

**2016 MIDWEST REGION SBL/AOS/ASOR  
SECTION DESCRIPTIONS**

February 5–7, 2016

Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois

The 2016 Midwest Region SBL/AOS/ASOR meeting offers twelve Society of Biblical Literature program units spanning the broad range of biblical studies along with a program unit for the American Oriental Society and the American Schools of Oriental Research. The overall theme for the meeting is “Hellenism and the Septuagint,” but papers on other topics are also welcome in most sections.

**All paper proposals for the Midwest Region meeting must be submitted through the online form at <http://goo.gl/forms/2VxwBtgkWC>.** The form system will generate an automated email confirmation message when the proposal is submitted. Please contact the Regional Coordinator at [MWSBL.Regional.Coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:MWSBL.Regional.Coordinator@gmail.com) if you submit a proposal but do not receive a confirmation message.

**Proposals include the paper title and a 100-word paragraph abstract.** Abstracts will be printed in the conference program and for that reason they may not exceed 100 words, but one may also include an additional description up to 500 words alongside (not on place of) the 100-word abstract in order to explain more fully the paper being proposed.

Email addresses for the section chairs are included with the section descriptions below. Please contact the appropriate chair if you have *questions* about the section and its program, but submit all *proposals* through the online form. Please contact the Regional Coordinator if you are uncertain about the best section to which to submit a proposal.

One may submit proposals to multiple sections, but please inform the relevant section chairs by email if this is the case. The region’s policy is that non-students may present a maximum of two papers at the meeting and graduate students may present one paper. Graduate students who have not previously presented at the Midwest Region meeting must send by email a full manuscript of the paper being proposed to the appropriate section chair no later than December 30, 2015. Graduate students who have presented at the Midwest Region meeting previously are not required to submit the full paper but must indicate in the online proposal form the year and section in which an earlier presentation occurred. Normally graduate students who present at the Midwest Region meeting should be enrolled in doctoral programs. Other students should see the information below about the Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC). Student papers that cannot be included in the Midwest Region program will be referred to the SRSC.

**All proposals for the Midwest Region meeting are due on Monday, December 7, 2015.** All program decisions will be communicated no later than January 9, 2016. Presenters must be national members of one of the three sponsoring societies—SBL, AOS, or ASOR—and must be registered for the regional meeting by Monday, January 18, 2016.

If you are a professor, please also encourage your students to participate in the meeting in two important ways. Please encourage doctoral students to apply for the Graduate Student Paper

Competition, which offers up to two \$300 awards for outstanding papers. Similarly, please encourage students who are undergraduates through pre-dissertation doctoral students to participate in the Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC) on Friday, February 5, 2016. Details for both programs are available at the region's website ([http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm\\_midwest.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx)). For SRSC questions, please contact the SRSC coordinator at [Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com](mailto:Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com). The SRSC proposal deadline (with full paper) is January 9, 2016. Students presenting at the SRSC do not have to be members of a national society.

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**AOS/ASOR:** Papers on topics related to the Near East or archaeology are welcome, especially (but not exclusively) those on the meeting theme "Hellenism and the Septuagint." Please contact JoAnn Scurlock ([r-beal@uchicago.edu](mailto:r-beal@uchicago.edu)) with questions.

**APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE:** This section involves presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature from the "dawn of apocalyptic" through the early Christian church. We also invite papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts. The theme for the 2016 meeting, "Hellenism and the Septuagint," can be particularly important for our section given the "explosion" of apocalyptic literature and apocalyptic themes during Hellenism, with or without direct connection with the formation of particular Septuagintal texts (entire books and/or sections of them; in any case, please remember that there is no real chronological terminus *ante quem* for our section, as long as [possibly Hellenistic] apocalyptic texts are reworked, reinterpreted, re-lived). While all proposals will receive due consideration, those explicitly dealing with Hellenism and/or the Septuagint will receive a special one. For questions, please contact Edmondo Lupieri ([elupier@luc.edu](mailto:elupier@luc.edu)), with "MWSBL" as subject.

**APOCRYPHA AND COGNATE LITERATURE:** The section seeks papers dealing with the formation and interpretation of the Septuagint. General papers dealing with apocrypha and cognate literature of the Greco-Roman world are welcome. Please contact Russell Sisson ([rsisson@unionky.edu](mailto:rsisson@unionky.edu)) for more information.

**BIBLE MEANING THROUGH TIME AND TRADITION:** We seek papers on any aspect of the story of Jephthah and his daughter in Judges 11, including but not limited to the nature of vows, the killing of children, and the story's presentations of masculinity and femininity. Theological, literary, artistic, or any other interpretations are welcome. The section strives to demonstrate the variety of ways in which the Bible has been understood, adapted, or used through time and in different traditions. Generally, papers covering any interpretation of the passage up to roughly ten years ago should be fine. We welcome submissions from biblical scholars as well as from others with specialized interests. Please contact Stacy Davis ([lieblingbi@aol.com](mailto:lieblingbi@aol.com)) with any questions.

**EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS:** The aim of this section is: (1) to encourage scholarly investigation of the NT and extra-canonical gospels in the Midwest Region; (2) to support scholars of the Midwest Region by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work; and, (3) to promote discussion of a wide range of gospel topics for the benefit of all. In 2016, this section is open, that is, dedicated to any new work that scholars in the region wish to

bring forward. Essays on the theme “Hellenism and the Septuagint” are encouraged. All proposals must be submitted through the online system. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Clare K. Rothschild ([ckrothschild@gmail.com](mailto:ckrothschild@gmail.com)).

**EARLY CHRISTIANITY: ACTS, APOSTOLIC FATHERS, AND PATRISTICS:** The scope of this section includes the canonical Acts of the Apostles and the extra-canonical texts from the Apostolic Fathers through the fourth century CE. In keeping with the focus of this year’s conference, our theme will be “Hellenism and the Septuagint.” Papers on any aspect of this topic will be given first consideration but other topics will also be considered for a general session. Please direct any questions to Nancy Pardee ([npardee@uchicago.edu](mailto:npardee@uchicago.edu)).

**FORMER AND LATTER PROPHETS (HEBREW BIBLE):** This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Former and Latter Prophets (i.e., historical and prophetic books) of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year’s theme, “Hellenism and the Septuagint,” but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. Session groupings will be determined later. Specific questions may be addressed to the section chair, George C. Heider ([george.heider@valpo.edu](mailto:george.heider@valpo.edu)).

**HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT AND EARLY INTERPRETATIVE**

**LITERATURE:** Please see the sections on the Pentateuch, Former and Latter Prophets, and the Writings.

**HEBREWS AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES:** Our section welcome proposals engaging any topic concerning Hebrews or the Catholic Epistles, especially those that address the conference theme “Hellenism and the Septuagint.” Please contact Amy Peeler ([HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com](mailto:HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com)) with any questions.

**PAUL:** This section invites paper proposals on any topic dealing with Paul or the Pauline letter corpus. Papers addressing the theme of the 2016 meeting (“Hellenism and the Septuagint”) will be given special consideration, but this theme may be broadly engaged. All topics relevant to Paul will be considered. Please direct any questions to P. Richard Choi ([choir@andrews.edu](mailto:choir@andrews.edu)) or Troy Martin ([martin@sxu.edu](mailto:martin@sxu.edu)).

**PENTATEUCH (HEBREW BIBLE):** This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Pentateuch/Torah, including its composition, its various components (e.g., narratives, laws, poetry, rituals), and the history of its interpretation. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year’s theme, “Hellenism and the Septuagint,” but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. For any inquiries, please contact Jeffrey Stackert ([stackert@uchicago.edu](mailto:stackert@uchicago.edu)).

**PSALMS AND WISDOM LITERATURE:** See the Writings (Hebrew Bible) section below.

**TEACHING THE BIBLE:** This section invites proposals that focus on enhancing teaching and learning in the biblical/religious studies classroom. Proposals addressing this year’s theme, “Hellenism and the Septuagint,” are especially encouraged. In addition, because this is the 80th anniversary of the Midwest SBL region, proposals that look at the changing pedagogical needs

of the field are also encouraged, but all papers pertinent to the section will be considered. Please direct inquiries to Teresa Calpino ([tcalpin@luc.edu](mailto:tcalpin@luc.edu)).

**TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND PAPHYROLOGY:** This section involves presentations that investigate the history of manuscript transmission and help understand text types, variants, corruption, and adaptation of the texts in relation to Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman social and religious contexts. The section invites paper proposals on all biblical and related literature, including the Church Fathers' writings as well as literary and documentary papyri. All submissions will be considered, but papers that deal specifically with the theme of the 2016 Midwest Region meeting ("Hellenism and the Septuagint") are of special interest. Proposals with interdisciplinary content are also welcome. Contact Sylvie Raquel ([sraquel@tiu.edu](mailto:sraquel@tiu.edu)) if you have any questions.

**THE WRITINGS (HEBREW BIBLE):** This section invites proposals for papers related to the study of the Writings material in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Presenters can submit proposals that address this year's theme, "Hellenism and the Septuagint," but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered, including proposals on specific exegetical problems, theology, hermeneutics, and methodology. Please submit questions to Robert E. Wallace ([rwallace@JudsonU.edu](mailto:rwallace@JudsonU.edu)).