
Presbyterian and Reformed Librarians

By Sharon Taylor

We met Friday, June 15, 2018 from 5:30-6:30 pm in room Studio One at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. Jim Pakala led and took minutes. Present were:

- Margaret Alkema (Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary)
- Donna Campbell (Westminster Theological Seminary)
- Steve Crocco (Yale Divinity School)
- Virginia Dearborn (Princeton Theological Seminary)
- Michael Farrell (Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando)
- Becky Givens (Samford University)
- Steve Jamieson (Covenant Theological Seminary)
- David Lachman (Independent Bookseller)
- Pat Lachman (Independent Bookseller)
- Tim Lincoln (Austin Presbyterian Seminary)
- Gerone Lockhart (Calvin Theological Seminary)
- Denise Pakala (Covenant Theological Seminary)
- Jim Pakala (Covenant Theological Seminary)
- Christopher Richardson (Union Presbyterian Seminary)
- Dora Rowe (Union Presbyterian Seminary)
- Michelle Spomer (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)
- Andrew Stout (Covenant Theological Seminary)
- Sharon Taylor (Independent Scholar)
- Christina Torbert (University of Mississippi)

Jim Pakala noted that our 2017 minutes, despite timely submission, were omitted from last year's Proceedings, but ATLA provided them later for "tip-in" (our 2014 minutes also somehow had been omitted but were printed at the back of the 2015 Proceedings as pages

389-391, designated “Errata”). Hopefully the new mode for submitting anything for the Proceedings will help.

Institutional and personal news comprised most of the meeting. The following order of reports this time is by (Presbyterian or Reformed) institution alphabetically, followed by reports from attendees in other locations.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is raising money for library renovation as the last piece of the capital campaign, Tim Lincoln reported. The construction work will begin in 2020 hopefully. There is a new M.A. in youth ministry in collaboration with Youth Ministry Training based in Nashville, which approached the Seminary with the aim of developing a cohort-based, in-ministry model with study at Austin three times a term.

Calvin Theological Seminary has just had its accreditation renewed by ATS (Association of Theological Schools), Gerone Lockhart reported, and as of last November he officially got Lugene Schemper’s position of Theological Librarian. There is increasing attention to collecting works related to World Christianity.

Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary is expecting an ATS visit in 2020, Margaret Alkema reported.

The highest enrollment ever was reached in 2017–2018 with 21 students. The transition to a new principal (president) in 2017–2018 seems to be going well. The person served as Margaret’s associate librarian (a sort of faculty-liaison) and thereby has a good appreciation and understanding of the library. There are no big changes in the library, which is holding the course and trying to deal with the fluctuating Canadian dollar which significantly impacts purchasing power.

Covenant Theological Seminary’s new Access Services Librarian, Andrew Stout, was introduced by his supervisor Steve Jamieson, Associate Librarian for Public Services. Andrew has one of Covenant’s M.A. degrees as well as a library degree, and came to us from St. Charles Community College’s library. He succeeded Christopher Goodman last fall after Chris took a managerial position with St. Louis County Library. A team from ATS visited last October and one from Higher Learning Commission (HLC) came in February. The Nashville site did not come to full fruition as envisioned, so the book collection we assembled and catalogued remains at Buswell Library but will be unpacked, have a room of its own, and begin circulating.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as Michelle Spomer reported, is undergoing much change, including a new curriculum in the fall, a semester system replacing the term system, and the opening of the \$12 million renovated library. New spaces of note in the renovated library include the Fred Rogers Family Room (which provides a study space for library users with children, and includes a children's book collection) and an active learning space (which includes sit-to-stand desks, balance chairs, a desk treadmill, and a desk bike).

Princeton Theological Seminary, as reported by Virginia Dearborn, is engaging in a comprehensive self-study process as required by ATS and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This is year one of a three-year process.

Staff changes: In January 2018, F. W. "Chip" Dobbs-Allsopp (on the faculty since 1999) became the new James Lenox Librarian, and Evelyn Frangakis began as Managing Library Director. Chip is also Professor of Old Testament. As of July 1, the Academic Technology Librarian and Digital Media Lab Coordinator will be reporting to IT instead of the Library. We're upgrading to Voyager 10 in June 2018. We're also working on a preservation plan (for physical materials, not digital) with the help of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts through funding from an NEH grant. Christine (Chris) Schwartz, our Metadata Librarian and XML Database Administrator, recently co-authored a new book with Timothy W. Cole and Myung-Ja (MJ) K. Han for ALA Editions: *Coding with XML for Efficiencies in Cataloging and Metadata: Practical Applications of XSD, XSLT, and XQuery* (an ALCTS Monograph). <https://library.ptsem.edu/blog/metadata-librarian-as-co-author>. Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando (Oviedo, FL) was represented by Michael Farrell. Recently a new campus opened in Dallas which offers the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degrees. Dallas joins campuses in Jackson, Orlando, Charlotte, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Houston, New York City, and Memphis. RTS-Orlando recently began a new Hybrid Master of Divinity program which has grown quickly, and the library has been adapting programs to meet the needs of these students.

Union Presbyterian Seminary's Christopher Richardson, noting that both Richmond and Charlotte locations are represented at this year's ATLA Conference, reported that Ann Knox has retired after 30

years of service and Dora Rowe has succeeded her as Instructional Services Librarian, Director of the Instructional Resource Center.

The Seminary's Library has acquired an Atiz BookDrive Mark 2 scanner at its Richmond location and is using it (along with two other scanners) to digitize rare or unique archival items. Paula Skreslet, Reference and Archives Librarian, is leading this work and anticipates making new digital collections available in the near future.

Reclassification from Pettee to Library of Congress will take five or six years, with a part-time person devoted to the project. New compact shelving will help logistically. Dora Rowe also reported about Union: We have had a Digital Learning Lab for several years now, where students, faculty, and staff can explore new technologies before implementing them in their classrooms and/or workplaces. We loan cameras, laptops, and other technology to current students, faculty, and staff as well. We are expanding the Lab to be a Maker Space, of which the Lab will be a portion. There is a 3-D printer, a portable podcasting studio, and a new "game" that allows users to build basic app games for use in their classes or their church religious education programs. We have repurposed the light-table that was originally used to view slides and negatives to be used as a crafting light-table, and we have added a die-cut machine and dies for our students and our users from the local church communities. I am responsible for teaching information literacy for Union and also the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. This includes formal in-class sessions and also lunch-time classes. Two of the most popular last semester were on advanced usage of MS Word and how to record and launch a podcast. I plan to offer more, including "lunch-byte" research classes focusing on individual elements of ACRL's Framework. Additionally, I offer classes for members of local churches. These include technology classes and now will include use of the materials in our Maker Space. A children's collection helps support Children's Church, Sunday School, and other educational opportunities. It is also heavily used by our students with families. There is a review site for new titles at <http://storypath.upsem.edu/>. We have video streaming collections (in addition to the videos and DVDs available). For some of these we are sole owners, so when we have ILL requests for those we seek permission to duplicate (and usually digitize) them. This has resulted in the original publisher requesting a copy of the resulting digital file

as well. We have much audio material still in physical formats, some even reel-to-reel. Many items are uniquely held, and we are working to convert them to digital formats with the aim eventually of making those we produced, or for which we can obtain permissions, available for download. We also have two of the largest audio collections of Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich. We sell these on CD with the permission of their heirs. Recently, we began offering audiobooks to our patrons both on CD and as a streaming service, and this collection helps provide access for students with physical and processing disabilities, but we also thereby hope to serve our commuting students. The curriculum collection has materials from many denominations. We purchase leader & participant materials, Vacation Bible School kits, and DVD kits with leader/participant guides, plus games, posters, etc. Included are materials for children, teens, adults, seniors, and multi-generational classes. Weeding and reclassification are in process this summer, with classification changing from arrangement by publisher to being by theme.

Westminster Theological Seminary, as Donna Campbell reported, has some new staff members: Steve McKinzie (Assistant Librarian) and Robert McInnes (Archivist & Special Collections Librarian). A new Korean DMIN and an online MAC program are being offered.

Other reports:

Yale's Steve Crocco mentioned his 10:30 a.m. conference session the same day titled "Embedding One Library into Another: Lessons from the Andover Newton Theological School and Yale Divinity School Experience." Included from Andover Newton were manuscripts, such as from Edwards. Also now in progress at Yale is an effort (which includes working with officials in CT) to broaden a \$13 million endowment that had been designated only for the history of Christian missions, so that "World Christianity" is included.

Becky Givens, who works at Samford University's library, noted that it also houses the Beeson Divinity School holdings, but Samford librarians are trying to engage Beeson so as to serve them better. This has proven to require ongoing effort, but seems a worthy challenge.

David Lachman reported that the antiquarian book business is good, with demand exceeding availability. His focus, in addition to

Bibles and Presbyterian and Reformed material, includes pre-1700 Spanish church history.

Sharon Taylor reported enjoying work as a part-time nanny and church librarian/archivist at Pittsburgh's historic Shadyside Presbyterian Church, where she serves as an elder and works with internationals.

Christina Torbert is Presbyterian and serves as Head of Continuing Resources at the University of Mississippi Libraries. She reported that part of her work is the role of philosophy & religion subject specialist, including acquisitions. Although the University's minor in religion was transformed into a major, it may return to the lower status owing to enrollment.