

# Literature as Vocation

Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature

Azusa Pacific University  
Azusa, CA

**March 12-14, 2020**

Why do we do what we do in the field of literary studies? Why does it matter? To whom? What redemptive or transformative work does literature do? When? Where? How? We invite reflection and conversation about the different kinds of work literature does to and through writers, readers, teachers, thinkers, and scholars. Our topic is intentionally broad as we seek to inspire, encourage, and celebrate the creation, interpretation, and appreciation of literature from any historical period and any genre. Our format is inclusive with panels for professors, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as scholars from multiple disciplines including English, Modern Languages, Theology, Education, Psychology, Science, and Humanities.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to the following:

- the work of **re-enchantment**: magical realism, refreshment, joy, delight
- the work of **transformation**: secular/post-secular accounts of religious experience, narratives of conversion and de-conversion, spiritual autobiography
- the work of **empathy**: emotion and affect, caregiving, accounts of suffering, grief, and illness
- the work of **social justice**: remembrance, rediscovery, lament, protest, reconciliation, peace
- the work of **stewardship**: ecology, creation care, apocalypse

E-mail your one-paragraph abstracts and session proposals by **December 1, 2019** to **Dr. Patricia Brown** at **plbrown@apu.edu**. Undergraduate students must submit their entire paper for consideration; eligible undergraduate papers will be entered into the national CCL Undergraduate Writing Contest for a cash prize and publication on the CCL website. Graduate students are encouraged to apply for the CCL Travel Grant. For more details on these undergraduate and graduate opportunities, visit <https://www.christianityandliterature.com/Awards-and-Grants>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Karen Swallow Prior**  
Liberty University



Author of *Cultural Engagement: A Crash Course in Contemporary Issues* (2019) and *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life Through Great Books* (2018)

**Dr. Tae Sung**  
California Baptist University



Author of *The Spirit and the Gift: A Postsecular Reading of Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James* (monograph in progress)

**Dr. Ayana Jamieson**  
Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network, founder



Author of "Black Blessings: Toni Cade Bambara and Octavia Butler" (The Feminist Wire)