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# Small Libraries

Meeting at American Theological  
Library Association Annual Conference,  
Indianapolis, IN, June 14, 2018

By Karl Stutzman

## Present

Roger Morales (ATLA), Susan Ebertz (Chair), Vance Thomas (Vice-Chair), Margaret Alkema, Ann Owen, Debbie Bradshaw, Alice Runis, Ann Heinrichs, James Humble, Charlotte Nutter, Andrew Kosmowski, Filomena Saxton, Conor Flatz, Gerone Lockhart, Cheryl Felmlee, Elizabeth Young Miller, Jane Chang, Ryan Shrauner, Gary Averill, Joan Pries, Elli Cucksey, Karl Stutzman (Secretary)

Susan Ebertz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Each person present introduced themselves and their particular small library context. There is a wide range of what it means to be a small library, but we all struggle to have enough staff and resources to do creative projects.

Susan Ebertz presented the agenda for this meeting and the minutes of the 2017 meeting. These were approved by acclamation.

## Old business

1. Vance Thomas, Susan Ebertz, and Karl Stutzman produced one video. It's awaiting permission from ATLA to use branding.
2. Elizabeth Young Miller and Vance Thomas were interested in doing further videos, but nothing has been produced. Others who are interested are welcome to join them.

## New Business

1. Susan Ebertz reviewed bylaws adopted at the 2017 meeting. The group functions as a kind of “support group.” We hope to be able to do collaborative projects and brainstorm ideas. It would be interesting to do more on information literacy.
2. Request: Since many small librarians can’t always afford to attend the annual conference, could we offer a Zoom videoconference connection? This seemed like a reasonable request. The group agreed to try this for the next meeting.
3. Recommended resources for reading on small theological libraries:
  - a. Myka Kennedy Stephens, “The Future of the Small Theological Library,” *Theological Librarianship* 9, no. 1 (2016), 28-32. URL: <https://theolib.atla.com/theolib/article/view/411>
  - b. Someone mentioned a bibliography compiled by Sandy Shapoval of Phillips Theological Seminary
4. Suggested email listserv discussion prompts that would be helpful to members of the group
  - a. Balancing multiple roles beyond library services. Several members of the group noted that they are managing other services for their institution in addition to the library, e.g. writing support, bookstore, etc.
  - b. Next year’s conference presentation
5. Other discussion:
  - a. We discussed library materials security systems. Some libraries have systems in place. One library has a broken system they continue to pretend to use for visual effect. Some libraries work on the honor system with few problems.
  - b. James Humble noted that he is working to improve response to workshops by getting to students at point of need: for example, interacting in the cafeteria at the time papers are due. He is relying more on student workers to compensate for loss of a full time person.

Meeting adjourned by 6:00 p.m.