

VOX SCHOLARIUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF SCHOLARS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Creation of Humankind, by Frederick Hart, Washington National Cathedral

Second Virtual Conference to Take Place on February 25 - 26, 2022

Given the success of our first Virtual Conference in February 2021 the Executive Committee proposes to continue using Zoom technology to meet and keep in touch between our regular in-person meetings. We therefore decided to sponsor a virtual conference this year to take advantage of interactive video. This meeting will have limited but important content: a social gathering, on Friday (02/18); and one paper presentation, a worship service, and a short business meeting on Saturday (02/19).

All the information needed for this meeting is contained in this issue of the *Vox Scholarium* but will be supplemented by reminder e-mails.

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Zoom Instructions

Simple instructions for joining the several online sessions of the Virtual Conference will be sent to members by e-mail prior to the meeting. Our President, Ed Hansen, who is an experienced user of Zoom technology, will be the host of the sessions.

• **The Virtual Conference will consist of a series of online events, scheduled so that members in the several continental time zones will be able to participate within reasonable day-time hours.** The schedule of events can be seen below. All times are listed in Standard Time from each of the four USA zones.

Friday, February 25, 2022 - Social Gathering and Meet-and-Greet for new members

8:30-10PM EST; 7:30-9:00PM CST; 6:30-8:00PM MST; 5:30-7PM PST

Meeting Link:

<https://hopecollege.zoom.us/j/93618770598?pwd=U2pZcHdFU1hVQnB3d2VhRnFrbXdaUT09>

Meeting ID: 936 1877 0598

Passcode: **538857**

Saturday, February 26, 2022 - Mini-Conference

2:00 to 6:00 PM EST, 1:00 – 5:00 PM CST, 12:00 – 4:00 PM MST, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM PST

Meeting Link:

<https://hopecollege.zoom.us/j/99784626255?pwd=eWxsZnlob216T3Y4aTJwdHBYYVtIhQT09>

Meeting ID: 997 8462 6255

Passcode: **926562**

1. Gathering and Greetings: 21-2:30PM EST (1-1:30PM CST; 12-12:30PM MST; 11-11:30PM PST)
2. Prayer from the daily office: 2:30-3:00PM EST (1:30-2:00PM CST; 12:30-1:00PM MST; 11:30AM-12:00PM PST)
3. Paper: Anne-Marie Smith: "Saints of the Rio Grande"
3:00-4:15PM EST (2-3:15PM CST; 1-2:15PM MST; 12-1:15PM PST)
4. Brief Business Meeting: 4:15-4:45PM EST (3:15-3:45PM CST; 2:15-2:45PM MST; 1:15-1:45PM PST)
5. Reception for new members: 4:45-6:00PM EST (3:45-5:00PM CST; 2:45-4:00PM MST; 1:15-3:00PM PST)

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The featured presentation at the February 2022 Virtual Conference of the Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church will be made by our new member Dr. Anne Marie Werner-Smith, an educator and potter in Bosque Farms, N.M. She studied at Regents College and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and received a Ph.D in Curriculum and Instruction in Multi Cultural Teacher Education from the University of New Mexico. She teaches English writing at Santa Fe Community College and her work in pottery, most recently in images of the saints, is on display in many galleries. Currently, she has a show on the Santos of the Rio Grande at La Galleria in Mountainair. She will discuss this work in her virtual talk for the Guild of Scholars.



St. Clare - Santa Clara



San Isidro

St. Augustine of Hippo, Patron
Saint of Isleta Pueblo

These images that Dr. Werner-Smith has created will help illustrate her paper on the “Saints of the Rio Grande Pueblos” and the rich history of New Mexico’s cross-cultural spirituality and artistic output.

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Short Bios of Members admitted during the 2021 meeting

1. **John Singleton** is a physicist with a doctorate from Oxford University who has also taught at Oxford University and now works at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has six patents, two technical copyrights, and around 500 refereed papers. In addition to his work in physics and electrical engineering, John has published papers on musical instrument history and the interface between science and theology. He is also an amateur organist and choir director.

2. **Sarah Jean Barton** received a ThD in Theology and Ethics from Duke Divinity School for a dissertation titled “Becoming the Baptized Body: Disability, Baptism, and the Practice of Christian Community”. She is an author on seventeen papers and articles in both scholarly and non-scholarly publications many of which deal with the theology of disability. She is currently an assistant professor with joint appointments in Duke School of Medicine and Duke Divinity School. She is currently serving on the vestry of her local parish.

3. **Anne Marie Werner-Smith** has a PhD in Multicultural Curriculum and Education and ESL from the University of New Mexico. However, her main creative activity is as an artist with an emphasis on stoneware slab sculpting. She has exhibited at numerous shows and galleries and has won several awards. She incorporates scholarship into her art. For example, her most recent solo show is based on Patron Saints of the Rio Grande Pueblos and required research into New Mexican Colonial art and the depictions of saints by traditional religious artists in New Mexico. She is currently Bishop’s Warden at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Rio Communities, Belen, NM.

The quality of the Guild of Scholars in future years depends on who we invite to join this year. If you know someone with intellectual or artistic accomplishments who also identifies with the Episcopal Church, this is a potential member of the Guild.



In order to nominate this person you should enumerate some of their accomplishments (for example significant publications, creative works, awards, recognitions, offices in professional societies or consultative bodies and so on) and evidence of their identification with the Episcopal Church.

Then please send this information to Ed Hansen (hansen@hope.edu) who will forward it to the New Members Committee.

The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2022.

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**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the
Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church****[in-person at Virginia Theological Seminary (hereafter VTS) and via Zoom, 23 October 2021]**

In attendance for all or part of the meeting were Guild members: Nicholas Birns, Robert Benson, Mary Ellen Bowden, Mark Brown, Royce Boyer, Mary Cayton, Marsha Dutton, Rozanne Elder, Clare Francomano, James Gale[?], John Gatta, Edward Hansen, Jameela Lares, Deborah Shuger, Frederick Smith, Warren Smith, Alec Valentine, Thomas Willard, and Peter Williams, as well as potential new members Sarah Barton and John Singleton, along with non-member James Gale. Members attending on Zoom were assisted in hearing comments by means of a roving microphone, with a few unintentional mutings of the microphone as face-to-face members became familiar with the technology.

Ed Hansen **called the meeting to order** at 4:09 p.m. EDT and asked if there were a motion to **approve the agenda**. Peter Williams moved, the motion was seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion was approved.

The next item on the agenda was the **Report of the Membership Committee and Approval of New Members**. Of the four members approved by the committee, one had shown no interest, but the other three were either in attendance--Sarah Barton and John Singleton—or unable to attend due to a conflict, Anne Marie Werner-Smith. Warren Smith moved to accept John Singleton for membership, John Gatta seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. As for Sarah Barton and eventually Anne Marie Werner-Smith, the president requested that we loosen the rules on in-person attendance, given the unusual situation of the pandemic. After some discussion on the pros and cons of the motion, it passed with no opposition and one abstention. Ed Hansen urged that at our next annual meeting in New Mexico, we need extensive in-person meetings.

Ed Hansen reminded the members that the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Business Meeting had been published in *Vox Scholarium* and that both those minutes and those of the shorter business meeting of February 21, 2021 had been included in the information packet. He asked if there were any corrections to those minutes. Marsha Dutton noted that her name had been misspelled three times as “Martha” in the Annual Minutes. Royce Boyer moved that the Annual Meeting minutes be approved as amended, and Peter Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Alec Valentine moved that the February 21, 2020 minutes be approved, Nicholas Birns seconded the motion, and it was also carried unanimously.

Reports followed from those members of the Executive Committee whose information was most relevant to the meeting.

For the **Treasurer’s Report**, Alec Valentine directed our attention to his report in the packet, saying that the Guild’s finances were still in good shape, because most of the current expenses

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for the conferences were being paid by the members in attendance. Royce Boyer inquired what other expenses there were, but Alec advised that the room we were meeting in at VTS was only be charged at \$100 per day. Royce recommended that we made a small contribution of perhaps \$200 to some fund at the seminary to express our appreciation. Marsha Dutton suggested a \$500 scholarship, to assist in seminarian travel. After some discussion and separating out the approval of the minutes from the motion to make a small contribution to VTS, Alec Valentine moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Bob Benson seconded that motion, and it passed unanimously. Marsha Dutton moved that we make a gift to VTS of \$500 for seminarian travel in expression of our gratitude. Mary Cayton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ed Hansen recommended that we read his **President's Report** in the packet but went over the main issues, in some cases adopting the agenda to the conversation. Ed noted that the past year had required most of the executive committee's energy and time in trying to adjust to the coronavirus. He reviewed the pending issue of **incorporation**, which he was willing to do, but he wanted to ask if there were any objections before he proceeded. This request led to a number of remarks on the **bylaws** and particularly the membership policy, which as Marsha Dutton pointed out not yet been completely approved because meetings to discuss it had always gotten derailed on the definition of "scholar."

Ed Hansen said that unless there were objections, he would schedule a meet and greet just to chat in late November or early December. He would also schedule a virtual business meeting for early winter along with a virtual talk. He noted the request for some shorter talks to increase participation, since scholars might not have institutional support unless they spoke at a meeting. There had also been the thought of scholarships to help defray the cost of travel; the New Mexico meeting in 2022 would be an important "coming out of COVID meeting," and at that time we could schedule some shorter talks.

Since the New Mexico meeting was being discussed, Warren Smith noted **in lieu of a formal Vice President's report** that we needed to decide on a date, since the Norbertine Abbey was waiting to hear. The dates in question were 10/28-30. We could alternatively have the week following, 11/4-6. There was discussion about those two weekends, which generally favored the second option. Warren also praised the new venue, the Norbertine Abbey, a retreat for monks in Albuquerque, having been to several events there. (The Bosque Center where we spent our 2017 annual meeting is up for sale and no longer available.) The events coordinator, Patty Davis, is great, and they are excited about our coming. If we want, we can take a field trip to the atomic museum, with lunch at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The Abbey also has services—evening prayer every night and a Sunday morning church service in which we will join the monks. They also have plenty of room; they are having a big expansion. We will, however, need to hire a caterer to provide food from their kitchen.

Ed Hansen signaled **a return to the agenda**. He had heard enough concern about the bylaws that he would not yet proceed with incorporation. Mark Brown volunteered to be on a small

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committee to review the bylaws and input any suggestions from the membership as a whole. The bylaws could be sent out in their current state to the members, who would have two weeks to comment on them, after which the committee could try to incorporate those suggestions as possible for a meeting of the whole membership, with someone serving as the advocate for the new draft of the bylaws to direct the discussion. Ed Hansen asked to sit on that committee as well, but he would need to delay some three weeks due to other heavy commitments. He asked for other volunteers. Marsha Dutton pointed out that the only real issue in the bylaws was the membership policy, and that that was nearly ready to go. She pointed out that the issue was tabled at Sewanee, two meetings ago, and tends always to founder when we try to define “scholarship,” but that she thought that they had developed some pretty good language, and she offered to send out the document they had in hand to the membership. Nicholas Burns pointed out that in his 24 years as a member of the Guild, no unqualified person had become a member. The goal for the bylaws should be good, inclusive language that would keep the question from coming up again. Peter Wright, Frederick Smith, and Debora Shuger volunteered to be additional committee members, and Marsha Dutton agreed to serve on it as well. There was some discussion on how the committee members could agree on times for a Zoom meeting.

The next item of business was the **Mission Statement**. Ed Hansen reminded the meeting that members had been encouraged to send comments to a dedicated listserv but that those comments had bogged down on the definition of scholar, and there had been no traffic on that listserv for months. He said that for purposes of incorporation, the Guild only needs a Statement of Purpose, which he has already drafted and which should be considered by the committee just constituted because of its close relation to the bylaws. He therefore would not be asking for discussion the Statement of Purpose at the moment, but it could be found in the President’s Report.

Nominations Committee Report: The Executive Committee acted as nominations committee this year. The hope was to find a President, and that Ed would then for continuity step into the position of Corresponding Secretary. No one, however, accepted a nomination for President, and the Executive Committee had asked the general membership for nominations without success. As a result, Ed Hansen will serve for one more year, with the understanding that someone else will serve after that. Bob Benson will continue to serve as Corresponding Secretary for a year. Nicholas Birns regretted that he could not step into the presidency in 2022, because he is already serving another organization as president, but he could step in for 2023, so we would still be without a President after the 2022 annual meeting. Royce Boyer said that we should consider the Albuquerque meeting would be a new beginning with the pandemic hopefully being over, the bylaws finished, and the Guild revitalized with new blood, and that perhaps we could use the word “relaunch” or some such catchy word in our announcement of the meeting. The president entertained a motion that the Executive Committee continue for one more year. Peter Williams so moved, Royce Boyer seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed without opposition.

The last item of business was the **Future of the Guild**, for which Ed Hansen had included a statement in his President’s Report, but which he summarized. The old method of gaining members

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will not longer serve us, and we need to find a way to reach out. Besides a clear membership policy, we need to be more open to self-nominations. We have to be more attractive by updating the Guild web page and by making more use of technology to stay in touch with either other between annual meetings. We have to be clearer on what we offer new members, which includes friendships with other Episcopalians who are also interested in scholarship, creative activity, etc. Jameela Lares moved and Peter Williams seconded that we hire someone to redesign the web page. One issue of discussion was the outdated information on the web page and also Wikipedia. It was also no longer easy or even possible to edit the system of the existing web page. Nicholas Birns volunteered to update Wikipedia, though anyone could help him edit. Bob Benson recommended that once the web page was easily manageable by one of us, that the position of Corresponding Secretary be ended in favor of a Communications and Marketing Officer. John Singleton asked if we should also consider social media, and Bob Benson agreed it should be considered, though not at the moment. The motion to hire someone to redesign the web page passed unanimously. Rozanne Elder asked to revive a question that had not been answered, which was clergy membership. Ed Hansen commented that one reason would be that there is already an association for clergy-scholars that is recognized by the Episcopal Church and we should be careful of treading on their territory. Marsha Dutton reminded us that greater social media presence might mean the need for the membership committee to check application credentials even more carefully. Peter Williams moved for an expression of gratitude to the Executive Committee for being willing to serve for another year. The motion was seconded by numerous members and passed unanimously.

Mary Cayton moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously at 5:51 p.m. EDT.



Aerial view of the campus at Virginia Theological Seminary

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As an addendum to his report, our Treasurer Alec Valentine offers this table of our accounts.

Guild Accounts:

I. Checking Account	Sept. 30, 2018	Sept. 30, 2019	Sept 30, 2021
	\$4,936.41	\$4,527.01	\$8419.49
II. Paypal Account	Sept. 30, 2018	Sept. 30, 2019	Sept 30, 2021
	\$3,971.14	\$1,126.93	\$357.53

III. Individual Statements

(The Treasurer will provide an individual statement of a member’s payments upon request.)

IV. Details of Activity

INCOME	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
DUES	\$1125	\$ 975 (39 paying)	\$560(25)	\$600(27)
DONATIONS	\$ 463	\$ 390	\$100	0
ANNUAL MTG PMTS	<u>\$4653</u>	<u>\$4142</u>		<u>\$1241.75</u>
TOTAL	\$6241	\$5507		\$1841.75

EXPENDITURES

CONFERENCE	2018	2019	2021
Meeting Place	\$3598.00	\$ 3987.20	\$1702
Banquet	\$1035.00	0	\$500 (est.)
Music Honorarium	\$ 0.00	0	0
Other (reception)	\$ 140.00	0	\$100
PAYPAL FEES	\$ 115.03	\$ 45.07	\$22.22
WEBSITE	<u>\$ 213.86</u>	<u>(\$ 707.79)</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$4888.03	\$4032.27	\$2324.22

V. RECAP SINCE LAST BUSINESS MEETING

Cash Balance	30 Sept. 2018	\$8907.55
Cash Balance	30 Sept. 2019	\$5653.94
Cash Balance	30 Sept. 2021	\$8777.02

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News of Members

We continue to look for news of members to publish in the *Vox Scholarium*. Since our members are productive scholars or artists, there must be much to publicize. Please forward any such information along with images (jpeg, gif, or png format) to the editor: Bob Benson by e-mail at bensonra@miamioh.edu or by snail mail at 6090 Contreras Road, Oxford OH 45056.

Officers of the Guild

Ed Hansen, President (hansen@hope.edu)

Warren Smith, Vice-President, Program Director
(warrensmth0@gmail.com)

Jameela Lares, Recording Secretary
(jameela.lares@usm.edu)

Bob Benson, Corresponding Secretary,
editor of the *Vox Scholarium* and Webmaster
(bensonra@miamioh.edu)

Alec Valentine, Treasurer (acvalenti@yahoo.com)

Website: www.guildofscholars.org



An interpretation of a classical scholar as an evangelist in the Ebbo Gospels (816-835).