

2022 Carolinas Regional Convivium

Call for Papers

What: The Carolinas Regional Convivia held in the Spring is an annual conference with a focus on literature. Our gathering centers on literature as one vehicle, among others, for encouraging the growth of classical Protestantism and retrieval of wisdom for the church.

Date and Location: March 11-12, 2022 at the Davenant House, Landrum, SC

Who may attend: Any person interested in literature in general or this conference theme. One of the unique features of the Davenant way is that we mingle together as peers regardless of level of education or other status markers. Students as well as professors may submit a proposal for a paper presentation.

Theme: *The Poetic Lens: Seeing with Wisdom's adornment and Virtue's delight*

One of the key motivations for us at The Davenant Institute is a belief that can be summed up in a catchphrase, Wisdom will save the world, *literally*. You may recognize this as a variation of a popular quote from Dostoyevsky: "I believe the world will be saved by beauty" (Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin, *The Idiot*). What is beauty? Is not beauty simply wisdom on display? During his Nobel Prize lecture Alexander Solzhenitsyn made a comment which hinted at a connection between beauty and wisdom. He said, "Dostoevsky's remark, 'Beauty will save the world,' was not a careless phrase but a prophecy. After all he was granted to see much, a man of fantastic illumination. And in that case art, literature might really be able to help the world today." The Book of Proverbs most certainly portrays true beauty and true wisdom as one embodiment. Whether spoken or written there is much beautiful wisdom to be gleaned from the great literature of the world. If it be so, then it is no wonder so many of us have a heart for literature. Literature is a vital tool to beautifully convey wisdom.

In recent years, the Spring convivium at Davenant House has focused on an aspect of literature. The last literature event in 2021 focused on the power of biography. This time our emphasis will be on poetry, but not just the genre of poetry. We will look also into how the use of poetic imagery and figurative speech draws us in to delight in the beauties of wisdom and to act on its virtues. If the idea that wisdom will save the world is *literally* true, then we can find plenty of examples across the ages. Thus, the theme, **The Poetic Lens: Seeing with Wisdom's adornment and Virtue's delight.**

We are very glad to announce that Charles Carman will be our keynote speaker for the 2022 Carolinas Regional Convivium. Charles is a Ph.D candidate at Catholic University of America in the Church History Program, focusing on Syriac, Latin, and Greek. Charles has been a long-time partner with The Davenant Institute in a teaching capacity as director of our language programs. He will be delivering his keynote address on “Back to the Sources: The Revival of Classical Poetry in the Protestant Reformation.”

We welcome a wide range of other paper proposals on this theme, inviting submissions from students, scholars or persons interested in how poetry and/or figurative language has been used to convey wisdom and virtue, especially from the time of the Reformation till now. For those desiring to submit a paper proposal for review by the selection committee, please consider the following prompts and guidelines. Thank you for your interest in this event and in The Davenant Institute. We look forward to convening again around our mutual enjoyment of literature.

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Prompts (*not intended to be exhaustive*):

- In what ways has the classical Protestant tradition contributed to the body of poetry in use to this day?
- What aspects of “poetic diction” proposed by Owen Barfield (friend of C.S. Lewis) are useful for a sharper perception of the world?
- How does the use of poetic or figurative language in Scripture (outside of its wisdom literature) promote wisdom and virtue?
- How has poetry been used for political purposes since the Reformation?
- What key motifs in British literature emphasize wisdom and/or virtue?
- What can we learn from this angle on poetry: “Poetry as a Lens: Alternative Ways of Seeing the Novel” by Nancy Lubarsky (*The English Journal*, Vol. 91, No. 3, Teaching and Writing Poetry, Jan., 2002)
- How was poetry a key tool for French Protestants after the Reformation?

Proposal Format:

- Please submit your proposal in either a Word doc or Google doc.
- At the top state your name, date submitted, occupation, address, email
- Schools attended after high school; church affiliation.
- You should be registered prior to submitting a paper proposal
- Body of paper proposal: start with a short title, then the thesis of your paper; 200 to 300 words explaining the thesis.
- Deadline: February 1, 2022

Submit to (or for questions), contact the following:

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