



The Society of Christian Philosophers



C. Stephen Evans, President • Kelly James Clark, Secretary/Treasurer • Spring 2001

Letter from the President

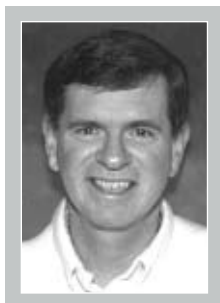
Dear members of the Society,

It has been a great privilege and honor to serve as President of the Society of Christian Philosophers the last three years. When I look over the list of my predecessors I feel truly humbled and inadequate, but I appreciate the trust you placed in me. The mission of the SCP remains vital:

The Society of Christian Philosophers was organized in 1978 to promote fellowship among Christian Philosophers and to stimulate study and discussion of issues which arise from their Christian and philosophical commitments. I know of no other organization that fulfills this mission, and I believe the SCP does so admirably.

The Society has always operated on a bare-bones budget. Calvin College has over the years subsidized the Society by offering secretarial help and absorbing some postage costs. Other institutions have also helped defray the costs of *Faith and Philosophy*. No officer or member of the executive committee receives any help with the considerable expenses that attending meetings sometimes requires. Despite limited funds, the SCP is a very active organization, due to the dedication and commitment of its membership, with many regional conferences, as well as meetings at the APA, the ACPA, and now also at the American Academy of Religion. We also have significant outreach programs to Russia and China. The latter programs have largely been made possible by the fund-raising efforts of Mel Stewart, for whose work we are grateful, as well as individual members and their institutions, who have paid for their own costs on trips to these countries.

There are many ways that the SCP



could fulfill its mission even better if we had some additional funds. The regional conferences, for example, are often underfunded. Recently, the executive committee has approved a program of extending \$2,000 loans to regional committees to help

make these conferences possible, with the regional committees acting in good faith to return proceeds from the conferences to repay the loans. The ongoing outreach programs to Russia and China are badly in need of funds. Another crucial need has been identified by the executive committee: recruitment of new members. Surprising as it may seem to those of us whose professional lives have been nourished by the SCP, there are many Christian philosophers, especially graduate students and new Ph.D's, who do not really know about the SCP or understand how it could be of help to them. If we are to keep our organization vital, it is crucial that we ensure that these younger philosophers have a chance to get to know us.

Since the executive committee is committed to keeping dues as low as possible, we have decided to make an appeal for voluntary contributions for the above goals and others. In the future, therefore, we will include with all membership renewals a form for making additional, designated contributions. I know that SCP members contribute to many worthy causes. I appeal to you to consider the SCP as well. No one else understands its value both to the church and to the academy as you do. If we do not support Christian work in the life of the mind, who will?

~ C. Stephen Evans

Announcements

SCP Mountain-Plains Regional Meeting

October 4-6, 2001

University of Colorado, Boulder
Sponsored by the CU Theology Forum
Topic: *God, Science, & Creation*
Keynote Speaker: *William Dembski*
Submissions must be post-marked by August 15, 2001.

Mail Hard-Copy Submissions to:
SCP Conference

Theology Forum
Campus Box 232
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0232

For further information or to register as a non-participant, send mail to address above, phone at 303-492-4578, or email to theologyforum@netscape.net

SCP Pacific Regional Meeting

April 4-6, 2002

Whitworth College, Spokane, WA
Plenary sessions will focus on the topic of *The Philosophical Implications of Modern Science*

For further information:

Forrest E. Baird
Department of Philosophy
Whitworth College
Spokane, WA 99251
(509) 777-4380
FAX: (509) 777-3274
email: fbaird@whitworth.edu

Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church: Liturgy and Life Conference

Centre for Early Christian Studies
Australian Catholic University
10th -13th July 2002
Australian Catholic University, St. Patrick's Campus, Melbourne
<http://www.acu.edu.au/Earlychr>

2001 SCP Executive Committee Minutes

The 2001 Executive Committee met on March 30 in San Francisco, California with President C. Stephen Evans presiding. The results of the meeting include:

1. The proposal to return regional elections to the respective regions was approved.
2. The proposal for selection of sites for regional conferences was approved:
 - a. The "hosting resolution" passed at the previous meeting of the Committee is rescinded.
 - b. The following resolution is adopted in its place: The Executive Committee strongly recommends that care be exercised in the selection of sites for Regional Meetings of the SCP, and that meetings not be held at sites that are likely to be considered objectionable by a substantial number of members of the Society.

c. The following is to be printed on the programs of regional meetings of the Society: The Society of Christian Philosophers is an association of persons who identify themselves as Christians and as philosophers. Neither the Society nor the institution hosting a meeting of the Society necessarily endorses views expressed in papers and presentations given at meetings of the Society; nor does the Society endorse views affirmed by the host institution.

3. The following Fund-Raising Plan was approved for action:

Financial needs: The following are ongoing financial needs of SCP:

- a. Regional conferences are often underfunded. A \$2,000 loan for each of the four regional committees was requested. This will ensure adequate funding for travel

for keynote speakers and publicity. Each regional committee will act in good faith to return the proceeds from regional meetings to the SCP.

- b. Funds for the recruitment of new members.
- c. Ongoing projects such as the China and Russia outreach.

4. A joint conference involving SCP and the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, for the summer of 2003 was approved. Charles Taliaferro will serve as SCP liaison to this conference.

5. Jay Wood will serve as Chair of the Committee for Recruitment. Tim O'Connor agreed to help specifically with increasing the visibility of the SCP at secular colleges and universities.

The complete minutes and the 2000 Financial report can be found on our webpage: <http://www.siu.edu/departments/cola/philos/SCP/>

Presidential Election

Robert Audi

received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1967 and has taught mainly at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) since

then, with visiting appointments at Notre Dame (Center for Philosophy of Religion, 1987-88), Dartmouth (Fall 1994), and Santa Clara (Spring 1994 and Winter quarters, 1999, 2000, and 2001). He has been a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers since it was founded and has served on the Executive Committee (1981-84 and 1994-97), on the Board of *Faith and Philosophy* (1987-1990 and 1995-), and on the ad hoc Committee on Summer Programs (c. 1992-97). His published work includes *The Architecture of Reason* (Oxford, 2001), *Epistemology* (Routledge, 1998), *Religion in the Public Square*, written

jointly with Nicholas Wolterstorff (Rowman and Littlefield, 1997), *Moral Knowledge and Ethical Character* (Oxford, 1997), *Action, Intention, and Reason* (Cornell, 1993), and *The Structure of Justification* (Cambridge, 1993). He has edited with William Wainwright, *Rationality, Religious Belief, and Moral Commitment* (1986) and (as editor-in-chief) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (1995, 1999). His main current project is preparation of the Wilde Lectures for 2001, to be given at Oxford under the title *Rationality and Religious Commitment*.

Linda

Zagzebski (B.A. Stanford, Ph.D. UCLA) is Kingfisher College Chair of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at the University of

Oklahoma. Previously she taught philosophy for twenty years at Loyola Marymount University. She is the author of *Virtues of the Mind* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and *The Dilemma of Freedom and Foreknowledge* (Oxford University Press, 1991), as well as many articles in philosophy of religion, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. She is most recently co-editor of *Virtue Epistemology* (Oxford University Press, 2001) and *Intellectual Virtue* (forthcoming Oxford University Press). She has served three terms on the Executive Committee of the SCP and is past President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association. She is North American Editor of the Ashgate Press Philosophy of Religion series and co-editor in philosophy of religion for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Her current book projects are *Divine Motivation Theory* and an introduction to Philosophy of Religion.



Executive Committee Election

Jan A. Cover (PhD Syracuse) is Professor of Philosophy and University Scholar at Purdue University. He is Vice President of the Leibniz Society of North America and past President of the Indiana Philosophical Association. His areas of research are primarily history of modern philosophy, metaphysics and philosophy of science. His books include a textbook with McGraw Hill (1990, 1994), an edited volume *Central Themes in Early Modern Philosophy* (Hackett 1990), *Philosophy of Science: Central Issues* (with M. Curd, Norton 1998), and *Substance and Individuation in Leibniz* (with J. Hawthorne, Cambridge 1999). Author of various papers in *Philosophical Studies*, *Nous*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, and *History of Philosophy Quarterly*. He and his wife Karen and son James attend Evangelical Covenant Church of Lafayette, Indiana.

Laura Waddell Ekstrom is the Robert F. and Sara M. Boyd Associate Professor of Philosophy at the College of William and Mary. Her areas of interest include metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of religion. She is the author of *Free Will: A Philosophical Study* (Westview Focus Series, 2000) and the editor of *Agency and Responsibility: Essays on the Metaphysics of Freedom* (Westview, 2001). She has published articles on causation, autonomy, and responsibility in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Synthese*. She is a member

of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ronald J. Feenstra is Professor of Systematic and Philosophical Theology and Director of Doctoral Studies at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids. He previously taught at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He works in the areas of philosophical theology, theological method, and the doctrines of God, Christ, and salvation. He is co-editor of *Trinity, Incarnation, and Atonement: Philosophical and Theological Essays*.

Michael Gorman is assistant professor of philosophy at The Catholic University of America. He works on metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and Christology. His articles have appeared in the *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Hume Studies*, *Recherches de théologie et philosophie médiévales*, and other journals.

Paul Helm recently resigned from the Chair of the History and Philosophy of Religion, King's College, London, taking up a position at Regent's College, Vancouver, 2001. Author of *Eternal God* (1988), *The Providence of God* (1993), *Belief Policies* (1994), *Faith and Understanding* (1997), and *Faith With Reason* (2000). Currently interested in philosophical aspects of the thought of John Calvin, and time and creation.

Mark C. Murphy is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Natural Law and Practical Rationality* (Cambridge, 2001) and editor of *Alasdair MacIntyre* (Cambridge, forthcoming). He has published articles on

divine command theory, natural law theory, political authority, and the moral and political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes in *Faith and Philosophy*, *Ethics*, the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *Nous*, *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, and elsewhere. He is currently at work on *An Essay on Divine Authority*. He is a parishioner of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Herndon, Virginia.

Michael Murray received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 1991. He is currently Associate Professor and Chair of philosophy at Franklin and Marshall College. Professor Murray has received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His research focuses on the history of Modern philosophy, philosophy of religion, and the metaphysics of freedom. He is co-editor, with Eleonore Stump, of *Philosophy of Religion: The Big Questions* (Blackwell, 1999) and editor of *Reason for the Hope Within* (Eerdmans, 1999). In addition, he is author of the forthcoming, *Leibniz on Providence and Election*.

Sandra Visser is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Valparaiso University. An outstanding teacher of philosophy, she has been a nominee for teaching awards at the university. Her areas of specialization are metaphysics and philosophy of language. Her recent work has examined Anselm on truth and free will as well as the problem of evil.



Elections

President

- Robert Audi Linda Zagzebski

Executive Committee (vote for four):

- Jan A. Cover Laura Waddell Ekstrom
 Ronald Feenstra Michael Gorman
 Paul Helm Mark C. Murphy
 Michael Murray Sandra Visser

Send your completed ballot by August 31, 2001 to: Kelly James Clark, Secretary-Treasurer, Society of Christian Philosophers, Department of Philosophy, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Internet Encyclopedia

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy is requesting article submissions in a wide variety of areas of philosophy. Founded in 1995 and run by an international board of editors, the IEP is open to articles written by professionally trained philosophers in all areas of academic philosophy. The articles will be professionally reviewed. The IEP currently receives approximately 3,000 hits per day, with the greatest percentage coming from college students. For more information on submissions please see <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/submit.htm> or contact the general editor James Fieser at jfieser@utm.edu.

More Announcements

2001 Eastern Division

Meeting of the APA Joint Sessions

SCP-Soren Kierkegaard Society

Session Title: *Quinn on Kierkegaard's Ethics*

Chair: *Norman Lillegard*

"Quinn on Works of Love and Kierkegaard's Ethics" *Jamie Ferreira* (U. of Virginia)

"Philip Quinn on Kierkegaard as Divine Command Theorist." *Steve Evans* (Baylor)

"Quinn's Kierkegaard: Some Questions about Neighbor-Love and Divine Command" *John Davenport* (Fordham)

"Quinn's Polyphonic Self" *Ed Mooney* (Sonoma)

Response: *Phillip Quinn* (Notre Dame)

SCP-American Chinese

Philosophical Association

Chair: *Charles D. Kay*, Wofford College

"Confucian Love and Global Ethics"

Huang Yong, Kutztown University

Respondent: *Kelly James Clark*, Calvin College

"Christian Conceptions of Love"

Kate Rogers, University of Delaware

Respondent: *Robin Wang*, Loyola Marymount University

SCP at 2001 AAR Meetings

November 18, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

"Where History Ends and Faith Begins:

Reflections on the Historical Jesus"

Speaker: *Craig Evans*, Trinity

Western University

Respondent: *C. Stephen Evans*, Baylor

November 19, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Book Discussion: *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God*, by Marilyn Adams

Reviewer: *William Placher*,

Wabash College

Respondent: *Marilyn Adams*,

Yale Divinity School

SCP-AAR

The inaugural meetings of the SCP at the annual joint conventions of the American Academy of Religion/ Society of Biblical Literature were held in Nashville November 19-22. Bill Craig and Alan Padgett organized two SCP sessions, one geared toward biblical scholars in the SBL and the other toward theologians in the AAR. The first session featured a paper by Steve Davis on "Philosophical Assumptions and Biblical Scholarship" with a comment by Alan Padgett, who stepped into the gap when the scheduled commentator Marilyn Adams was unable to attend due to a broken wrist. At the second session Bill Wainwright presented a paper on Jonathan Edwards entitled "Theological Determinism and the Problem of Evil: Are Arminians Any Better Off?", which was followed by a response by Edwards scholar Mike McClymond. The sessions attracted two quite distinct constituencies of about 25-30 persons at each meeting. Both sessions were characterized by a warm collegiality and good discussion.

~ William Lane Craig

Society of Christian
Philosophers
Kelly James Clark, Secretary-Treasurer
Department of Philosophy
Calvin College
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4388

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