

# World Religions

Gerrit van Dyk, Secretary

## **LEADERSHIP (2018-2019)**

- Drew Baker, Claremont School of Theology, Chair
- Brian Wright, Colorado Christian University, Chair-Elect
- Megan Welsh, University of Colorado, Past Chair
- Gerrit van Dyk, Brigham Young University, Secretary

## **BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY**

Discussed WRIG's potential influence:

- work to help Atla better reflect the multireligious world we live in
- provide a safe space for non-Christians (Open Conversation Circle?)
- open Atla up to a wider exposure of religious libraries
- amplify voices that aren't often heard.

Discussed programming ideas:

- podcast initiative
- getting listserv active again
- information gathering on unaccredited religious schools and explore how Atla can be of help to them.

Brainstormed ideas for next year's conference, including a panel on cultural/religious competencies for librarians.

Nominated new chair (Brian Wright) and Vice-Chair (Beth Kumar).

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (HOSTED PROGRAMS)

### ***Atla Annual conference session: “So Your School is Becoming More Religiously Diverse”***

Presenters: Drew Baker, Beth Kumar, Patrick Milas, Brian Wright

Over the past decade, many Atla member institutions have become increasingly religiously diverse. From larger actions, like starting new interreligious programs or partnering with other institutions, to smaller steps, like changing branding and programming, many institutions have actively sought to become more ecumenical and/or interreligious and attract more students from religious traditions beyond the institutions' particular historical traditions. Given this reality, how can librarians at these schools adapt to serve their increasingly religiously diverse students better? What do librarians whose institutions are moving in more ecumenical or inter-religious directions need to consider? From collection development to reference and instruction, this panel will reflect on their topic as the panelists raise important questions and provide helpful practical advice based on their experiences at their own institutions.

### ***Atla Annual conference session: “Spiritual Care in a Multicultural and Interfaith Environment”***

Presenters: Syed Nasir Zaidi

Dr. Syed Nasir Zaidi, Research Associate at Vancouver School of Theology, scholar of Quran & Islamic theology, and interfaith chaplain, will speak about lessons learned from providing spiritual care in a multicultural and interfaith environment.