



## President's Newsletter, February 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I find myself writing this letter already a month in the new year and I am excited about what this year will bring. Limiting myself to matters of the Academy, I really look forward to our conference in July-August, which Ed Foley is preparing with so much dedication and skill. It will be great to meet many of you again or for the first time and to share our efforts in building practical theology as a discipline that is at the forefront of our societies, our religious traditions, and their interface. There may be differences – major differences even – in how we envision practical theology, but we are united in our efforts to show the relevance and viability of our discipline.

I believe it is not a coincidence that IAPT is an Academy rather than an association. The term suggests much more dedication to a common goal and willingness to work together and join our insights, work and creativity. For that reason, our conferences are the highlight of our life as an academy. Those are the moments of intense exchanges and inspiring encounters. It is also the reason that participation in conferences is a sine qua non of membership. Of course there may be reasons why you cannot join us this August in Chicago, but I certainly hope we will have a large attendance. If you find yourself unable to attend, please send me a request to be excused.

### Conference procedures

There are a few issues I wish to share with you at this point to make sure the organization of our conference runs smoothly:

- The call for papers had a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>. We assume that all members signing up for a paper will be given that opportunity. Guests willing to present a paper can be accommodated as far as the schedule allows us. Junior guests (like PhD students) are encouraged to present a poster. If you have not yet sent in your paper abstract, please do so immediately, knowing that you are overdue! Please send them to Ed Foley at [conference@ia-pt.org](mailto:conference@ia-pt.org).
- The second step is that you will have to register for the conference. The registration form is found online at [www.ia-pt.org](http://www.ia-pt.org) > conference. If you want to extend the invitation to other colleagues, keep in mind that guests will be accepted upon discretion of the local host and executive committee. A request to be invited can be made through the registration form as well.
- Third, you will probably need accommodation. On the website, you will find information on housing and meal plans.
- Then you will have to pay. On the payment section of the website, you can pay the conference fee as well as your dues. Up to date payment of dues is necessary for your registration to be processed. If you don't know your payment status, please contact our treasurer Pam Couture ([treasurer@ia-pt.org](mailto:treasurer@ia-pt.org)). If you have a problem paying your dues, please let us know.

Some of you have already either paid, registered, or booked accommodation, but it is imperative that you do all three (unless you have accommodation of your own, of course).

### Travel fund

As Executive Committee, we understand that the present economic situation makes it more difficult to come to the conference, especially for those in underprivileged regions. We therefore wish to make a start with a kind of travel fund. We will discuss a proper procedure for that at the business meeting during the conference, but for now we will simply offer the opportunity of donating through the payment section of

the website. Please feel free to give (or not to). We will use the donations and possibly some of the available yields from the dues to support colleagues in joining us.

If you are in need of support and come from an underprivileged region, please contact me ([president@ia-pt.org](mailto:president@ia-pt.org)) to see whether we can be of help.

### **New members**

I promised to send you the names of new members accepted by the Executive Committee. We hope to see many of them at our next conference and have informed them that their membership commences upon their participation in our conference. I am very happy to say the list refers to 18 members from 11 different countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, and America. We could have had more female nominees, but we are very glad to see so many interesting new members from Korea, Finland, India, Italy, Spain and other places. Here are the names:

- Dale P. Andrews (USA)
- Francis-Vincent Anthony (India, working in Rome)
- Tom Beaudoin (USA)
- Rainer Bucher (Austria)
- Hee Sung Chung (Mrs.) (Korea)
- Johan Cilliers (South Africa)
- Brian Froehle (USA)
- Paavo Kettunen (Finland)
- Hyun Sook Kim (Mrs.) (Korea)
- Raymond Kumalo (South Africa)
- Sergio Lanza (Italy)
- Roy Lazar (India)
- Isabelle Noth (Switzerland)
- Ramiro Pellitero (Spain)
- Bert Roeben (Belgium, working in Germany)
- Robert Schreiter (USA)
- Gerard Whelan (Ireland, working in Rome)
- Young Gweon You (Korea)

We expect a lot from them!

### **Nominations for office**

And then there is the nomination for offices on the Executive Committee 2009-2011. We propose the following members to be appointed:

- |   |                 |                        |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| - | President       | Bonnie Miller-McLemore |
| - | Vice-president  | Jean-Guy Nadeau        |
| - | Secretary       | Heather Walton         |
| - | Treasurer       | Pamela Couture         |
| - | Conference host | depends on location    |
| - | Member at large | Jaco Dreyer            |
| - | Member at large | Neil Pembroke          |

I am convinced that these colleagues will be more than able to steer IAPT into the future and build further on what has been done in the past years. I therefore offer this nomination with the greatest confidence.

Now you have the possibility of offering an alternative nomination. Our by-laws state: "Alternative candidates for one or all of the offices may be nominated by a petition containing ten signatures of current members. Petitioners shall ascertain, and indicate in their petition, that their nominee is willing to serve if elected. Petitions must be received by the President of the Academy three months prior to the next scheduled official conference of the Academy." This means that you have to send in your petition no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. I will gladly accept alternative nominations to present to the membership meeting.

### **Conference 2011**

One final point. In Berlin 2007 we discussed the option of having our 2011 conference in Brazil. At present, the Executive Committee does not have the confidence that we will be able to organize it like that. Additionally, given the current economic situation and our experience in past conferences, we are hesitant to propose a conference location outside Europe or North America, because we expect that would mean a dramatically lower attendance. There is a lot to be said for meeting in other places in this world and

supporting regional groups of colleagues, but we are not sure we can offer you a solid proposal for a meeting in Brazil. We are therefore developing a proposal to have our 2011 conference in Amsterdam. Obviously this will be debated in Chicago at our business meetings, but I did not want to keep these developments from you.

Thank you for your attention and participation in IAPT. If you have any question or comment, please let me know.

Sincerely

Ruard Ganzevoort  
president