

**American Academy of Religion
AAR Board of Directors Meeting
Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
Friday, November 18, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Mayra Rivera, Amir Hussain, Jin Y. Park, Nadine S. Pence, Whitney Bauman, Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Nicole Kirk, Lerone Martin, Brian Pennington, Thelathia “Nikki” Young, Sabina Ali, Alice Hunt. **Absent** (excused): Laurel Schneider

Incoming Board Members and AAR Staff present: Leela Prasad, Nicholé Franklin, Elizabeth Hardcastle

I. Call to Order (Mayra Rivera)

President Rivera called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. Approval of September 2022 minutes (Mayra Rivera)

President Rivera called for approval of the September 2022 Board Meeting minutes

Motion 1: To approve the minutes

Motion approved

III. Approval of Agenda (Mayra Rivera)

President Rivera called for approval of the agenda

Motion 2: To approve the Agenda

Motion approved

IV. Welcome to newly elected Board Members (Mayra Rivera)

- Vice President, Leela Prasad
- At-Large Director, Keri Day

V. President’s Report (Mayra Rivera)

President Rivera acknowledged meeting in person at the Annual Meeting and expressed gratitude for the board’s work. She noted the board’s accomplishments the past year including the approved revised Professional Conduct Policy.

President Rivera acknowledged the many ways the board is thinking about the future and having a broader impact, and she noted in particular the board's discussions about communications and re-envisioning programming. She encouraged the board's continued work to clarify the role of the organization for the future and reminded the board of the importance of emphasizing member input. President Rivera concluded her report by recognizing the work of the AAR staff.

VI. Incoming President's Theme (Amir Hussain)

President-Elect Amir Hussain introduced his theme, *La Labor de Nuestras Manos: The Work of our Hands*. The theme is to be delivered at the 2023 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

VII. Executive Director's Report (Alice Hunt)

Executive Director Alice Hunt reported that the 2022 Annual Meeting was going well with registration at 78% of the 2019 Annual Meeting, and noted that members are excited to be meeting in person again. She reported that there are several new AAR staff members and recognized the AAR staff for their work during the reorganization.

i. Preview of Annual Business Meeting

Executive Director Hunt displayed the 2022 Memorial List presentation to be included with the following agenda items at the AAR Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, November 20:

- 2022 Memorial List
- Reports (President, Treasurer, Executive Director)
- Report of 2022 Election results
- 2023 Presidential Theme

ii. Notes of Interest

Executive Director Hunt gave a review of the funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and the allocation of funds since 2020. She noted that additional funds were awarded to AAR in 2022 by the Luce Foundation; the funding will enable AAR to provide additional Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship grant cycles, offer more webinars and a convening on public scholarship with members who received Luce-AAR grants.

President Rivera recognized Executive Director Hunt and expressed gratitude and for her work with the Luce Foundation.

iii. AM Events for Board Members

Executive Director Hunt described the 2022 Annual Meeting events for the board members and encouraged full board attendance at the events. She concluded her report by expressing her appreciation to the board members for their fiduciary and strategic thinking.

VIII. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members (Rivera, Hunt)

President Rivera recognized At-Large Director Stacey Floyd-Thomas, who received a standing ovation from the board members present. Executive Director Hunt recognized outgoing President Rivera and expressed appreciation for her work on the board.

President Rivera concluded the meeting by recognizing AAR staff for their work. She expressed joy working with the board and her appreciation for the work of Executive Director Hunt.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Hardcastle
AAR Governance Specialist