

News of the Society

Greetings from the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies! The fall newsletter contains important information about the society and its activities. (Check out our [website](#), [blog](#), or [facebook](#) page).



This issue includes:

- Information about the Annual Meeting of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies in Conjunction with the AAR
- It's Time to Talk: An Ongoing Dialogue by the Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change
- Streng Book Award Winner
- Laudatory Note for Members Carol Anderson and Thomas Cattoi
- Membership, Contribution, and Other Contact Info

**The Annual Meeting of the Society for
Buddhist-Christian Studies
In Conjunction with the American
Academy of Religion
Denver, November 2022**

Morning Board Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sheraton Downtown-Director's Row H
(Plaza Tower - Lobby Level)

Afternoon Board Meeting

Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM (In Person)
Sheraton Downtown-Director's Row H
(Plaza Tower - Lobby Level)

Covid-19 Protocol for the SBCS Board Meeting

ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY BUT RECOMMENDED:

1. Be immunized with the latest Coronavirus vaccine available to you.
2. At-home test three days prior to Nov 18, when we will have our Board Meeting.
3. At-home test on Nov 18, day of the Board Meeting.
4. If you are not tested, we recommend you wear a good quality mask during the Board Meeting to protect others at the meeting who may be vulnerable.

We will be in close quarters for most of the day, and this will help protect everyone from possible infection. Of course, if you test positive, it would be wise to refrain from attending. We will have a Zoom link set up for those who cannot attend, and I can share the link in case anyone tests positive.

The circumstances we discussed are as follows:

- A. Most are done with Covid, but Covid is not done with us.
- B. Case counts are low in reporting but probably not low in fact. (See hospitalization statistics versus case count statistics) For Denver, see <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/COVID-19-Information/COVID-19-in-Denver/COVID-19-Case-Dashboards>
- C. The new Covid variants are even more transmissible than Omicron BA4, BA5. By the time of the Board meeting, reported case counts are likely to be on the rise as the new variants spread and people spend more time indoors.
- D. Most places – including conferences, colleges and universities- have removed Covid protocols, but conferees, faculty, students, and staff are still reporting positive for Covid on a consistent basis. Most are not reporting

severe symptoms, but those with compromised immune systems and/or in vulnerable populations can become quite sick or worse.

- E. We do have Board members who will be attending and who have reported immediate family members being among those vulnerable.

**Becoming Buddhist; Becoming Christian:
Religious Formation in a
Buddhist Christian Context**

Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Sheraton Downtown-Director's Row J
(Plaza Tower - Lobby Level)

Carolyn Chen's *Getting Saved in America*, examines "how people become religious by becoming American and how people become American by becoming religious." The Taiwanese immigrants Chen studies become "religious," either leaving their natal Buddhist adherence for Christianity so as to fit in American culture or forming some dual identity in relation to their new contexts. Chen points out that these immigrant persons may realize, in the American context, that they are Buddhist. We invite papers examining the complexities in immigrant identities and conversion. What does it mean to move from one identity to another and what motivates conversion? How are multiple identities lived out? What problems arise in the formation of these new American identities? What does formation into these new religious identities address and fail to address?

Presiding

Carolyn M. Jones
University of Georgia

Panelists

Carolyn Chen
University of California, Berkeley

Alison Marshall
Brandon University

Peter Phan
Georgetown University

**Buddhist-Christian Thought and
Spiritual Care**

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Sheraton Downtown-Governor's Square 14
(Plaza Tower - 1 level below Lobby)

Chaplains have emerged as the religious-spiritual leaders most encountered by people in the United States, and as courts and government institutions increasingly frame spirituality as a universal aspect of the human person, access to "spiritual care" becomes both a basic human right and a public good. What resources does Buddhist-Christian studies offer to providers of spiritual care? The session seeks to address, amplify, and contribute to the emerging practical-pastoral literature of Buddhist-Christian studies from descriptive-critical perspectives, recognizing the utility of constructive, normative, and pragmatic proposals for spiritual care informed by Buddhist-Christian thought. Foci of responses could range from delivery of care to theories of caregiving to meta-questions for the profession. For example, in terms of delivery of care:

- How best can Buddhist chaplains or caregivers provide effective care to Christians and vice-versa?
- What can Buddhist care providers teach the rest of us about providing effective care for all?
- How do emerging theologies of culture shape the care provided by Buddhist and Christian chaplains?
- How does a spiritual care provider take refuge in suffering? In terms of theories of caregiving: How do caregivers account for conventional and absolute truth in the practice of providing care?
- What does it mean to recognize non-self in care providers, care receivers, and the provision of care?
- What is the meaning of "care" from Buddhist-Christian perspectives?
- In terms of meta-professional questions: How do we address Christian hegemony in institutional spaces where spiritual

care is mandated by law and accrediting agencies?

- How do we address Christian hegemony in training programs and certifying bodies?
- How useful can comparative theological approaches be in the formation and accountability structures for chaplains and other providers of spiritual care?

Presiding

Carolyn M. Jones
University of Georgia

Panelists

Chris Berlin
Harvard University

Duane Bidwell
Claremont School of Theology

Victor Gabriel
University of the West

Monica Sanford
Harvard University

Responding

Thomas Cattoi
Graduate Theological Union



It's Time to Talk:

An Ongoing Dialogue by the Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change

by Chuck Hutchcraft

Member of the Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change Steering Committee

It's Time to Talk is an ongoing dialogue in which Buddhists, Catholics, and others interested in interfaith dialogue explore what is it of these two traditions that compels them to confront the climate crisis. The monthly sessions are facilitated by the

Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change, an initiative of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

The Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue on Climate Change came about as the result of a conversation between two friends, a Buddhist and a Catholic, who share the sense that a radical conversion through interfaith dialogue is critical to addressing the climate crisis. A series of BCD webinars, beginning on Earth Day 2020, originally were sponsored by the Bernardin Center of the Catholic Theological Union and the Parliament of the World's Religions. The work of the BCD is now an initiative of the Parliament.

The BCD launched *It's Time to Talk* in June 2022. It is an emergent process, centered on realizing the prophetic voice that sees clearly the systemic issues behind the climate crisis and that moves us to respond. Further information may be obtained by contacting Emily Echevarria, Director of Climate Action at the Parliament of the World's Religions, at eechevarria@parliamentofreligions.org or visiting the website [here](#).

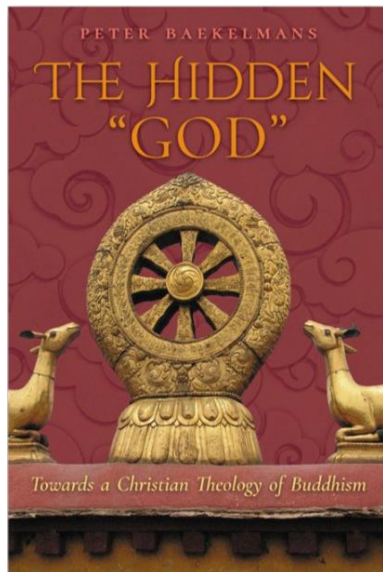


Frederick J. Steng Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies

Dear Colleagues,

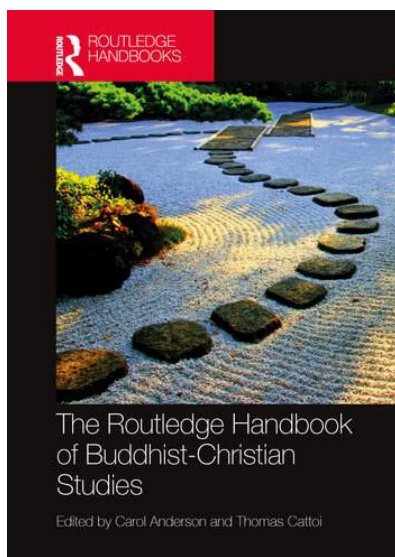
The SBCS would like to congratulate Peter Baekelmans for his work *The Hidden God: Towards a Christian Theology of Buddhism* (Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press, 2022) as this year's recipient of the Steng Book Award. In this work Baekelmans addresses the question of divinity from the perspective of functional analogies, that is, how certain categories actually work in practice, diving into the riches of both Christianity and lesser-known esoteric schools of Buddhism. For more

information and purchasing options, [Click Here](#).



Laudatory Note

Congratulations to Carol Anderson and Thomas Cattoi for completing their groundbreaking edited work, *The Routledge Handbook of Buddhist-Christian Studies* (Routledge, 2022). It is truly a monumental contribution to the field of Buddhist-Christian Studies. [Click Here](#) for more information and purchasing options.



Membership



If you haven't renewed for 2021, please do so now. Membership includes our newsletters, our journal, and other benefits. [You can renew via our website](#).

Some of you have asked about how membership works. Here is a brief Question & Answer.

What are current dues?

Dues range from \$10 for students to \$25 for Adjunct Professors, Independent Scholars, and Assistant Professors and \$45 for Associate and Full Professors.

What are the terms of membership?

You may join or renew at any point during the calendar year, although it is more convenient to join at the start. Membership is for the current year (2022), but regardless of when you join you receive the same benefits for that year.

What is included in annual membership?

All memberships include an annual print copy of *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, inclusion on our email list (two e-newsletters), and voting rights in member meetings.

How does membership contribute to broader Buddhist-Christian cooperation?

Our dues support a variety of recent efforts. We have worked to make the Journal more easily available, have added to our webpage (for instance, it includes the last 12+ years of newsletters), and continue to work on ways to connect scholars.

Write for us! (Submitting a Blog Post)

A long-term goal in SBCS has been to offer community members a chance to interact and

share news, opinions, and resources via our updated and improved website. We are looking for blog posts on a variety of topics:

- News updates about conferences, events, courses, or other resources
- Topical discussions of important issues
- Posts about pedagogy, teaching, syllabus development, creative exercises, or other topics
- Interviews, samples, or reviews of SBCS member books

Blog posts are vetted by our social media committee and will appear on the website.

Typically, we will also post the blog to our Facebook page; we may ask for permission to use it elsewhere. An ideal post:

- Engages the intersection of Buddhist and Christian traditions
- Is approximately 800 words in length
- Includes an image
- Offers a short bio of the author (25-50 words) and contact info

Please visit our blog for more information: <https://www.society-buddhist-christian-studies.org/about-the-blog>

Also, check out our Facebook page and give it a like:

<https://www.facebook.com/BuddhistChristianStudies/>

To Nominate a Book for the Streng Award

The book must have been published within the last five years. Nominations can be made by any person using the [online form](#). The completed form may be sent electronically to Peter Feldmeier,

(Peter.Feldmeier@utoledo.edu), who will respond to all nominations.

Nominations are now welcomed. Publishers of books must be willing to supply review copies to members of the committee for evaluation in order for the book to be considered.

CONTRIBUTE A REPORT TO THE NEWSLETTER

The *Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Newsletter* is published twice annually: in the spring and the fall. Please contact the Editor to share information with our readers. The deadline for the Spring issue is March 15.

In addition to reports on our annual meeting (concurrent with the American Academy of Religion) and calls for the Frederick Streng Book Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies and for the Graduate Student Essay Prize, the *Newsletter* also publishes information on conferences, retreats, lectures, and other events. We welcome obituaries and reports on major figures in the field of Buddhist-Christian Studies.

We are always grateful for information, news, or other submissions that members and others can share with the Society.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Send items to newsletter editor John.Becker@lyon.edu.



SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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