

## RESEARCH GROUPS

### COMMUNICATION THEOLOGY

- Topic: Publishing Project in Communication Theology  
Convener: Bernard Bonnot, Hallmark Channel and Deeper Dimensions  
Moderator: Fran Plude, Notre Dame College  
Presenters: David Robinson, University of San Francisco  
                  "Moving Theology beyond the 'Gutenberg Hologram'"  
                  Thomas Hughson, Marquette University  
                  "*Communio* in the Context  
                  of Lonergan's Functional Specialty Communication"

The objective of this session was to advance the two concepts selected last year for potential publication. The session concluded with both projects queued for eventual publication.

David Robinson of the University of San Francisco presented a manuscript of his 2002 plenary presentation with Mary Ann Hinsdale's response integrated vignette by vignette. This contrasts with the presentation in the CTSA *Proceedings 2002* where they are presented as two related but successive presentations. Thus the new Robinson version models a dialogical, nonlinear style of presenting and learning and points toward the publication of a different kind of theological text or 'book.'

With the group's input Robinson now envisions evolving and communicating his insight through the engagement of as many as five conversation partners from various disciplines around the proposed topic and title of *God and Complexity*. The work will be formatted in innovative ways to reflect a transdisciplinary approach to the God question and associative rather than linear modes of inquiry and presentation. The exchange will approach God in terms of complex systems marked by self-connecting, self-adapting, and emerging dynamics through which something fresh and new emerges. The work will reflect and hopefully advance the science-theology dialog of our times. The group included a representative of a major publisher who concurred with the value of the project in itself and the importance of developing an innovative way of communicating theological thought and work through the publication of a different kind of 'book.' One model of innovative layout for presentation of substantive thought is *As the Future Catches You* by Juan Enriquez (New York: Crown Business, 2001).

Thomas Hughson of Marquette University outlined an exploration of *communio* by bringing to bear on it Lonergan's rich sketch of communication as an intrinsic, essential, partially constitutive dimension of human existence and

theology. His exploration will accent the outward mission of *communio* in plural contexts especially insofar as this involves renewal of the diocesan church through communication. Hughson proposes exemplifying the communicative renewal of *communio* in such specific diocesan experiences as the fate of the *Economic Justice for All* pastoral, the Common Ground project, and the response of the local church to the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

At CTSA 2004 this Research Group's final session will preview and critique a draft of Robinson's proposed work and will review Hughson's further elaboration of the *communio*-communication study. Robinson's publication is envisioned for late 2005 and Hughson's for 2006 or later.

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#### WORLD CHURCH THEOLOGY

Topic: Theologians and the World Church  
Convener: Gerald M. Boodoo, Xavier University of Louisiana  
Presenters: Gideon Goosen, Australian Catholic University  
Phillip J. Linden, Jr., Xavier University of Louisiana

In looking at multiple religious belonging and dual identity Gideon Goosen's presentation acknowledged that recent religious history has raised the issue of multiple and dual belonging/identity bringing with it new theological methodologies. Goosen discussed the new terminology used in this debate particularly in the light of the book *Many Mansions*. In his presentation, Goosen used the term multiple belonging for intra-Christian purposes and dual belonging/identity for the interfaith context. He broke the interfaith context into three subgroups. The global context of interfaith issues is characterized as including the experience of Christian missionaries; migration (especially since World War II) with increasing numbers of refugees and asylum seekers; and the increased speed of air travel with continuing interest in orientalism. Goosen suggested that new insights can be gleaned from anthropological and psychological viewpoints by further investigating key concepts like personhood (Rudman), self (Merton), identity (Ricoeur) and conversion (Carrier). An attempt was made to understand dual and multiple belonging/identity from a theological perspective using the positions of Jeanrond, Dupuis and Geffré, while evaluating that of Corless as untenable.

In a second presentation Phillip Linden, Jr., understood the future of World Church theology as facing several difficult questions as it reflects within the global society. It seems that social, political, and economic theories and interests are neutralizing theology, so where should the starting point of theology be in