



# Religion & Education Collaborative

Newsletter - January 20, 2021

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REC Updates

## Planning a New Year for the REC

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2021 is already off to a dramatic start, and it is still only January. I have been working on putting together a meaningful, but not overwhelming, schedule for the REC this spring. You can find information about the upcoming meetings below and on the [website](#). As always, your suggestions and contributions for meetings, resources, and more are crucial to the success of the REC; keeping sending those in!

On that note, **I am looking for a few people to volunteer to regularly help with the day-to-day operations of the REC.**

As our community grows and evolves, I need some help to be able to continue manage and support the activities of the network.

I have identified three positions that would be most helpful immediately, but I also welcome your ideas on how to contribute in other roles.

**Assistant Director:** This person will work with me to develop the schedule for each semester and to implement current and new initiatives (e.g. a book club or writing group). This person will also serve as the host for some of the regular meetings.

**Newsletter Content Manager:** This person will be responsible for regularly (every few weeks) providing content for the newsletter, such as featured member profiles, book/article recommendations, and other items of interest to members. You will not be required to create or distribute the full newsletter.

**Website Content Manager:** This person will be responsible for curating content for the website, including upcoming events across the field, academic and curriculum resources, and other relevant materials. Ideally, you will have some familiarity with WordPress or be willing to learn.

*To apply, email me ([ksoules@religionanded.com](mailto:ksoules@religionanded.com)) with a brief bio and a description of your interest. All positions are open to any member. Graduate students looking to expand their professional network are especially encouraged to apply.*

I am looking forward to another great semester of learning and collaboration with all of you. Hope to see you online sometime soon!

Kate Soules, PhD

Executive Director

**Update Your  
Membership  
Information**

**Recommend Readings  
and Resources**

**Submit Events and  
Announcement**

## Spring 2021 Calendar

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Never miss another meeting: [Subscribe to the REC Google Calendar](#)

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Winter Humanities Series

##### **The Current State of Teaching about Religion in Higher Education and Related Humanities Indicators**

Joshua Patterson, PhD

Thursday, January 28, 3pm (EST)

What do American adults think about teaching K-12 students about religion? How often do American adults seek out information about religions other than their own? Dr. Joshua Patterson will discuss the findings from the recent report "Humanities in American Life: Insights for Religious Studies" (American Academy of Arts and Sciences) and make connections with the current state of teaching about religion in higher education.



[Register Now](#)

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## **Opportunities for Resource Sharing: Introducing the Humanities in Class Digital Library**

Andy Mink, PhD (National Humanities Center)

Wednesday, February 10, 12pm (EST)

Learn about the [Humanities in Class Digital Library](#), an initiative of the National Humanities Center to provide access to curriculum resources across the humanities and build bridges between the classroom and the academy. We will discuss how the REC and individual members can contribute to this project to increase access to high quality classroom materials about religion.

[Register Now](#)

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## **Spring Series: A View from the Classroom**

In the spring, we will devote at least two sessions to presenters who will focus on teaching about religion at the classroom level. Specific dates and times to come.

### **Teaching about Religion in the Secondary School Classroom**

Hear from current teachers about their experiences teaching about religion in middle and high school classes in the U.S. How do students respond to learning about religion? What are the greatest challenges? What can the wider religion and education community do to support classroom teachers?

### **International Perspectives: Understanding Religious Education in the UK and Europe**

In contrast to the US and Canada, many countries in Europe have well established, and often required, religion courses in all government funded schools. Learn about the approaches to teaching about religion in several countries and discuss what we can learn from each other.



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*Additional meeting topics will be announced as they are confirmed. There are still two open spots if you would like to present this spring.*

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[www.religionanded.com/collaborative](http://www.religionanded.com/collaborative)

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