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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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## Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By Donna Wells, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Donna Wells, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chair
- Ondrea Murphy, Delaware State University
- Evan Boyd, United Lutheran Seminary
- Lee Staman, Center for Action & Contemplation
- Drew Baker, Claremont School of Theology
- Roger Morales, ATLA Staff Liaison

The Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) spent this past year in very productive activity. At the in-person meeting in Chicago in October 2017, with the help of Gillian Harrison-Cain, the committee prioritized and drafted a three-year plan of action. The first order of business was to make the scholarship offered annually by the committee more attractive (by raising the dollar amount) and contacting more library schools to make them aware of the scholarship. Spearheaded by Drew Baker, committee members all helped in contacting various schools and were rewarded with over two dozen applications.

At the annual conference, DEI was involved with two presentations. In one, the Rev. Suzanne Wille of All Saints Church in Indianapolis



[Front row, left to right] Ondrea Murphy, Donna Wells, [Back row, left to right] Evan Boyd, Drew Baker, Lee Staman, Roger Morales

presented a talk on the history of her church, which has had a reputation for diversity, equality, and inclusion since its founding in 1864. In the other session, DEI partnered with the World Religions Interest Group to sponsor an interfaith discussion. This revolved around a movement called Focolare, which in Indianapolis is a relationship between the Muslim and Irish-Catholic communities. Both sessions were well-attended and well-received, and we hope to find some equally compelling topics for the conference next year in Vancouver.

Also, in Indianapolis the committee sponsored a poster session to gauge the interest of ATLA members in a webinar series that would focus on practical library issues such as doing research and collection development. The webinar series was one of the potential goals in the three-year plan, and the committee did sponsor a webinar on mentorship presented by Donna Wells in March 2018.

Work continues by the committee under the new leadership of Evan Boyd with some exciting projects on the horizon. One will be the practical webinar series, and there is groundwork being done on an oral history project for ATLA. The committee continues to brainstorm ideas for engaging a more diverse membership—racially, ethnically, and religiously.

We are still a fairly new committee that has experienced many changes over the past few years, but all the committee members are excited and committed to fulfilling our goals in the three-year plan. Stay tuned!