

CHURCH HISTORY

*Studies in
Christianity & Culture*

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CHURCH HISTORY
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From the New Editors

Beginning with this issue, the editorial offices of *Church History* will be located at Duke University. For most of the past sixty-five years, the editorial offices have resided at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Readers have long associated the journal with the scholarly tradition of Swift Hall. Particularly during the past thirty-five years, with Professors Jerald Brauer, Robert Grant, and Martin Marty at the helm, *Church History* has grown from a publication addressed primarily to North American readers to one of international repute. Moreover, the scope and sophistication of the articles has improved dramatically. It is, therefore, with the achievement of the Chicago editors firmly in mind that we now seek to provide the journal a new home.

The Duke editors hope to build on Chicago's tradition of excellence. The journal's transfer to Duke University comes at a time of exciting change both in scholarly publishing and in the field of Christian history. While at one time *Church History* was the only scholarly journal devoted to the history of Christianity, now there are many. *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, *Religion and American Culture*, and the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* come to mind. Such growth poses a challenge for *Church History's* new editors. We seek to establish a secure niche in the field by publishing articles that inform specialists but also, at the same time, address questions of overarching concern to historians of Christianity in general.

To accomplish that end, we hope to feature essays that focus on the tradition's intersection with other aspects of its setting—hence the new subtitle. We also wish to encourage submissions in non-Western Christianity where, after all, the majority of the world's Christians now reside. And we want the journal to exhibit a variety of historical approaches, including critical theory and the methods of the social sciences, along with more traditional modes of archival research and interpretation. Finally, we aim to facilitate prompt discussion of articles and book reviews through a list-serve discussion list (ch-list@duke.edu). The Internet should open the journal and the conversations it stimulates to scholars around the world.

The diverse strengths of eight associate editors, faculty members located at Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or North Carolina State University in Raleigh, will contribute to the journal's efforts. The associate editors include William Adler, David Aers, Peter Iver Kaufman, Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Robert Bruce Mullin, Russell E. Richey, David C. Steinmetz, and Thomas A. Tweed. The associate editors will play an active role, helping to solicit and

evaluate articles and books for review. From time to time individual members of this group will assume responsibility for specific issues of *Church History* devoted to particular themes. We are also pleased with the new board of advisory editors, an internationally distinguished group of colleagues, who will meet regularly with the editors and associate editors to assure that *Church History* will continue as an eminent journal in the field. The advisory editors include Jon Butler, Caroline Walker Bynum, Averil Cameron, Robert E. Frykenberg, Nathan O. Hatch, Christine Leigh Heyrman, E. Brooks Holifield, Hartmut Lehmann, Patricia Cox Miller, Heiko A. Oberman, Robert A. Orsi, Andrew Porter, Robert W. Scribner, John H. Van Engen, and Merry Wiesner-Hanks.

The Duke editors assume the direction of *Church History* with a sober sense of responsibility to the journal's past and excitement about its future. We hope to honor the journal's own history by maintaining continuity with the tested traditions of the discipline and by exploring the most fruitful new developments in the field.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Clark
Richard P. Heitzenrater
Hans J. Hillerbrand
Grant Wacker

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