

SOCIETY FOR REFORMATION RESEARCH
BUSINESS MEETING
28 OCTOBER 2017, MILWAUKEE

MINUTES

Karin Maag called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. She welcomed all the members to the 2017 business meeting.

1. Approval of 2016 Minutes (Karin Maag)—minutes attached

Karen Spierling moved to approve the 2016 minutes; Ward Holder seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

1. Nominating Committee Report (Chad Gunnoe and Karin Maag)

Chad Gunnoe thanked Nominating Committee Members Jill Fehleison and Sigrun Haude for their work on the committee. He then presented the following slate of candidates to be approved:

- Vice President/President Elect (initial two-year term): Kathryn Edwards, University of South Carolina
- Nominating Committee (three-year term): Jonathan Reid, East Carolina University
- At-Large Member of Executive Council (four-year term): Geoffrey Dipple, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

Ward Holder moved to accept the slate of nominees; Jill Fehleison seconded. The nominees were accepted unanimously.

Chad announced that Amy Nelson Burnett has agreed to serve another term as Program Committee Chair.

2. Membership Report (Randy Head for Victoria Christman)

Randy Head reported that active members have increased from 86 to 116, with 21 of that 30-member increase being new members. We are pleased to see this and hope this trend continues.

3. Treasurer's Report (Randy Head for Robert Christman)

Randy Head reported that thanks to Robert Christman's care management of our funds, we have stable balance in all of our accounts. He did note that we have had some difficulties because memberships are being paid via Paypal throughout the year making it more challenging to estimate the number of ARG volumes to order. He also announced that the ARG Literaturbericht will not be published this year; those members who ordered it will be contacted and reimbursed.

4. Nischan Award and Chrisman Travel Fellowship (Karin Maag)

Chrisman Fellowship Award

Karen Spierling, the chair of the Chrisman Travel Award committee, announced that the Chrisman Fellowship Committee received 12 applications for the 2017 prize. After due consideration, the committee selected Adam M. Bonikowske, who is working at the University of Arizona under the direction of Susan Karant-Nunn and Ute Lotz-Heumann, to be this year's recipient. Bonikowske's project, "Anabaptist Masculinity in Reformation Germany: Challenges to Civic Norms in Radical Religiosity," considers "how early Anabaptists developed a

subversive political and social ethic through their theology, [and seeks] to emphasize how this subversion undermined the normative masculine ideal in early modern Germany.” Within a pool of 12 strong applications describing many interesting projects, Bonikowske’s stood out for the clarity, coherence, and eloquence of his proposal, for the specific and achievable (yet still ambitious) research plan he outlined, and for the persuasive case he made that this travel and research are crucial to his overall project. He is currently using the Chrisman Fellowship to cover his travel expenses during the 6 months that he is spending in Germany from August 2017 to February 2018. His proposal and the letter of support from Professor Karant-Nunn made it clear that he has the training and linguistic skills necessary to work with his primary sources. In the committee's view, his project has excellent potential to make a significant, even transformative contribution to the field of Reformation history.

Karin Maag thanked the Chrisman Award committee for their work and noted the healthy number of applications shows a strong presence of continued research in the field.

Karin then announced that we would be awarding Susan Karant-Nunn the 2016 Bodo Nischan Award this year because Susan had been unable to attend the 2016 SCSC in Bruges last August. Before presenting the award, Karin read a letter from Anne Jacobson Schutte nominating Susan Karant-Nunn for the award: “Dear Karin, the three criteria for the Nischan Award, which Susan, Merry Wiesner, and I initiated, are scholarship, service, and civility. Scholarship: Susan's record of publications is outstanding. So is her record of service. For twelve years she served (with me) as North American co-editor of the ARG, and she served a term as president of the SRR. She's now on one of the committees planning the Luther year activities. And, of course, for about 15 years she has run the Division for Late Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Arizona, now the best place in the country for training Reformation scholars. Civility: I know no one in our branch of the historical profession who equals, let alone surpasses, her courtesy and willingness to help students, beginning scholars, and peers. Is this enough, or do you need more? Best, Anne”. Karin then handed Susan a framed award, expressing the great pleasure and gratitude for her work and example on behalf of the Society for Reformation Research.

Susan Karant-Nunn thanked the SRR and remarked that fewer members remember Bodo Nischan as time passes. She then recounted a few of her own memories of Bodo, describing what a joy he was to be around, his contributions to the Society for Reformation Research, including his assiduous attending to SRR meetings, and his wonderful scholarship. She emphasized his important role as a peacemaker in bringing people together and his reputation for civility. She then mentioned that this was why the SRR named this award after him. She concluded by stating how deeply she was honored to receive the award for all of these reasons.

Karin announced that the committee for the 2018 Nischan Award has been set up and will be soliciting nominations in the spring.

6. *Archive for Reformation History* Report (Brad Gregory)

Brad Gregory reported that the 2017 volume of the ARG has been published and said that they were actively seeking submissions for future issues of the journal.

7. *Programming* (Rudy Almasy and Amy Nelson Burnett)

Rudy Almas reported that there were three well-attended SRR sessions at the 52nd International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in 2017 and that sessions have been submitted for the next conference. Amy Nelson Burnett reported that we had a very successful series of 19 sessions this year at the SCSC. She thanked Victoria Christman and Ute Lotz-Heumann for help putting together the 13 sessions honoring Merry Wiesner-Hanks and Susan Karant-Nunn. She also stated that SRR will be sponsoring sessions at the 2019 ASCH conference.

8. Web and Facebook Page (Michael Bruening)

Michael Bruening reported that the SRR web page continues to be updated and that we are going to keep a section on upcoming conferences of interest to our members. He then reported that the SRR Facebook page has been created and now has over 250 followers.

9. Listserv (Beth Plummer for Randall Zachman)

Nothing to report.

10. 2017 Anniversary Planning Committee (Ward Holder for David Whitford)

Ward Holder reported that the 2017 planning committee undertook a large number of initiatives that came to fruition this year. This began with the 2016 NEH summer institute, “Teaching the Reformation after Five Hundred Years”, held at Calvin College under the guidance of Karin Maag, David Whitford, and Katherine Van Liere. Members from the committee and the SRR planning chair helped organize 15 lively sessions on the Reformation for the combined 2017 ASCH/AHA conference in Denver, after a successful number of sessions at the 2016 conference. The SRR then cosponsored two very delightful sessions at the Calvin Studies Society biennial conference at Baylor, and an edited conference volume has been accepted by Brill. All the planning and meetings on the SRR-VRG joint conference led to a fantastic conference. Ward then read a short message from David Whitford: “This committee began eight years ago, I believe. Over the past two years, it has been deeply gratifying to see all the behind-the-scenes work finally come to fruition. If I might be granted a moment of personal privilege, let me thank those who made this possible. The committee itself – Kathryn Edwards, Ward Holder, Ute Lotz-Heumann, and Beth Plummer. The 2016 NEH Summer Institute could not have happened without the help and support of Karin Maag. The 2017 Calvin Colloquium depended upon the efforts of SRR members Barbara Pitkin and Ezra Plank. The Nuremberg conference, our largest endeavor by far, would never have happened without the tireless work and support of Beth Plummer. I am in debt to all of them, as is the Society. I thank them each from the very depth of my heart.”

11. Other New Business (Karin Maag)

Karin Maag then thanked the departing members of the executive committee—Wietse De Boer, Chad Gunnoe, Emmet McLaughlin—as well as the members of the 2017 Anniversary Planning committee for their efforts on behalf of SRR. She welcomed Randy Head in as the new SRR President beginning on January 1, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Plummer