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International Academy  
of Practical Theology



[www.ia-pt.org](http://www.ia-pt.org)

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### President's Newsletter, March 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Just a brief follow-up on my previous newsletter to keep you posted and urge you to register for our conference.

1. Updated conference information can be found on the website [www.ia-pt.org](http://www.ia-pt.org). You will find a change among the key lectures. We are very happy with the highly interesting group of speakers that Ed Foley has brought together. Take a look at the names from the Academy and beyond.
2. As the number of paper proposal exceeds what we could accommodate, we have expanded the number of parallel sessions. When you are preparing your presentation, maybe you can consider the option of trying out alternative modes of presentation and exchange. I always think of practical theologians as experts in communication of religion, so we might challenge ourselves and consider optimal forms of using our time slots.
3. If you have not yet registered for the conference, now is the time to do so. After April 1 the conference fee will become \$ 275 for members and \$ 300 for others.
4. Likewise, registration for housing is best done now. CTU housing is already 60 % full and applications are dealt with on a first come first serve basis.
5. Let me mention once again the possibility for those from underprivileged regions to apply for partial funding. If you need support, let me know at [president@ia-pt.org](mailto:president@ia-pt.org).
6. If you want to make alternative nominations for the Executive Committee, please send your petition signed by 10 current members to me before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Discussion group

There is one other matter I want to bring to your attention. Our colleague Prof Robert Mager (Laval University Québec, Canada) has started a listserv discussion group on 'Issues of Method in Practical Theology'. His intention to facilitate ongoing discussion about such issues. To quote his invitation:

I encourage you to launch the discussion process by posting an "opening statement" submitting an initial reflection to the group, in response to the following question: *In terms of theory or method in Practical Theology, what single issue do you consider as problematic or as requiring clarification? Explain.*

Let me recall the purpose of this discussion group: to exchange thoughts and texts centered on issues of method in PT. Obviously, we have more formal forums to share carefully drawn papers: journals, conferences, books, etc. This group is intended for more informal and sketchy thoughts and concerns, "work-in-progress" matters, and the like. We might be more comfortable showing what we know than what puzzles us (since that matter could be crystal clear to everybody else!); but I invite us to share our thoughts and concerns with simplicity. We can help each other here.

If you are interested, please write to Robert Mager at [robert.mager@fts.ulaval.ca](mailto:robert.mager@fts.ulaval.ca).

That's it for now. I look forward to meeting many of you in Chicago.

Sincerely

Ruard Ganzevoort  
president