

# Conference

on

# Faith and History

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Vol. 13, No. 2

Fall/Winter 2008

## FROM RICK KENNEDY CFH PRESIDENT

The 2008 meeting at Bluffton University was a great success. **Perry Bush**, our site chair, along with the people of Bluffton gave us a great experience. The fall weather was perfect. The campus and surroundings are beautiful. Part of the joy of a CFH conference is visiting college communities in various parts of the country. Such places are often jewels. In 2010 we will be at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon outside of Portland. In 2012 we will be at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts outside of Boston.

Bluffton was about more than just pleasant walks with colleagues. **Barry Hankins** from Baylor organized an excellent program of diverse papers punctuated by plenary sessions that focused our thoughts on global matters. **Joel Carpenter** of the Nagel Institute at Calvin College, **John Roth** of Goshen College, and **Ogbu Kalu** of McCormick Theological Seminary gave such powerful calls for us to be more intellectually engaged with the world that the CFH Board voted to pursue some form of partnered conference in Latin America either in 2009 or 2010.

**Daniel Salinas**, one of our members from Paraguay who attended at Bluffton, is at work on this project.

Great things can come from our gatherings. We are an intellectual fellowship, and we thrive when we are together. I encourage you to do all you can to be present at our conferences. We are members of something bigger than our individual careers. We share commitments that become more vital in face-to-face communication.

One of the best developments over the last few conferences has been the fullness that comes from having departments attend. Huntington University led the way in Bluffton by showing up with two van loads of faculty and undergraduate history majors. Many colleges were represented by several faculty members with a bevy of students. Our organization is both about careers and the vocation. Our vocation entwines us with colleagues, students, and former students.

Our undergraduate conference has become an integral part of CFH. **Beth Allison Barr** from Baylor organized the undergraduate conference at Bluffton, and close to forty students presented papers. Good talks with bright undergraduates who are thinking of careers in history were had by many of us. CFH conferences support and encourage the pipeline of Christian historians.

Participation by graduate students has also been increasing and everybody should check out the new graduate student web site

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at <http://cfhgradstudents.com>. **Lauran Kerr-Heraly** from the University of Houston, our new graduate student representative on the board is doing great work. The graduate student papers in Bluffton brought cutting-edge methods and perspectives to those of us who have long been away from graduate school and graduate students.

To reward excellence we have instituted the Ronald A. Wells Prize from best undergraduate paper and the Frank C. Roberts Prize from best graduate student paper. **Matt Klopfenstein** of Bethel College, Indiana won the Wells prize, and **Mark Rogers** from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School won the Roberts Prize.

The Bluffton conference was a great scholarly experience and marks another step in making CFH more vital and more useful within the profession. I know of no other affiliate of the American Historical Association so dedicated to serving all the layers of the knowledge industry. From big universities to small colleges, from undergraduates to senior faculty, from publishing to non-publishing scholars, from individuals networking to advance their careers to whole departments hoping to be knit together in unity, from secular and public to Christian and private institutions, from classrooms within the United States to, soon, beyond, CFH is a wonderfully rare organization. We support the whole academic enterprise while "encouraging excellence in the theory and practice of history from the perspective of historic Christianity."

I encourage readers to embrace the fullness of their membership and commit themselves to attending our gatherings every January at the AHA and in the fall of every even-numbered year. Attendance can be expensive, but such meetings are not merely careerist. They are vocational in the deepest sense of the term.

Free Financial Advice: For those at Christian colleges and universities I propose that you think of CFH as a departmental commitment and not as an individual commit-

ment. CFH does not want to compete for your meager professional development allotment. Come together and use department funds to bring groups of students and faculty to meetings. Membership for the whole department should be a line item on your department budget. Attendance at the fall meetings should be a line-item on the department budget. Many of your enlightened administrators will see the wisdom in supporting this.

Keep a look-out for a future conference in Latin America! Start thinking now about proposing a session for the 2010 conference at George Fox.

Rick Kennedy, CFH President  
Point Loma Nazarene University

#### FROM PAUL MICHELSON CFH SECRETARY

We had very successful and stimulating meetings at Bluffton University in September. Our new Graduate Student Representative, **Lauran Kerr-Heraly**, gave an interesting and instructive plenary address to the Student Research Conference. **Perry Bush** and **Susan Collins** of Bluffton, local organizers, and the program organizers, **Beth Allison Barr** of Baylor University for the Student Research Conference and **Barry Hankins**, also of Baylor as general program chair, did a fine job. Thanks.

Conference panels were varied and substantive; unlike many sessions at the AHA meetings, the problem was deciding which of two or three attractive concurrent sessions to attend. The CFH awarded prizes for presentations for the first time. The Ronald A. Wells Prize for best undergraduate paper presented went to **Matt Klopfenstein** of Bethel College IN, and the Frank C. Roberts Prize for the best graduate student paper presented went to **Mark Rogers**, a Ph. D student at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. In addition to a cash award, these

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papers will be submitted to *Fides et Historia* for publication. Our next series of meetings will be in 2010 at George Fox University in Oregon. The dates are October 13-16; the theme remains to be announced. Pencil it in now!

The CFH Board has established three standing committees, Committee A PROGRAM/Fall, AHA, chaired by **Rick Kennedy**; Committee B-NOMINATIONS AND BOARD RECRUITMENT, chaired by **Barry Hankins**; and Committee C-PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT, co-chaired by **Paul Michelson** and **Dwight Brautigam**. Members who have suggestions for these committees are encouraged—nay, commanded—to send them to the appropriate chair forthwith.

The CFH website has been overhauled; give it a look at [www.huntington.edu/cfh](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh). The affiliated graduate student site has a bunch of new goodies provided by **Lauran Kerr-Herally**. It is located at <http://cfhgradstudents.com>.

Paul E. Michelson, CFH Secretary  
Huntington University

## **BLUFFTON CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS**

Rick and Paul's notes refer to the 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Conference on Faith and History, held at Bluffton College, on September 17-20, 2008. Below are brief summaries of the plenary addresses, all of which were well-attended, and occasioned lively discussion.

**Lauren Kerr-Herally**, "I Was a Teenage Grad Student: My Journey Through Academia" keynoted the Undergraduate Conference portion of the event. Her paper charted her progress through San Houston State University and the University of Houston and into the historical profession, providing insight into the personal challenges and intellectual

growth she experienced along the way. Fighting a dreaded disease and intellectual terrors, Lauran overcame an "us versus them" mindset in graduate school and discovered the humanity that resides in all people, both inside and outside the Christian community. Participants also learned how Lauren came to value the stories of the voiceless and how she integrates the social justice agenda of Christian ethics into her writing and teaching.

Turning to **Joel Carpenter's** "The Christian Historian in an Age of World Christianity," Bluffton attendees heard about the inwardness that tends to creep into the minds of thinking Christians. Joel advocated moving to a new model, beyond the old "cleanse the academy" approach taken by earlier generations. He pointed toward the scholarship on Christian missions, particularly in the areas of Africa and Asia, which has opened up the possibility of real conceptual border crossings and true cross-cultural education. He argued that Christian historians can play a key role in revitalizing the academy by embracing the insights to be gained from the study of world Christianity and the explosion of faith in non-Western settings.

These themes were taken up in **John Roth's** "What Hath Zurich to Do with Addis Ababa?: Reflections on Anabaptism as a Global Movement." John agreed with Joel's contention about Christian insularity, and asked us to consider what it means when an African church calls itself "Anabaptist." He also observed a paradox in global Anabaptism, which enjoys great success in shaping contemporary Protestantism (as with the influence of Hauerwas and Yoder and the emergent church) while experiencing a decline in numbers and denominational particularism. John asked participants to consider the universalist implications of the idea that "the Earth is the Lord's" and to weigh its meaning for Christian thinking and commitment. He argued that this claim is both heuristic and incarnational in its charge to live a distinctive Christian life in an increasingly interdependent world.

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For his Presidential Address, **Rick Kennedy** presented "Jesus Incarnate in Aristotelian Historiography." Rick spoke of the Greek historiographical tradition, which fashioned a "socially-embedded" literature that was "oriented to tell the truth." He observed the influence of Aristotle's *judicial* approach to history on this tradition, stressing a three-cornered relation among sources, self, and audience. It was Aristotle and Cicero who injected "faith" into history-writing, as an act of trust between historian and source, and an ascription of credibility to eyewitnesses of history who are considered to be trustworthy. This study corrects the mistaken notion of history writing as a simple relation between historian and "fact". On the contrary, Rick suggested that the relation of faith between historian and eyewitnesses to history (sources) has existed from the epistemological inception of the enterprise, with implications for how Christians should think about doing history.

The final plenary address was delivered by **Ogbu Kalu**, "A Discursive Interpretation of African Pentecostalism." Ogbu asked whether it might be profitable to see daylight between the scholarly methods that seek out religious phenomena and the actual experiences of the subjects under study. He illustrated this point by suggesting a difference between Shona Pentecostals and so-called "African-Instituted Churches." Many differences exist within the African Pentecostal churches, which are otherwise lost to western-style analytical schemes. He also referred to the Azuza Street Revival as one manifestation of a global phenomenon (Wales 1904, Mukti 1905, Pyongyang 1907, Calcutta 1910). Ogbu proposed four different "discourses" that might be profitable, namely the historical, cultural, institutional, and religious avenues, as illustrated by his nuanced analysis of the shift from balokole to guerillas for Christ in the 1970s, and the Sankofa movement of more recent decades.



## CFH AT THE AHA

The traditional CFH breakfast and panel session at the American Historical Association annual meeting will be on Saturday, January 4, 2009, at the Harlem Suite of the New York Hilton in New York City. The reception and continental breakfast will be from 8:00 to 9:30 AM.

The CFH session, scheduled for 9:30 to 11:30 AM will feature a panel discussion entitled "What It Is to Believe": Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*. This session will be held in the East Suite of the NY Hilton. **William H. Katerberg** (Calvin College) will chair; **Thomas Albert Howard**, (Gordon College), **Wilfred M. McClay** (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), **Chandra S. Mallampalli** (Westmont College), and **Marianne Robins** (Westmont College) will serve as discussants.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM

Dr. Diana Severance would like CFH Members to know that the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University has moved into its new home at the University's Cultural Arts Center. The Museum's collection of rare Bibles has been expanded beyond its foundational American collection to include ancient and medieval manuscripts as well as the earliest printings of the Bible. Included are the first editions of the 16th century English Bible translations and a 1536 Tyndale. The creative exhibits displaying the tomes help visitors understand and appreciate the transmission of the Bible to the present day.

The Museum also includes a growing library for scholarly research. This year the Dunham Bible Museum Lecture Series was instituted, with the goal of featuring scholars speaking on the Bible's history and impact in all areas of life and scholarship. Hur-

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ricane Ike disrupted some early plans, but Dr. Charles Ryrie launched the series speaking on the history of the English Bible. Dr. Naseeb Shaheen spoke on Shakespeare's Bible. Dr. Donald Brake spoke on the history of the Greek text behind the English translations. The next lecture will be February 26 by Dr. Ronald White, who will speak on the Bible and Abraham Lincoln.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESS

Keith Harper would like CFH Members to know about two recently released titles from The University of Alabama Press. One is a collection of historiographical essays that assesses the current status of denominational studies, Keith Harper, ed., *American Denominational History: Perspectives on the Past, Prospects for the Future*. The other is authored by Jon Butler, titled *Power, Authority, and the Origins of American Denominational Order: The English Churches in the Delaware Valley, 1680-1730*. Butler's book explores the roles that early Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans played in shaping religious life in pre-Revolutionary America.

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HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

CFH members may be interested in the forum on "Abundant History" appearing in the September/October 2008 issue of *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society*. Former AAR president Robert Orsi argues that historians often tame religious

experience into safe explanatory categories. He highlights the tension between presence and absence in contemporary religious historiography. Thomas Kselman, Jane Shaw, Brad Gregory, and Constance Furey respond. Single copies of the issue are available for purchase (\$7).

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AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM:  
THEN AND NOW

Carson Clark would like CFH members to know about an interdisciplinary academic conference at Toccoa Falls College (TFC) on February 27-28 entitled "American Evangelicalism: Then & Now (1984, 2009)." Plenary speakers at this conference include such persons as Barry Hankins, D. G. Hart, and Norm Geisler. For those who register at least two weeks before the conference (February 13th), admission will cost \$15 for students and \$20 for non-students. For those who buy tickets at the door, admission will cost \$25. For more information and registration details, go to the conference website at [www.tfc.edu/conference](http://www.tfc.edu/conference).

Contact:  
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PATRICK HENRY  
VISITING FELLOWSHIP

The application deadline for the 2009-2010 Patrick Henry Visiting Fellowship at Washington College is January 15, 2009. The Henry Fellowship is a nine-month residential writing fellowship which supports outstanding writing on American history and culture by both scholars and nonacademic authors. For information on applying, please visit <http://starrcenter.washcoll.edu>.

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RELIGION, GENDER, INDUSTRY: EXPLORING  
CHURCH AND METHODISM IN A  
LOCAL SETTING

*June 16-18, 2009*

Madeley and Ironbridge,  
Shropshire (UK)

This international conference is a joint project between the Manchester Wesley Research Centre and The Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, in cooperation with the Ironbridge Institute.

In the eighteenth century Madeley [Church of England] parish in Shropshire included Coalbrookdale, the "cradle of the industrial revolution," and Ironbridge, wherein the world's first iron bridge was built. This was the setting for a succession of evangelical ministries by the Revd John Fletcher, his wife Mary (both associates of the Wesleys), her adopted daughter Sally Lawrence and her successor Mary Tooth, between 1760-1840. Madeley became the most notable instance of Methodism remaining within the Church of England, and was also remarkable for becoming a female-dominated parish ministry. Through examining this specific historic microcosm the conference will engage particularly with the following general areas:

- > Methodism's roots and growth in relation to the Church of England
- > Religion and gender in eighteenth century Britain
- > Religion and emerging industrial society

Confirmed speakers include: Jeremy Gregory, Barrie Trinder, Phyllis Mack, and Peter Forsaith. There will be opportunities for brief panel papers.

Abstracts of approximately 250 words should be submitted by email attachment to Geordan Hammond by **February 1, 2009**.

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<http://www.mwrc.ac.uk/madeley-conference-june-2009/>

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MODERN CHINA RESOURCES

Carol Hamrin and Stacey Bieler, who were part of a seminar at the recent CFH conference, recently published a book that will be a great resource for Modern Asia/China history classes. *Salt and Light: Lives of Faith that Shaped Modern China* contains ten short lively biographies of Chinese Christian professionals in education, medicine, rural reconstruction, etc. who lived between 1830 and 1990 (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009). If ordered on line at the Wipf and Stock website, the book will be discounted to \$22.40.



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## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Patrick Henry College is seeking candidates for a full-time position in history beginning in Fall 2009. Preference will be given to historians specializing in European History, as this position calls for teaching both semesters of the College's yearlong History of Western Civilization course. Instructional load is 12 hours per semester. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in history (preferably not historical theology), a display of sound scholarship, evidence of superior teaching ability, and an unwavering commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and biblical inerrancy. Review of applications will begin immediately.

PHC is a private, nondenominational, and TRACS-accredited institution located near Washington, D.C., in Purcellville, Virginia. The classical Christian liberal arts – wed to a strong biblical foundation – is at the heart of the College's educational philosophy. This approach is evidenced by the College's unique seventy-five credit-hour core curriculum. Candidates should be evangelical Christians, in hearty agreement with the College's Biblical Foundations Statement, and familiar with the college's Mission and Vision statements ([www.phc.edu](http://www.phc.edu)) The College offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits program.

To apply, submit a cover letter addressed to Dr. Gene Edward Veith, Provost, together with a resume, list of three references (one pastoral), and a personal statement of faith including an explanation of how you integrate faith and teaching in your classroom. Application materials should be submitted on-line at [www.HigherEdDecisions.com](http://www.HigherEdDecisions.com), with your statement of faith attached under the "Other Document" browser button. For assistance accessing our on-line applicant portal, you may contact the Director of Human Resources at 540-338-8723.

## CFH MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

The Historical Society has announced that Donald Yerxa has been named co-director with principal responsibilities for external relations and fund raising. He has also been named senior editor of *Historically Speaking*, which as of January 2009 is published by The Johns Hopkins University Press. Yerxa has served as assistant director and editor of *Historically Speaking* since 2001. He will retire from Eastern Nazarene College at the end of the current academic year.

In 2008, the University of South Carolina Press published four volumes edited by Donald Yerxa in its *Historians in Conversation* series: *Recent Themes in Historical Thinking*; *Recent Themes in Military History*; *Recent Themes in the History of Africa and the Atlantic World*; and *Recent Themes in Early American History*. Three additional volumes are scheduled for 2009: *Recent Themes in World History and the History of the West*; *Recent Themes on Historians and the Public*; and *Recent Themes in the History of Science and Religion*. The series is designed to pull together essays, forums, and interviews originally appearing in *Historically Speaking* as thematic readers with introductions by Yerxa.

## CFH MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Jonathan Den Hartog, "John Jay" in *America's Forgotten Fathers*, Gary L. Gregg and Mark David Hall, eds. (Louisville: Butler Books, 2008).

Geordan Hammond, "John Wesley in Georgia: Success or Failure?," *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society* 56:6 (Oct. 2008): 297-305; "John Wesley's Mindset at the Commencement of His Georgia Sojourn: Suffering and the Introduction of Primitive Christianity to the Indians," *Methodist History* 47:1 (Oct. 2008): 16-25.

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Randall Buth and Brian Kvasnica. "Temple Authorities and Tithe-Evasion: The Linguistic Background and Impact of the Parable of the Vineyard Tenants and the Son," in *Jesus' Last Week: Jerusalem Studies on the Synoptic Gospels, Vol. 1*, R. S. Notley, et al, eds. (Leiden: Brill, 2006), 53-80 and 259-317.

Brian Kvasnica, "Shifts in Israelite War Ethics and Early Jewish Historiography of Plundering," in *Writing and Reading War: Rhetoric, Gender, and Ethics in Biblical and Modern Contexts*, Brad E. Kelle and Frank R. Ames, eds. (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008), 179-200.

James A. Patterson, "Broadus's Living Legacy," in *John A. Broadus: A Living Legacy*, David S. Dockery and Roger D. Duke, eds. (Nashville: B & H Academic, 2008, 239-58); "Speer, Robert Elliott," "Strong, Josiah," and Wilder, Robert Parmelee," in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, George Kurian, ed. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2009).

rently in its third edition and twelve translations; its English language editions have sold over 300,000 copies. He also published *A Blueprint for Christian Higher Education* (1953), *Saints and Society* (1960), *Christianity in the United States* (1966), *God and Man in Time* (1979), *In the Presence of the King* (1972), *An Endless Life of Splendor* (1986), *A Reader's Guide to the Bible* (2002), and *Preach the Word!* (2005). He also edited and consulted on numerous other publications.

Earle was a member of numerous professional organizations, and is credited with helping to conceive and organize the Conference on Faith and History. His presidency steered the organization through a period of growth and self-definition, and made it possible for recent members to enjoy a vital community of scholarship. All CFHer's will keep his wife, JoAnn, his son Bruce and family, and his Wheaton colleagues in their thoughts and prayers.

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## IN MEMORIAM

EARLE EDWIN CAIRNS



The Conference on Faith and History mourns the passing of Earle Edwin Cairns (1910-2008), a founder of the CFH and former president (1972-1974), who passed away in May 2008. Earle was born in Manitoba and as a teenager, attended Bible college in Winnepeg. His formal education proceeded through several institutions in Nebraska, where he graduated from Municipal University of Omaha (A.B.), Presbyterian Seminary at Omaha (Th.B.) and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (M.A. and Ph.D.). He taught at Presbyterian Seminary and then at Wheaton College, Illinois, where he served as chairperson of the History Department for 25 years.

Earle's writings are highly regarded and widely read. He published *Christianity Through the Centuries* (1954) which is cur-

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## CFH MEMBERSHIP

There are four categories of membership in the Conference on Faith and History:

Voting Members  
Emeriti Members  
Graduate Student Members  
Undergraduate Student Members

Voting memberships are \$30 a year while emeriti and undergraduate student memberships are \$20 annually. For any full time graduate students, membership in the CFH is free.

To be eligible for membership in the CFH, you need to be in accord with the purposes of the CFH. For more information on same, check our web site at [www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh\\_intro.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh_intro.htm).

All categories of membership will receive the calendar year issues of our journal, *Fides et Historia*, copies of our newsletter, and membership in the CFH eMail list. Only the voting membership category will be allowed to vote; individuals in the emeriti or either student membership category who wish to be voting members may do so by paying the \$30 membership.

Dues are payable on a calendar year basis. Memberships not renewed by March 31 of each year will be removed from the mailing lists (no kidding!). Memberships received during the year will be sent all copies of that year's journal and newsletter.

Graduate student members please note: Though your membership is free, you will need to confirm your graduate status by March 31 each year to remain on the lists. You will continue in this status to the end of the calendar year even if you graduate by summer.

Library, institutional, and non-member subscriptions are \$30 a year or \$75 for three years.

Persons interested in joining the CFH should provide the following information: complete current mailing address, email address, and membership category. Checks should be made out to "The Conference on Faith and History."

Send the whole mess to:

**Dwight D. Brautigam**  
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PAYPAL: we do have a PayPal option available. See [www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh\\_membership.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh_membership.htm).

## CFH WEBSITES

CFH Home Page:  
[www.huntington.edu/cfh/](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/)

CFH Purposes:  
[www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh\\_intro.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh_intro.htm)

CFH Conferences:  
[www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh\\_conference.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh_conference.htm)

CFH Membership:  
[www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh\\_membership.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh/cfh_membership.htm)

CFH Graduate Student Page:  
[www.cfhgradstudents.com](http://www.cfhgradstudents.com)

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## ABOUT THE CFH

The Conference on Faith and History is a community of scholars exploring the relationship between Christian faith and history. We welcome members from a variety of Christian traditions around the world, and we seek to learn from scholars outside the Christian tradition. Our primary goal is to encourage excellence in the theory and practice of history from the perspective of historic Christianity. For more about the CFH, see [www.huntington.edu/cfh\\_intro.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/cfh_intro.htm).

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