

2021 Carolinas Regional Convivium

Call For Papers

Dates: January 22-23, 2021
Conference Theme: “The Power of Biography: Learning from Wisemen and Fools”
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Matt Williams
C. S. Lewis Institute, city director for Greenville chapter
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Greenville>
Location: Davenant House, Landrum, South Carolina

The theme of the last regional conference was “Literature in the Service of Christian Wisdom.” The theme for 2021 is a continuation of that, but with a specific focus on an important area of literature – biography. We gather around the idea of “The Power of Biography” to further the value of using literature as a tool for learning or teaching essential principles of Christian wisdom. For those wanting an introduction to The Davenant Institute’s emphasis on wisdom this short essay by Brad Littlejohn is a good start – ‘[Three Cheers for Wisdom.](#)’

We read biographies because, firstly, we are interested in people. The famous line by George Santayana (1905) – “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” – gives another reason, a proverbial one for reading biography. More expansive reasons for valuing biography flow from this literary form accentuating the *Imago Dei*. The image of God in man, particularly *via* Christ, calls for a kind of holy imitation. The stories of those who have lived wisely or foolishly are guideposts for reflecting our “chief end.” It is from a desire to make this practice more widely received that the Davenant Institute invites you to submit your paper proposal for the upcoming regional conference.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All papers should advance the conference theme. If you have a question about this feel free to contact Mark Olivero by email (see below).
 2. You must be registered for this convivium to submit a paper proposal.
 3. Format of your proposal. PDF or Word doc (same below)
 4. Details to be included (placed at top of proposal)
 - Name and address
 - Date
 - Email contact
 - Basic background info such as most recent degree completed (or in progress), church affiliation, current work
 - Title of your paper
 5. Word length of proposal about 200 words, not more than 300
 6. Submit to Mark Olivero molivero1017@gmail.com
 7. Deadline to submit abstract/proposal midnight November 14, 2020
- If approved, each paper will allow for a 30 minute paper presentation and 10-15 minute Q&A.

IDEA PROMPTS

The following are a few suggestions for possible topics in keeping with the theme of the 2021 Carolinas Regional Convivium.

What are the differences between autobiography, hagiography and critical biography and how can these methods be useful to convey wisdom?

How is biography in Scripture used to connect its readers more closely the truth principles and practices of the Christian life? This is not meant to be an exegesis of particular passages in Scripture, but a way to investigate literary methods, narrative tools or psychological aspects of biographic texts in the Bible.

What lesser reformer(s) other than the magisterial reformers need to be brought to the attention of modern audiences, why and what specific accomplishments should they be known for? How has the Church benefited from their life's work?

A paper may develop around a secular person or unbeliever whose life demonstrated an influence of Biblical knowledge and ethics (or the rejection of such) and the results.

A paper may compare and analyze several biographies of a key person in history and how one or more is more accurate, authentic, and effective as a point of light for Christian wisdom. For example, several biographies have been written about Martin Luther. How do these compare and what causes one to excel over another?

Papers should not be like a book review of a given biography, but each paper should take up the task of examining essential principles of how good biography is a necessary vehicle for conveying Christian wisdom to adults and/or children.

Thank you for your interest in the work of The Davenant Institute. We look forward to reviewing your paper proposals and will get back to you shortly after the deadline to let you know the decision of the papers committee.

Blessings,
Mark Olivero

sample

Paper Proposal for the 2021 Carolinas Regional Convivium

Name:

Date:

Address:

Email:

Basic background:

Paper Title:

(paper proposal – main focus or thesis, how it supports the theme of the conference, sample of key resources you intend to use, description of broad outline and reason(s) your topic is of value. Length – about 200 words, not more than 300.)

(submit before deadline)