

Welcome to Volume 30, a nice round number; this issue is particularly timely as it rather serendipitously happened that we had a number of submissions dealing with various issues around racism and diversity in the church. The ideas brought forth by our authors can cause us to think more deeply about the role of Christianity and theology in the conflicts we see in current events: NFL players not standing for the National Anthem and the protests in St. Louis to bring attention to racial injustice in policing, and the unsettling rhetoric from the president regarding white supremacy, to name just a few.

Further, this issue brings a lot of changes to *New Theology Review*, both substance and appearance. It has been a real challenge to publish this issue still in September, but we have made it! First, we have been early adopters, not necessarily to our advantage, of the new platform offered by Open Journal Systems. OJS is an open source platform for journals out of the Project for Public Knowledge at Simon Fraser University that we have used to publish our open access journal all along. It seemed a good thing to upgrade right away; it appeared that the interface would be more intuitive for the editorial board and staff, and in some ways it is. But other less substantive things haven't been worked out or fixed yet. For example (unless I manage to get it fixed in the next couple of days), the home page lists both our previous editorial board and the new editorial board. This is not all bad—the previous editorial board provided a significant amount of help for this issue and they are to be thanked. Anyway, we ask your patience as we work with the new upgraded platform until we have it looking just as nice as the old one did. Once you get into an article, column, or review it will look just the same. Please let me know about anything that you see that is not working correctly!

The second big factor in getting this issue ready to publish has been the transition of the editorial board. A couple of years ago, Ton, Dawn, and I began making plans for an orderly transition, and, of course, things have changed and it hasn't worked out quite the way we intended. Ton has left the editorial board and has gone on a year-long sabbatical, so he is not even around for us to cry on his shoulder or make us laugh. I have also gone off the editorial board and am now the managing editor. In our places we have chosen our colleagues Dan Horan, OFM, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, and Anne McGowan, Assistant Professor of Liturgy, to replace us on the editorial board. It isn't so helpful that they are both young scholars with lots of their own scholarship to be thinking of. AND, in addition, Annie, just this summer as she was coming on board, gave birth; she also has a delightful young toddler. So this transition has had its moments. I have resigned my position as Library Director due to long-term health problems that have caused me to finally go on disability after thirty-five years with a rare blood cancer. The continual quest to deal with symptoms has led to multiple clinical drug trials, chemo, and various other therapies and has left me with fatigue and cognitive impairment that make it impossible for me to work full-time. But it's a blessing that I can still manage to do some things, and I hope that keeping the behind-the-scenes work of *NTR* as one of those. I continue to work on other publication projects as well as I remain passionate about open access,

sustainable, scholarly publishing. Many of you reading this are my friends, so I have no hesitation to ask you for prayers as I am hopeful about starting a new clinical trial in just a few weeks.

As always, we welcome your ideas for articles and your submissions. If you would like to be on the peer-review list, please register with the journal and click on the option of reviewer in the profile. If you would like to review books for *NTR*, please let me know and I'll pass the information along—please indicate for both types of reviewing what your areas of interest are. If you have any other thoughts about *NTR*, ideas for theme issues, or ?, please let me know. You can also use our Facebook page which has now been updated to post ideas and generate discussion with other folks who “like” us on Facebook!

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