

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE SECOND CONSULTATION OF THE ORTHODOX SCHOLARS' INITIATIVE

ORTHODOXY & THE UNIVERSITY

Office of Vocation & Ministry
Hellenic College, Brookline, MA
www.osi.hchc.edu + www.vocations.hchc.edu

June 3–4, 2009

This consultation aims to probe unanswered questions from the first consultation of the Office of Vocation & Ministry, co-sponsored by the Orthodox Theological Society in America (Chicago, June 2008), which brought 64 scholars together to address the topic, “The Orthodox Scholar in the Academy: Does it Matter? Should it Matter?”

“Orthodoxy & The University” aims to address four thematic areas, listed below. Scholars wishing to present papers on one of these topics should email an abstract to the consultation administrators **no later than March 1st, 2009** using the format sheet for abstract submissions.

Consultation Topics

1. Orthodoxy & The University: the Relationship between Faith and Learning

At the June 2008 consultation, keynote speaker Andrea Sterk characterized three typical responses by Christians to learning and the very purpose of higher education: antagonism, withdrawal, or thoughtful engagement (see Sterk 2008). We hope this series of papers will address the question: What can we say about the relationship between Orthodoxy and the university?*

How does the Orthodox Christian tradition conceive of the relationship between faith and learning, between faith and knowledge, between faith and scholarship? What does it mean to be an educated person from an Orthodox Christian perspective? How does the Orthodox Christian tradition view the purpose of education, and how might this guide Orthodox engagement in higher education, especially in our contemporary pluralistic setting?

What might be gleaned from the history of interactions between the Orthodox Church and the university? Does the Orthodox Church have a stake in current debates over the nature and aims of the university? And how might Orthodox Christian theological and ecclesial commitments inform these questions?

2. Orthodoxy and an Orthodox College (Hellenic College)

At the June 2008 consultation, scholars addressed the history of Orthodox Christian undergraduate education in the United States. Two such programs are no longer in

existence (see Erickson 2008; Cutsinger 2008*). Thomas Lelon presented the history of the only current Orthodox Christian undergraduate institution in the Western hemisphere, Hellenic College (see Lelon 2008*). Frances Kostarelos argued from applied qualitative research of both Orthodox Christian Fellowship and the work of the Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College that there is a need for Orthodox Christian undergraduate institutions. We hope this series of papers will address further the idea of an Orthodox Christian college both generally and specifically, with reference to the mission and vision of the host institution, Hellenic College.*

Is there something particular or unique about how the Orthodox Christian tradition is/can be expressed in a liberal arts college? What reasons do students have to seek out an Orthodox Christian undergraduate education at Hellenic College? What distinctive traits characterize such an institution? What might Hellenic College learn from other, likeminded institutions? What are Greek American and/or Orthodox Christian college-bound students', as well as their families', perceptions of Hellenic College?

3. Orthodox Christian Scholars in Non-Orthodox Institutions: Secular and Faith-Based

At the June 2008 consultation, a wealth of perspectives arose on how Orthodox Christian scholars/professors navigate non-Orthodox institutions. We hope this series of papers will probe further the following fruitful questions and ideas that arose in the 2008 presentations.

In what ways do differences between faith-based and secular institutions bear upon the identities and careers of Orthodox Christian scholars? How might the identities and careers of Orthodox scholars in these settings be strengthened?

Is the work of Orthodox Christian scholars in the broader academy linked to the mission, work, and identity of the Church? How might these links be further developed and strengthened?

Should Orthodox Christian scholars in non-Orthodox institutions bring a presence within those institutions? If so, what initiatives and scholarly activities would best strengthen the presence and quality of Orthodox scholarship in the academy?

4. Panel Discussion on Mentoring

At the heart of a professor's work are his/her interactions with students. For students, college is often a place where they make guiding decisions about intellectual, moral, and religious commitments. These panels hope to address how Orthodox Christian students and faculty conceive of potential mentoring relationships. Lilly Endowment grant funding to the Office of Vocation & Ministry has as one of its objectives that faculty be equipped to "teach and mentor students in the vocational arena"—what does this mean for Orthodox faculty? (A separate panel will ask students to give their perspective, see the Call for Student Presenters.)

a. Faculty Panel: What are potentials and examples of how we, as Orthodox Christian faculty, mentor students? Specifically Orthodox students? What are challenges to this mentoring process? What role should faculty play in Orthodox Christian Fellowship groups?

b. Student Panel: To what extent are your faith commitments formed and challenged in the classroom, through professors and coursework? What challenges and opportunities do you face as your academic/intellectual lives develop? To what extent do faculty mentor you as you navigate these challenges and opportunities? What are your best hopes for how you might be mentored by Orthodox Christian faculty?

Submitting a Proposal

Those wishing to present papers on the above topics should email an abstract to consultation administrators **no later than March 1st, 2009** (see format sheet for abstract submissions, page 4). Those who have questions about proposal topics or anything related to the consultation are welcome to call the Office of Vocation & Ministry.

Consultation Administrators:

Rob Matlak (robmatlak@gmail.com)

Daniel Belonick (danelonick@gmail.com)

Office of Vocation & Ministry
50 Goddard Ave.
Brookline, MA, 02445
617-850-1312

For topic areas 1–3, the delivered paper should be approximately 20 minutes in length, providing for 10 minutes of discussion. Additionally, we ask that you submit an edited version of the delivered paper to the Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) no later than August 1, 2009 for consideration for publication. Our intention is to select papers from both consultations to produce a scholarly publication. Should your paper be chosen for publication, the OVM will disburse a stipend of \$300.

For topic area 4, panel presentations should be 10 minutes in length. Submission for publication is optional but encouraged.

For presenters and panelists, the OVM will cover the cost of lodging at a nearby hotel, meals during the consultation, and participant fee, and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$300. If available, we encourage the use of any travel funding from your academic employer so that limited OVM funding may be used for the future of the OSI initiative.

Additional information can be found at the OSI website <http://www.osi.hchc.edu>.

*Please see the “Resources” section of www.osi.hchc.edu to consult papers from the 2008 consultation.

Orthodox Scholars' Initiative Consultation 2009
Abstract Format
(Times New Roman 12pt)

Name:

Address:

Phone(s): (Best number(s) to reach you)

E-mail address:

Current Academic Affiliation:

Current Degrees Held: (Terminal Degree or Grad Student)

Paper Title:

Paper Abstract: (No more than 250 words)

Audio/Visual Equipment Requested: