studies.

So, as I think about what my hopes are for the Society for the next 50 years, I really hope that in the work that we're doing, in the conference themes that we pursue, in who we are inviting, the different networks we engage with, I really hope that the Society is marked by an increasing sensitivity to the cultural, social, ethnic, and theological

diversity of global Pentecostal-Charismatic

Christianities. By focusing on the very deep diversity that is in the Pentecostal Movement globally, I think that this will only serve to really push the work of the Society forward in a way that impacts not only the Academy, but it also impacts the Church. So, Happy Birthday, SPS! I'm really looking forward to the next 50 years and being a part of it!

Roebuck, David G.

Greetings to the Society for Pentecostal Studies!

Like many others, SPS has been vital to my journey as a Pentecostal. I first learned about SPS while attending West Coast Bible College in Fresno, California. At West Coast, the small size of our community made it possible for students to have frequent access to the president's office. One day President Horace Ward told me about a meeting from which he had just returned. Spread out on



a table in his office was a draft of an issue of the Society for Pentecostal Studies Newsletter, and he told me about the young organization he was then serving as Executive Secretary. I was more than intrigued, and soon I was recipient of his generosity when he paid for my first student membership. Membership gave me access to *Pneuma* and the Newsletter and opened a new world of scholarship to a classical Pentecostal who was trying to determine God's will for his future ministry.

Later as a student at the now Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee, I was thrilled with the happy confluence of my school hosting the 1983 meeting and one of my significant professors, Dr. Harold Hunter, serving as program chair. It was very exciting to meet members and hear papers from scholars whose work I was learning about in my academic program. One of life's blessings has been that some of those scholars, as well as many I have met at SPS meetings since then, have become friends and colleagues. Certainly, the opportunity for rising scholars to connect with experienced scholars and church leaders in authentic and meaningful relationships is one of the most valuable benefits of our life together.

It has been a special privilege to serve the Society—first as a member and chair of the Library and Research Committee and later as Executive Director (2003-2011). When asked to lead the Society in 2003, it was as Executive Secretary—an often-used title for a secretary with leadership responsibilities. With growth and operational transformation, such as the emerging utilization of web-based services, SPS changed the office of Executive Secretary to Executive Director and added the position of Secretary-Treasurer to our Executive Committee. We also added Interest Groups and expanded the Thursday schedule, which provided additional opportunities for members and guests to share their work. I was especially delighted when

Mason Temple in Memphis hosted the opening service of our 2011 meeting, and I am pleased to see the continued progress of SPS after my tenure.

As SPS celebrates our 50th anniversary, I am thankful for the extraordinary leadership the Society continues to have, for the intentional manner in which we nurture emerging scholars, and for our privilege to provide the Christian Church with scholarship and academic leadership. I pray for God's blessings as the work of our hands and minds glorifies God until Christ returns.



Skaggs, Rebecca

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

1997 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President

1998 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair for 1999 meeting

1999 – President

2000 – Immediate Past President

**Solivan, Samuel**

It is hard to believe that 50 years has passed since the founding of SPS. Here I enclose some information requested regarding my participation in SPS and current information about my academic and ministry activities.

I served on the executive committee beginning in 2000 when elected as Second Vice President. I served as First Vice President and Program Chair in 2001. In 2002 I served as president and gave my presidential address at Lakeland University in Florida. The following year I served as the Immediate Past President.

As for the role and importance of the SPS in my academic and ministry experience I must say that for me as both a Pentecostal and Hispanic scholar teaching in the field of systematic theology when there were only one or two Hispanic Pentecostals in theological education in American seminaries, SPS served as an oasis and the discovery of other like-minded Pentecostal scholars. There, I was not alone, ignorant, or a heretic. SPS provided for me a community of scholars—women and men committed to Christ, the Church, and critical thinking. It was both an honor and surprise when my brothers and sisters asked me to serve as their President. Sadly, for a number of reasons over the years, I have been unable to participate in SPS activities.

I recently retired as Professor Emeritus in theology of the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, where I served as its Vice President for Religious affairs and professor of Theology for the past twenty years.

My best wishes and praise for the standard of excellence so present in our *SPS Pneuma* journal.

My best wishes and blessings on this 50th anniversary of the Society for Pentecostal Studies!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Samuel Solivan, PhD.

Spittler, Russ

Hello members and friends of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Warm greetings and congratulations on reaching this important half-century milestone from the founding of the Society.

I was among those at the organizing meeting in Dallas fifty years ago. A few reflections from those early years may be of interest.

Early on, the SPS leadership sought in various ways to offer itself as a sort of theological thinktank to various national and international Pentecostal bodies. Generally, there was no durable interest from those bodies in such an arrangement. So the SPS eventually dropped that effort and shifted toward a usual and customary academic society. With fine success.

It took awhile to achieve organizational clarity. At the Des Moines meeting, the second annual, I recall a woman scholar who--amid the evolving search for society identity--asked, "I am a PhD biologist: does the Society intend to include academic specialists in wide fields, who themselves are Pentecostal in faith?" There was even early discussion about the alternatives *Society of . . .* or *Society for . . .* Eventually, the group cast itself as an organization demanding no restriction on academic field and stipulating a focus on the Pentecostal and charismatic movements in papers and lectures.

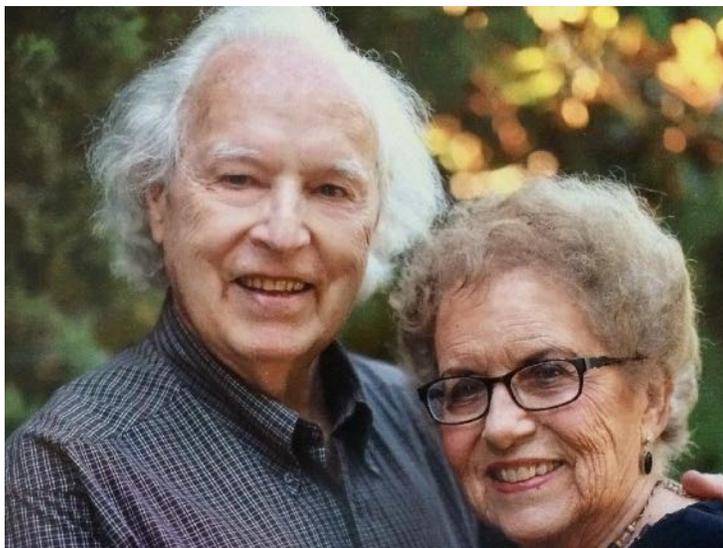
An anecdote comes to mind. By the time of the fourth annual meeting held in 1973 at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, a pattern had been set to feature an outside scholar as a speaker at the annual banquet. For 1973, that was Martin Marty, the renowned professor of religion at the University of Chicago. Early on the day of the dinner, a troubling phone call came from Professor Marty. "My travel agent," Marty explained, "virtually always books me out of O'Hare Airport, from which I am calling. Without telling me, the agent had instead booked the flight at Midway, the other Chicago airport. I'm sorry. My agent and I have searched high and low. There's no way I can get to Cleveland in time for the dinner this evening."

The SPS leaders promptly scrambled to contact the local phone company in Cleveland. Could they, in time for the dinner that evening, rig some way to pipe in the speech Marty had prepared? There was. They did. At the appointed hour, the dinner guests relished a fine lecture by speakerphone from Professor Marty, himself comfortably seated at home in Chicago. That was, of course, long before FaceTime or Zoom.

Over the decades, the Society has matured admirably--taking its place among serious academic societies, spawning a substantial journal of its own and supporting the emergence of others, encouraging young scholars and connecting those more mature.

May the Lord bless and guide the Society for Pentecostal Studies.

Russ Spittler
Professor of New Testament,
Emeritus and Provost, Emeritus
Fuller Seminary (Pasadena,
California)



Stronstad, Roger



Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

- 1992 – Voted in as 2nd Vice President
- 1993 – 1st Vice President and Program Chair
- 1994 – President
(No meeting in Fall 1995; switched to Spring)
- 1996 – Immediate Past President

Thomas, John Christopher

(Transcript of video):

I'm John Christopher Thomas. It was my honor to serve as President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies from 1997-1998. My very first meeting was in 1981, Charlotte, NC, at a Church of God institution called East Coast Bible College. There, the guest of honor was David Du Plessis, and the convener of the conference, William MacDonald, had divided all the participants up into what he called "exegetical circles," which were devoted to reading together significant pneumatological Johannine texts.



In the ensuing years, I would meet many people who would become very good friends and colleagues, but I noticed that often there were very few biblical scholars in attendance, owing in part to the way the meetings were convened—where often a theme was adopted and a couple of plenary sections were offered in a day, the next day. And then there would be parallel sections. But all of them adhered very tightly to the theme. Thus, if one was not particularly interested in the theme, it was hard to justify the expense of the meeting.

So, in 1988, I had proposed that a biblical studies section be created, in order to try to attract more biblical scholars in the tradition. I was away in 1989 working on my Sheffield thesis, the only meeting I have missed at this point, since 1981. By the time I got back to the meetings in 1990, a critical mass had developed, so that it was decided by the leadership of the Society that four sections, or what became known as special Interest Groups, would be established—Biblical Studies, Theology, History, and I believe Practical Theology. So that by 1991, when Bill Faupel was program chair, there were various streams of papers being offered.

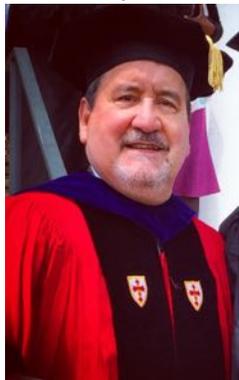
This was so successful in the various disciplines that by 2003, we had proposed again to expand our offerings by doing a pre-conference seminar. The leadership again felt that this was significant enough to include in the program. And so, in that very first pre-conference meeting that we held, over fifty people turned up. Now, the Society kind of liked that in part because it ensured more hotel rooms were going to be booked, but I think that the ensuing years have demonstrated that there is a desire on the part of a number of Pentecostals working in various disciplines to be part of constructive theology broadly defined. And so, it's been a wonderful thing to see all that growth.

In 1997 I was the program chair of the meeting that convened at Patten University, and it convened around the theme of the five-fold gospel. And we had a lot of plenaries—five in particular—which my four-fold friends said it could have been a shorter meeting if we had four-fold. And in each of those plenaries, we featured a different genre of presentation to fit each of those themes. So, we had a panel discussion of a book on conversion initiation. We had a

sermon by Steve Land on sanctification. We had testimonies offered by three scholars on their Spirit baptism. We had an invited paper from a South African scholar on healing. And then one of my colleagues did a presentation on eschatology. As you may know, that became the basis, the five-fold gospel became the basis of my presidential address the next year, and that seems to be a theme that has borne a lot of fruit since.

SPS has been an incredible group to be part of. Some of my dearest friends in all the world are there. I've been enriched by my association with it, and my prayer and hope for the future is that we continue—those involved—to have the courage to try to integrate our tradition in Pentecostalism with their academic disciplines and not become simply a watered-down version of SBL or AAR. I am convinced of the richness of our tradition. I'm convinced that there is much more fruit to be borne by our joint collaborations. Blessings on all of you.

Villafañe, Eldin



FB Photo by T. C. Moore

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(No meeting in Fall 1995; switched to Spring)
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- 1997 – Immediate Past President

Wacker, Grant



Photo from divinity.duke.edu

Presidential Role on the Executive Committee of the Society:

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(No meeting in Fall 1995; switched to Spring)
- 1997 – President
- 1998 – Immediate Past President

Waddell, Robby

Happy birthday SPS. You're fifty years old! It's the Pentecost of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. On a personal note, the annual meeting of the SPS is for me one part academic conference and one part family reunion. As



with all academic conferences, the papers are illuminating and instructive, though it's the time spent together with old friends outside of the sessions at coffee breaks and meals that is the most rewarding. This time together is more than professional networking; it's a gathering of like-minded souls and a chance to catch up on friendships that are incredibly meaningful to me.

It was an honor for me to serve as the co-editor of *Pneuma* with Peter Althouse for five years. Peter is a consummate professional. His expertise and commitment to excellence taught me a great deal and made me a better editor and scholar. Peter is a perfect example of a scholar, a friend, and a brother in Christ.

As the SPS turns fifty, so do I, and as I think about the future, I imagine that SPS will continue to grow and expand in its influence and in the quality of its scholarship. I hope to continue to play a part in the Society for years to come. Blessings and much love, Robby Waddell



Wariboko, Nimi

2020 Co-editor of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*

SPS 2013

Wilkinson, Michael

Between 2013 and 2017 I served as an executive member of SPS with my role as President of the Society in 2016. This was a tremendous honour to do so as the first sociologist but more importantly, as a Canadian President following the outstanding work and scholarship of Blaine Charette, Ronald Kydd, and Roger Stronstad. During my time we dealt with a number of constitutional changes and benefited from the assistance of outside consultants for this transition. However, what I recall most about my time with SPS is the incredible support and friendship of colleagues after the loss of my son. The genuine outpouring of love and support showed me that SPS was not simply an organization but a community of friends who genuinely cared for one another.



Yong, Amos

SPS President 2009
Pneuma co-editor, 2011-2015

Happy mid-century birthday, Society for Pentecostal Studies! As one who grew up as a Malaysian-Chinese-American Assemblies of God pentecostal preacher's kid and missionary-kid, one might say I was born in Pentecost! However, I did not appreciate this until I got to study the movement's history, and then was

motivated to do so through my interfaces with the SPS and its members in the early to mid-1990s. That was truly a decade that marked the emergence of pentecostal scholarship in the wider academy, highlighted by the appearance of the *JPT* and its supplemental series, among other important works.

Given the global expansiveness of the movement, I believe SPS has always grappled with the American-centric dominance fueled in part by the missionary resources emanating from this part of the world on the one side and the majority-world vitality that has contributed immensely to the shifting-of-the-Christian-center-of-gravity-to-the-global-South on the other side, so much so that even within the Society, we realize that the many other tongues and languages of pentecostals and pentecostal movements around the world need to be heeded in our scholarly work. To be sure, we are still having a difficult time decentering North American perspective even as those outside of these regions continue to gain momentum in articulating their own witness within our scholarly networks and the wider academy. One of the blessings of my own scholarly journey especially in the last decade is meeting other scholars within the SPS and its related nexuses and encouraging especially those from outside the Western orbit to develop their research and contributions. It is not so much the overcoming of a Eurocentric approach to knowledge that is the goal (as important as it is to realize the need for such) but the elevation of alternative cultural understandings of what God is doing in the world so that we can better participate in the cosmic mission of divine redemption.

All of this is, for me, part of how the broader theological landscape of the third millennium is learning to observe, heed, and follow after the Holy Spirit's work in our midst. Christian life and faith have always been "after Pentecost" although we have neither regularly noted such nor committed ourselves to such a way of discipleship and missional vocation. The SPS helped me to see this as a young theologian, and I believe we all continue to hope for and work toward bearing appropriate witness in the power of the Spirit of Jesus to the wondrous works of God.

Lifetime Achievement Awards (2013-2020)

The following narratives are those written for the banquet program at the time of the award.

2021 – To be announced at the 2021 meeting

2020 – Roger Stronstad



Roger Stronstad began his teaching career in 1978 at Western Pentecostal Bible College in Abbotsford, B.C. (now Summit Pacific College) and retired as scholar-in-residence in 2017. Roger is best known among his SPS colleagues for his ground-breaking study, *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*, published in 1984 (2nd edition in 2012). He maintained a lifelong passion for all things Lukan that included *The Prophethood of All Believers* in 1999 as well as numerous monographs, articles, and book chapters on hermeneutics and biblical theology. Roger served as President of SPS in 1994. A recent festschrift in his honor is aptly titled *Reading St. Luke's Text and Theology: Pentecostal Voices*. Edited by Riku Tuppurainen, this work includes a litany of contributors from our society.

2020 – David Reed



David Reed specializes in systematic, historical and pastoral theology, his primary field of research being the history and theology of global Oneness Pentecostalism. He authored *'In Jesus' Name': The History and Beliefs of Oneness Pentecostals*, and 25 essays in edited volumes and scholarly journals. He has lectured and taught courses by invitation in Sudan, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Mauritius, China, and The Gambia. He continues to research and publish on the True Jesus Church (China), as well as global Oneness churches. Other scholarly areas include pastoral studies, field-based research, healing, and phenomena related to the invisible universe. His interest in religion and culture has led to media interviews on topics of spirituality, spiritual phenomena, Pentecostal-charismatic Christianity, healing, sects and cults, migrant faith, and sexuality.

He is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Research Professor at Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto, where he was appointed Professor and Director of Field Education in 1987. Beginning with graduating and teaching at New Brunswick Institute of Technology, he completed theological studies at Barrington College, Andover-Newton Theological School, and his Ph.D. at Boston University. Reared in the United Pentecostal Church, he was ordained in the Episcopal Church 50 years ago, which has included 30 years of active parish ministry. He currently serves as President of Kairos International University, a new mission-based school in SE Asia and Southern California.

2019 – William K. Kay and Allan Anderson



This year SPS honors the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award: William K. Kay and Allan Anderson. We are grateful for their remarkable contributions not only to SPS for many years but also to Pentecostal scholarship and praxis.

William K. Kay studied at the Universities of Oxford, London, Nottingham and Reading and is now Emeritus Professor of



Theology at Wrexham Glyndŵr University and Honorary Professor of Pentecostal Studies at the University of Chester. He holds doctorates from the universities of Reading and Nottingham. He is a former Senior Lecturer in the Department of Education and Professional Studies at King's College, London. He has published extensively on religious education, often using empirical methods to verify or challenge contemporary orthodoxies. Similarly, he has used empirical methods in conjunction with the study of Pentecostalism to explore topics like glossolalia and church growth. He edits *The Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association*. He has published widely on Pentecostalism sometimes in an historical direction and at other times turning towards sociology and theology.

His books include *Pentecostals in Britain* (Paternoster, 2000) and *Apostolic Networks in Britain* (Paternoster, 2007). His most recent books are *Pentecostalism, a very short introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and *George Jeffreys: Pentecostal Apostle and Revivalist* (CPT Press, 2017). He is co-editor of the Brill's *Global Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies* series. His most recent research, funded by a Templeton Grant, was on Pentecostal-style church growth in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur where field work was conducted. He taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2012. William has worshipped in Pentecostal churches for 50 years and is married to Anthea. They have two grown-up sons and five grandchildren.

Allan H. Anderson is Professor of Mission and Pentecostal Studies at the University of Birmingham, where he has been since 1995. Born in London, raised in a Salvation Army missionary home in Zimbabwe, he went to theological college in South Africa in 1971 and spent the next 25 years in that country, where he worked as a missionary educator in Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, completing four theological degrees at the University of South Africa, graduating DTh in 1992. He is the author of 11 books on various aspects of Pentecostalism. His most recent monographs are *Spreading Fires* (2007), *To the Ends of the Earth* (2013), *An Introduction to Pentecostalism* (2nd ed., 2014), and *Spirit-Filled World* (2018). He retires in December 2019.



2018 – Cheryl Bridges Johns

B.A., Lee College, 1975

M.A., Wheaton College, 1976

Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1987

Cheryl Bridges Johns serves in the Robert E. Fisher Chair of Spiritual Renewal. She is a past President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. From 1996-2002, she was a member of the Executive Board for the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. In 1997 she was named a Henry Luce III Fellow. Bridges Johns currently chairs the Henry Luce III Fellowship

Selection Committee. She served on the Selection Committee for the ATS Lilly Faculty-Grants and chaired the committee for one year. From 2003-2005, she was a member of the Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee for the Fund for Theological Education. She was a member of the Selection Committee for the prestigious Grawemeyer Award in Religion (2007).

Bridges Johns is a leading ecumenist, representing the Pentecostal movement in several venues. She was a participant in the International Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue and a long-term member of Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ECT). She was active in the Commission on Faith and Order for the National Council of Churches (1992-1996) and served on its Executive Committee. She has participated in a number of World Council of Churches initiatives. Bridges Johns is part of the ongoing Mennonite (USA)-Church of God Dialogue. She has delivered plenary address at the Global Christian Forum meeting in Kenya (2007) and at National Meeting for Christian Churches Together (2014).

Bridges Johns has been invited to deliver several lectures, including the Jamison Jones Lecturing in Preaching at the Divinity School, Duke University; Focus on Ministry Lectures at Christian Theological Seminary (1998); Holy Living Lectures, Haggard School of Theology, Azusa Pacific University (2004); Smyth Lectures, Columbia Theological Seminary (2008). She had been a guest lecturer for the Center for Theology at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (2007); St. Paul School of Theology 1998, 2005); Emmanuel College, Victoria University (1998); Chandler Divinity School, Duke University (1992); Regent College, University of British Columbia; Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton Theological Seminary (2006); Orebro Theological College, Orebro, Sweden (2004).

Bridges Johns is the author of *Finding Eternal Treasures* and *Pentecostal Formation: A Pedagogy Among the Oppressed*. She has written numerous articles for academic journals and presented numerous papers at academic conferences. At its General Assembly In 2012, the Church of God honored Bridges Johns with its Distinguished Educator Faculty Award. In 2013 her *alma mater*, Emmanuel College, named her for the G. Earl Beatty Servant Leadership Award. Bridges Johns is married to Jackie David Johns and they have two-daughters and five grandchildren.

2017 – John Christopher Thomas

2017 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner **John Christopher Thomas** has been an active member of the SPS since 1981, having attended every annual meeting, save one, since that time. At the 1989 meeting he proposed the creation of a Biblical Studies Special Interest Group, which, when approved later, saw the increase in the number of biblical scholars attending the meeting from a handful to one of the Society's largest groups of attendees. He later served as the President of SPS (1997-98).

Thomas was also instrumental in SPS becoming an affiliate member of the Society of Biblical Literature, which has proven to be a significant venue for the work of the SPS.

Professor Thomas has been honored for his work in New Testament scholarship by election into membership of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* and his appointment as the Clarence J. Abbott Professor of Biblical Studies at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary, where he has taught full time since 1982. He also serves as the Director of the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies at Bangor University in Bangor, Wales.

He has published articles in several leading international journals devoted to study of the New Testament and is the author of nine books, including commentaries, monographs, and collections of essays. Thomas serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* (Brill), editor of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology Supplement Series* (Deo), and General Editor of the *Pentecostal Commentary Series* (Deo). Along with his colleague Lee Roy Martin, he is a founding publisher and editor of CPT Press. He has personally overseen the editing and publication of over one hundred academic volumes on Pentecostal theology broadly defined. Thomas also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*.

Thomas was educated at Lee College (BA), Church of God School of Theology (MA), Ashland Theological Seminary (MDiv), Princeton Theological Seminary (ThM), and the University of Sheffield (PhD). He has been a Guest Lecturer or Visiting Lecturer at a variety of educational institutions on five continents. He was named Alumnus of the Year by Ashland Theological Seminary (1992) and by the Church of God Theological Seminary (2004).

Professor Thomas has served as Associate Pastor of the Woodward Church of God in Athens, Tennessee since 1981. He is married to Barbara and they have two daughters, Paige Thomas Scaperoth and Lori Thomas Brown, two sons-in-law, David Alan Scaperoth and Chad J. Brown, and one granddaughter, Madeline Danielle Scaperoth.

2016 – Murray Dempster, Byron Klaus, Doug Petersen

This year SPS uniquely honored *three* recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award: Doug Petersen, Byron Klaus, and Murray Dempster, long-time friends and colleagues. We are grateful for the remarkable contributions they have made not only to SPS for many years but also to Pentecostal scholarship and praxis in general through their two co-edited works: *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective* (1991) and *Globalization of Pentecostalism: A Religion Made to Travel* (1999). Below is a brief biography of each award recipient.



Murray Dempster is the Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics and Co-director of the Center for the Study of Global Pentecostalism at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. He graduated with a Ministerial Diploma from Canadian Northwest Bible Institute in Edmonton, Canada, and a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Southern California College in Costa Mesa, California. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion-Social Ethics from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Before joining the Southeastern Faculty in the Spring of 2010, Dempster served for forty years at Southern California College/Vanguard University as Professor of Social Ethics, as well as in a variety of administrative roles including Provost and Chief Academic Officer for five years, President for eight years, and Chancellor for one year. He also served as an Adjunct and Visiting Professor in Christian Social Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA from 1980 through 1994 on the main campus and on five extension centers.

Dempster is co-author with Augustus Cerillo, Jr., of *Salt and Light: Evangelical Political Thought in Modern America* and is co-editor with Byron D. Klaus and Douglas Petersen, of two books, *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*; and, *The Globalization of Pentecostalism: A Religion Made to Travel*. The latter volume was selected by the editors of the *International Bulletin of Mission Research* (IBMR) as one of the most significant books in the field of mission studies in 1999. Dempster has also published a significant number of scholarly journal articles and book chapters, especially focused on Pentecostal pacifism, social concern, and theology & ethics.

He has presented lectures at various colleges in the United States and Canada and numerous papers at conferences and workshops in the U.S., Europe, and Central America. He has served as the North American editor of *Transformation: An International Evangelical Dialogue on Mission and Ethics* and edited two full issues that focused on Pentecostal social concern in a global context. Dempster served as the President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in 1991 and as the editor of *PNEUMA: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* from 1993-2000.

Byron D. Klaus recently retired from his role as president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri, where he had served since July 1999. Byron's previous ministry includes twenty years on the faculty and



administration of Vanguard University of Southern California. He also has served in pastoral leadership with congregations in California, Texas, and Illinois.

Klaus received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. His scholarly work includes publications in numerous journals and denominational magazines. His articles and books have been published by Moody Press, Logion Press, Regal Books, Hendrickson Publishers, Regnum Books International, Routledge Publishers, and Crossway Books. His regular commentary on faith and culture distributed as the *Prez Release* and his radio spots and op-ed articles have been released in a two-volume series called *That's the Way I See It* (available on Amazon).

Klaus' next season of ministry includes a return to a role he had held previous to his service as president of AGTS, as Vice President of Latin America ChildCare, a child development ministry serving over 100,000 children in the most desperate regions of twenty-one nations in Latin America and the Caribbean (see www.lacc4hope.org). In addition, he will be giving considerable time to serving as an advisor to university and seminary presidents and in leadership development globally. He will expand his ministry for the development of the critical leadership necessary for growing churches in the majority world where Christianity is flourishing despite vigorous resistance to the gospel. Klaus and his wife, Lois, live near Table Rock Lake in beautiful southwest Missouri. They have two grown daughters, Mrs. Victoria Klaus Goodwin and Mrs. Olivia Klaus Moro and two teenage grandchildren, Dara and Nolan Goodwin.

Doug Petersen is the Margaret S. Smith Distinguished Professor of Intercultural Studies at Vanguard University. He holds a M.A. in New Testament from Pepperdine University and a Ph.D. in Social Theology from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in Oxford, England.

With more than thirty-five years of leadership responsibilities in non-profit and higher education organizations in Latin America and the United States, Professor Petersen is an

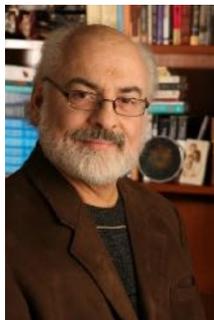


experienced practitioner and research scholar in the development and operation of faith-based community programs, especially those focusing on children at-risk. In 1977 Petersen co-founded Latin America ChildCare (LACC), a faith-based network of elementary and secondary schools and served as its International Coordinator and President for twenty-three years. During his tenure, LACC expanded to twenty-two countries in Latin American and the Caribbean providing education, food, and medical assistance for 100,000 impoverished children in 300 schools.

Petersen has published extensively on the social practices of grassroots religious groups in Central America. His book, *Not by Might, Nor by Power: A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America*, was selected among the Outstanding Books of the Decade 1990-2000 by the *International Bulletin of Mission Research*. In addition to his books, Petersen has published numerous scholarly journal articles and authored book chapters and popular pieces on ethics, politics, and Pentecostalism. Professor Petersen is a member of the editorial boards of two journals: *Pneuma* and the *Evangelical Review of Society and Politics*.

2015 – Frank Macchia

Frank D. Macchia is professor of Christian Theology at Vanguard University and Associate Director of the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies at Bangor University, Wales. He holds the Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (New York) and the Doctor of Theology from the University of Basel (Switzerland). He served as President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies in 2000 and for more than a decade as Editor of the Society's Journal, *Pneuma*. He also served on the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches, as well as on the International Reformed-Pentecostal Dialogue, and he chaired the



Trinitarian team for the Oneness-Trinitarian Pentecostal conversation. His books include: *Baptized in the Spirit: A Global Pentecostal Theology* (Zondervan, 2006), *Justified in the Spirit: Creation, Redemption, and the Triune God* (Eerdmans, 2010), and *The Trinity, Practically Speaking* (InterVarsity Press, 2010). He has authored with John Christopher Thomas the commentary on the Book of Revelation for the Two Horizons Commentary Series (forthcoming through Eerdmans). He has



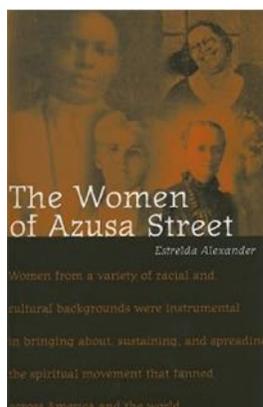
published numerous papers, articles, and book chapters, and has given guest lectureships and plenary addresses at a number of venues both in the US and abroad.

2014 – Estrela Yvonne Alexander

Estrela Alexander, a sociologist and political theologian, received her B.A. in Sociology from Howard University, in 1971 and her M.A., Sociology from Columbia University, where she was a Ford Foundation fellow, in 1973. For seventeen years, she served as a consultant for a number of government agencies and contractors. During that time involved in research on variety of social, economic religious and political issues. She returned to the academy at age forty to pursue her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary and received that degree cum laude in 1995. From there she went on to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Theology from The Catholic University of America, 2002. While a student at Wesley, she became founding president of the Association of Full Gospel Women Clergy to work for parity for women ministers within the Pentecostal movement. In that capacity, she also served as founding editor of *Women of the Word*, a periodical published from 1994 to 1998.

In 1998, she was called to be Associate Dean of Community Life at Wesley Theological Seminary and served in that capacity until 2002. She left Wesley to serve on the theology faculty at Regent University School of Divinity from 2003 to 2013, moving up to the rank of full professor. Her major accomplishment is serving as founding president of William Seymour College, an institution established to seek to serve two historically underserved populations through

certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs that preserve the heritage of social holiness and vital engagement in the life and ministry of its namesake, the early twentieth-century Pentecostal leader. The Pan-African Pentecostal Archive, which Alexander founded in 2008, identifies and preserves critical resources on renewal movements throughout the African Diaspora and provides a searchable electronic catalog of digitally accessible materials for scholars. To date that catalog has more than 6000 titles as well as several hundred digital images supporting a library collection of several hundred titles. The Seymour Press was founded by Alexander in 2011 to offer titles for the academy and the church from church leaders and seasoned and up-and-coming scholars concerned with renewing the church and the culture.



Her published works include, *Black Fire Reader: A Documentary Resource on African American Pentecostalism* (2013), *Black Fire: One Hundred Years of African American Pentecostalism* (2011), *Limited Liberty: The Ministry and Legacy of Four Pentecostal Women Pioneers* (2008) and *The Women of Azusa Street* (2005). She also co-edited two works (with Amos Yong): *Phillip's Daughters: Women in the Pentecostal Movement* (2009) and *Afro-Pentecostalism: Black Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity in History and Culture* (2011). Her current project is serving as senior editor of the *Dictionary of Pan African Pentecostalism* slated for publication in 2015. Additionally, she has is author of more than thirty essays and journal articles and has lectured on college campuses and in

conferences and preached in pulpits across the United States. She has represented the Pentecostal academy in several ecumenical settings including presentations to the Aldersgate Society Princeton University Consultations on Sexuality and Gender in 2011 and 2012, the Wesleyan Holiness-Pentecostal Consultation from 2005-2010, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary's Consultation on the Black Church, and this spring at Wheaton University's "Consultation on the Holy Spirit."

Alexander has been a member of the Society for Pentecostal Studies since 1994 and served as president in 2009. She was also elected as a member of the Society for the Study of Black Religion in that same year. Her Awards include the *Pneuma* Book of the Year Award for *Black Fire* in 2013 and the Award of Excellence from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in that same year. She has served on the board of several organizations including, most recently, Mid Atlantic Teen Challenge and Redeeming Africa. Alexander's passion for scholarly research in Pentecostalism is matched by a passion to see the Evangelical Christian community, and particularly the Pentecostal movement, embrace a vision of social holiness and justice embodied in the full participation of women and people of color within the life of the church and society. An ordained minister in the Church of God (Cleveland, TN) since 1992, Rev. Alexander has served in a number of ministerial roles as a pastor and church planter in Washington DC and Virginia Beach as well as on pastoral staffs in both areas. She currently serves as executive pastor of Tabernacle of Praise in Landover Hills, Maryland. She is a native of Washington DC and resides in suburban Maryland with her husband of forty-one years, Clemon Washington Alexander. She is the mother of two and the grandmother of six.

2013 – David William Faupel

David William (“Bill”) Faupel has been an Episcopal priest since 1979. He received his Ph.D. in the History of Christian Thought from the University of Birmingham, England in 1989.

From 1970 to 2003, Bill served as Professor of Theological Research at Asbury Theological Seminary where he also directed the Wesleyan/Holiness Studies Center (1992 to 2004). Since 2004, Bill has held the post of Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley

Theological Seminary. Throughout his academic career he also directed the libraries at ATS and WTS. He has authored and edited several publications, including journal articles, book chapters, and his 1996 work, *The Everlasting Gospel: The Significance of Eschatology in the Development of Pentecostal Thought*.

Joining SPS in 1971, Bill’s history with SPS goes back to one year after the Society was formed! He attended his first meeting in Oklahoma City in 1972 where his first SPS publication, “The Pentecostal Movement: A Bibliographic Introduction,” was released. At the 1979 meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Bill presented, “The Function of Models in the Interpretation of Pentecostal Thought,” published in *Pneuma*’s second volume in 1980. In 1988 Bill hosted the meeting at Asbury. He was elected 2nd Vice President of SPS at the 1989 meeting and the next year served as program chair at Southeastern College where he established Interest Groups as part of the program. His SPS presidential address, “Whither Pentecostalism,” presented at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in 1992, became the first presidential address to be published in *Pneuma* as a result of a change in editorial policy.

The year 1997 brought about a new role in SPS for Bill, when he was elected Executive Secretary (now called Executive Director) at Patton College. He co-hosted the 2nd WTS-SPS joint conference at Asbury in 2003 and then resigned his Executive Secretary post in 2004. In 2010, Bill was asked to chair the SPS Task Force on Identity and Purpose, established to make recommendations for revising the SPS Constitution. In the entire history of SPS, Bill only missed five meetings: the organizational meeting in 1970 and the next in 1971 (when he was unaware of SPS), then 1977 when he was a Ph.D. student in England, and two others in 1980 and 1981 when he had work conflicts.

“My most gratifying moment was when I was able to present the SPS presidential address in the town where I went to undergraduate school: Springfield, Missouri.” When asked what he believes to be his most significant accomplishment in the Society, Bill responded, “Beginning the Interest Groups!” Bravo to Bill for his remarkable service to SPS for nearly the Society’s entire history!

Previous Recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award since its Beginning:

1996	-	Russell P. Spittler ¹
1997	-	Vinson Synan ²
1998	-	R. Hollis Gause
1999	-	W. J. Hollenweger
2000	-	Gordon D. Fee
2001	-	Stanley H. Horton
2002	-	J. Rodman Williams
2003	-	Charles Jones
2004	-	Kilian McDonnell
2005	-	Horace S. Ward
2006	-	Cecil M. Robeck
2007	-	William Menzies, Leonard Lovett
2008	-	Manuel Gaxiola-Gaxiola, Gary McGee
2009	-	Augustus Cerillo, Margaret M. Poloma
2010	-	Peter D. Hocken
2011	-	Stanley M. Burgess
2012	-	Carmelo E. Álvarez



¹ 1996: *Honoring Our Foundations: The Work of Russell P. Spittler*. Declared a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

² 1997: *A Session of Honor: A Conversation with Vinson Synan*. Declared a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

