

# **Conference on the Bible in American Life**

**Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel**

**August 6-8, 2014**

## **Wednesday**

**Reception in Panorama Ballroom**

**5:00-7:00**

## **Thursday**

**Session One: 8:30-10:15**

### **The Bible in Contemporary Lives and Congregations (Panorama Ballroom)**

- Corwin Smidt (Calvin College), "The Continuing Distinctive Role of the Bible in American Lives: A Comparative Analysis"
- Ida Smith (Presbyterian Church, USA), "The Bible in Presbyterian Life: Findings from the Presbyterian Panel (USA)"
- Diane Jacobson (Luther Seminary and ELCA Book of Faith Initiative), "Challenges and Opportunities Facing Congregations Wishing to Become More Engaged with Scripture"

### **Lait Reading: Purpose and Practice (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Brendan Pietsch (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan), "Reference Bibles and Interpretive Authority"
- Garrett Spivey (Auburn University), "Let Us Be Attentive: The Orthodox Study Bible, Converts, and the Debate on Orthodox Lay Uses of Scripture"
- Matthew Avery Sutton (Washington State University), "Reading the Bible to Know the Future"

***Break: 10:15-10:45***

**Session Two: 10:45-12:15**

### **Passing Down Biblical Culture (Panorama Ballroom)**

- Liana Lupas (American Bible Society) and Mary Cordato (American Bible Society), "The Book of Life: Family Bibles in America"
- Russell Dalton (Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University), "A Survey of the Children's Bible throughout American History"

### **The Bible in American Indigenous Music (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Jason Bivins (North Carolina State University), “‘Spirits Rejoice!’: Jazz and the Bible in American Religion”
- Paul Harvey (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), “The Soul’s Train: The Bible and Southern Folk and Popular Music”

***Lunch: 12:15-1:45***

**Session Three: 1:45-3:30**

**The Enduring King James Version (Panorama Ballroom)**

- Paul Gutjahr (Indiana University, Bloomington), “Reception Studies vs. Production Studies: Revisiting the Popularity of the King James Bible in American Culture”
- Jason Hentschel (University of Dayton), “Thy Word is True: King James Onlyism and the Quest for Certainty in American Evangelical Life”
- Donald Keeney (Seminary of the Southwest), “The Bible in Culture in Google Books”

**Bible Reading and Parachurch Organizations (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Christopher Cantwell (University of Missouri-Kansas City), “Where Two or More are Gathered: Protestant Bible Reading as a Communal Act”
- Sophie Bjork-James (Vanderbilt University), “Reading the Bible with James Dobson: Parachurch Organizations, Christian Media, and the Construction of ‘the Biblical Worldview’”
- Arlene Sanchez Walsh (Azusa Pacific University), “‘God is Money in the Bank!’: Word of Faith, Media, and Changing Perceptions of the Bible”

***Break: 3:30-4:00***

**Session Four: 4:00-5:30**

**The Bible in Education (Panorama Ballroom)**

- Steven Bird (Taylor University), “The Scripture Engagement of Students at Christian Colleges”
- John Kutsko (Society for Biblical Literature), “Challenges for Educators Teaching the Bible in a Multi-Religious Context”

**The Bible in Developing Religious Movements (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Amy Easton-Flake (Brigham Young University), “Biblical Women in the Woman’s Exponent: The Bible in Nineteenth-Century Mormonism”
- Sylvester Johnson (Northwestern University), “Moorish Science, Ethnogenesis, and Scriptural Practice”

***Dinner: 5:30-7:30***

**Public Plenary Address**

7:30pm  
Christ Church Cathedral

“The Bible: Then and Now”  
Mark Noll, University of Notre Dame  
125 Monument Circle

## Friday

### Session Five: 8:30-10:15

#### **The Bible as Book: From Print to Digital (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Daniel Vaca (Brown University), “Making Bibles into Books: The Evangelical Book Industry’s Turn Toward the Bible, 1950-1980”
- John Weaver (Abilene Christian University), “Transforming Practice: American Bible Reading in Digital Culture”
- Bryan Bibb (Furman University), “Readers and their E-Bibles: The Shape and Authority of the Hypertext Canon”

#### **The Bible in Early America (Circle Center)**

- Linford D. Fisher (Brown University), “America’s First Bible: Native Uses (and Abuses) of the Indian Bible of 1663”
- Jan Stievermann (University of Heidelberg, Germany), “The Debate over Prophetic Evidence for the Authority of the Bible in Cotton Mather’s *Biblia Americana*”
- Robert E. Brown (James Madison University), “Navigating the Loss of Interpretative Innocence: Reading the ‘Enlightenment’ Bible in Early Modern America”

**Break: 10:15-10:45**

### Session Six: 10:45-12:15

#### **The Bible, Politics, and Society (Meridian West Ballroom)**

- Laura Olson (Clemson University), “Biblical and Political Orientations among Contemporary Americans”
- Claudia Setzer (Manhattan College), “The Bible and the Legacy of First Wave Feminism”

#### **The Bible in American Literature (Circle Center)**

- Beth Schweiger (University of Arkansas), “Reading the Bible in a Romantic Era”
- Daniel Silliman (University of Heidelberg, Germany), “The Bible in the Evangelical Imagination”

**Lunch: 12:15-1:45**

**Session Seven: 1:45-3:30**

**How the Bible is Read: Uses and Meanings (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Lyman Kellstedt (Wheaton College), "Bible Reading in America: A Portrait of the Past Twenty Years"
- Amanda Friesen (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), "Sex and Scripture: How American Men and Women Read the Bible"
- J. Derrick Lemons (University of Georgia), "Feels Right Exegesis: Qualitative Research on How Millennials Read the Bible"

**The Bible in Folk and Popular Culture (Circle Suite)**

- James Bielo (Miami University, Ohio), "Literalism as Creativity: The Making of a Biblical Theme Park"
- Robert Royalty (Wabash College), "Staging the Bible: Performing Jesus at the Holy Land Experience"
- Sara Patterson (Hanover College), "'A Mountainload of the Lord's Word': The Word as Image, The Word as Object"

***Break: 3:30-4:00***

**Session Eight: 4:00-5:30**

**Personal Responsibility and Religious Authority (Meridian Ballroom West)**

- Rebecca Barrett-Fox (Arkansas State University), "Money Talks: Biblical Teaching on Personal Finance, Debt, and Economic Policy"
- Seth Perry (Princeton University), "'Remember thy Creator': Memory, Citation, and Religious Authority"

**Biblical Interpretation and Social Hierarchies (Circle Suite)**

- Emerson Powery (Messiah College), "The Origins of Whiteness and the Black (Biblical) Imagination: The Bible in the 'Slave Narrative' Tradition"
- Edward J. Blum (San Diego State University), "From Curses to Contexts: The Book of Genesis, the Power of History, and Everyday Bible Readers in America"

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**5:30-7:30**