

# Reflecting on Religion and Philanthropy: Past and Present

Giving to religion makes up a third of all giving in America, and over half of all Americans say their religious or spiritual values motivate their philanthropic giving. If this is the case, why do religion and money remain such taboo topics in our society?

The full philanthropic impact of religious communities goes far beyond finances. The story of religious philanthropy speaks to when, why, and how religious institutions engage their broader communities in volunteering, advocacy, and cultivating a civil society.

- Is philanthropy primarily meant to take care of those within one's own community or the larger society?
- Does philanthropy provide for basic needs or promote institutional change?
- Should religious giving develop an individual's character, shape the morality of society, or are such purposes off limits in a pluralist society?

**Thursday, May 17, 2018**

5:30-7:00 p.m.

410 E. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Athenaeum  
(Damenvervein room)

**Moderated by:**  
David P. King &  
Philip Goff

**Two leading historians will share their reflections on what we can learn from the intersections of religion and philanthropy in the past and what issues might define the topic into the future.**



**Jim Hudnut-Beumler**

Anne Potter Wilson Distinguished  
Professor of American Religious History  
Vanderbilt University



**David Hammack**

Hiram C. Haydn Professor of History  
Case Western University