
Conference

By Paul Tippey, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Paul Tippey, Chair
- Cindy Aalders—2019 Local Host Committee Representative
- Robert Burgess
- Erica Durham—2017 Local Host Committee Representative
- Shaneé Yvette Murrain
- Robert Roethemeyer—2018 Local Host Committee Representative
- Matthew Thiesen
- Rebecca Yowler
- Miranda Bennett—*Proceedings* Editor in Chief, Editor-in-Chief
- Gillian Harrison Cain, ex-officio
- Denise McFarlin, staff liaison

The committee was charged with developing the program for the 2018 ATLA Annual Conference and met October 17–20, 2017 at the conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, Indiana. Working from rubric-based evaluations of the many wonderful proposals submitted by ATLA members and friends, the committee selected a variety of sessions that illustrated the conference theme, Connections at the Crossroads: Creative Collaboration in a Changing Landscape; advanced ATLA core values and strategic goals; and promised to inform and delight conference participants.

With the help of Denise McFarlin’s legendary assortment of colored sticky notes, the committee assembled an impressive draft schedule, which they and ATLA staff refined over the next few months.

The committee’s hard work paid off in June, when over 300 conference attendees were treated to a strong program of engaging, educational sessions, as well as inspiring keynote presentations. The



[Front, left to right] Rebecca Yowler, Cindy Aalders, [Back, left to right] Robert Burgess, Matthew Thiesen, Miranda Bennett, Erica Durham, Robert Roethemeyer, [Not pictured] Paul Tippey, Shaneé Yvette Murrain

conference began with Timothy Beal, Florence Harkness Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Case Western Reserve University on Thursday, followed on Friday by Stephanie Crumpton, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, McCormick Theological Seminary, and closed with David C. Lewis, Dean of the IUPUI University Library on Saturday.

We had a record number of attendees for the stellar pre-conference sessions, which provided additional learning opportunities. Sessions were presented by PALNI OCLC, the Stone-Campbell Denominational Group, the Wabash Center, ATLA Publishing Program, and the Special Collections Interest Group. New this year was a THATCamp, which held “unconference sessions” that were decided by the participants.

The work of the 2017–18 Conference Committee concluded with the close of the Indianapolis conference after a brief review of the implementation of all conference activities. The committee then turned its thoughts and the meeting to begin conversations about the 2019 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Get your passports ready to join us in Vancouver, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, June 12–15, 2019.