PREFACE

This issue marks the relocation of the journal from Duke University to Florida State University, and it inaugurates the term of the new editors, John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield. We are, first of all, grateful to the editors at Duke for their vision and energy over the previous six years. They have succeeded brilliantly in leading the journal into intellectual territory that offers opportunities for broader and richer discussion of religion and culture. Through their efforts, the journal has cultivated conversation not only with history that is focused on themes such as gender, the body, reading, material culture, social status, transnationalism, and ethnicity, but with scholarship representing disciplinary perspectives that can enhance and focus the historical emphases of the journal. They likewise have put the journal on track to view the history of Christianity globally, through their increased attention to Asian, African, and Latin American Christianity. We thank Grant Wacker, Richard P. Heitzenrater, Elizabeth A. Clark, and Hans J. Hillerbrand for passing along to us a journal that is intellectually vibrant, authoritative, and forward-looking.

We likewise wish to thank the ASCH committee chaired by Steven J. Stein, and including Leigh Eric Schmidt and Laurie Maffly-Kipp, for their outstanding work in evaluating the prospects for the journal both in terms of its relocation and as regards its long term development. They have gone well beyond the call of duty in their investment of thought about how best to provide for the future of the journal, and they have made our job more of a pleasure by framing a sound plan for reorganization of the editorial board and by establishing a beachhead for conversations with potential sponsors. We are proud to have them as colleagues and undertake our own work at the journal with confidence drawn from knowing that they have been involved in thinking about it.

We are delighted to introduce the new editorial staff, which is a board of Associate Editors. Elizabeth A. Clark very generously has agreed to our request to remain on for the area of early Christianity. Thomas F. X. Noble will be responsible for medieval submissions and Carlos M. N. Eire for Reformation and early modern. Enrique Dussel will oversee Latin and South America, Myung Soo Park will advise on Asian, and Dana L. Robert has agreed to wear several hats, including African. John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield will be responsible for scholarship in American and will make all final editorial decisions based upon reports from Associate Editors and peer reviewers.

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ASCH presidents Dale A. Johnson and Dennis C. Dickerson have been of great help to us as we relocated the journal and restructured the editorial board. Their active involvement and counsel has proven valuable at every juncture, and we have benefited as well from their expressions of support for this new phase for the journal. Henry Bowden and Ken Minkema have also been extremely helpful in expediting a smooth transition.

We could not be happier that Karen Heitzenrater will remain as copy editor for the journal. The quality of the journal in no small part is attributable to her diligence, care, and thoughtful queries.

As we look toward the future, we hope to make progress in realizing the vision often expressed by ASCH members of broadening the range of articles in the journal to more fully reflect the geographical spread of Christian cultures in world history. And we need your assistance in this endeavor. In addition to continuing to promote the journal for its areas of proven strength, we hope you will actively encourage your colleagues who study Christianity in Asian, African, and Latin American cultures to submit manuscripts to *Church History*.

In another plan for the future, we hope to publish one or two lengthy articles a year that flesh out original research and historical argumentation in more detail than shorter essays allow. This departure from tradition would enable us to respond, in a small but significant way, to the decline in specialized historical monographs published by university presses. Especially in cases where other venues may not exist for a work, we aim to bring important new research in Christian history and culture to its rightful audience, and give new authors the opportunity to make their arguments in the fullness those arguments deserve.

In this effort and in all other aspects of the journal, we invite your advice and commentary. We rely on your support as we continue to move forward, as best we can, according to the high standards set by our predecessors. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as co-editors of this long-standing and vibrant journal.

John Corrigan
Amanda Porterfield

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