

PAIDEIA 2024 CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to announce the second annual meeting of a newly convened community of Orthodox Christian academics, clergy, monastics, and interested laity. Its name, “*PAIDEIA*,” comes from the Ancient Greek word meaning “education” or “learning,” and most importantly “*culture*” as a whole. Moreover, the derivation of the English word “culture” from the Latin “*cultus*,” or community of worship, reminds us that culture in this broadest sense—which shapes our experience of space, time, meaning, and reality itself—ultimately derives from *worship* or the practice of religion, as was the case in the Ancient Greek *Paideia*, in the Christian Civilization of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, and indeed in traditional cultures everywhere. Modernized, secularized forms of Christianity, however, offer little foundation for a rich and vibrant culture, leaving us with the reign of commercialized mass culture and the pseudo-cultures of political ideology that often serve as simulacra for religion. We believe, then, that Orthodox Christianity stands in a unique position to lead in the retrieval and revitalization of Christian culture through remaining steadfast in the ancient liturgies and ascetic practices of the Church. We hold that the path through and beyond the problems of modernity leads not backward through nostalgic retreat into an often fancied past, but forward by drawing upon the illumination and witness proper to living Orthodox worship, prayer, and asceticism, to articulate elements for a Christian culture of the future.

Accordingly, the theme for our second meeting will be “Orthodoxy and Culture.” This theme is intended quite generally, to include such questions as:

- the relation of American Orthodoxy to its native cultures of origin,
- the relation of American Orthodoxy to modern (and increasingly, post-modern) Western culture, or to the specifically American culture and milieu, as they exist today
- the overall relation of Orthodoxy to culture as such, understood broadly as the spiritual element within which our worship and practice unfolds, and from which our language draws its lexicon and imagery.

St Basil the Great saw this last issue as bridging two poles. Secular learning, he maintained, should ornament the mind as foliage graces the fruit-bearing tree. But nonetheless, we must discern the difference between the helpful and the injurious elements of our cultural world: “The bees,” he notes, “do not visit all the flowers” (“Address to Young Men on the Right Use of Greek Literature”). Accordingly, our meeting will begin Wednesday night with a plenary text-seminar addressing issues of Orthodoxy and Culture, and based on such readings as St Basil’s “Address,” Fr Georges Florovsky on Empire and Desert, and Fr Pavel Florensky on Christianity and Culture. This theme, it should be noted, is meant to stimulate the exploration of interconnections between individual presentations, not to limit what participants choose to present. For it is hard to think of a topic that could not be easily contextualized by one of these formulations.

Our 2024 meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 29 through Saturday morning, June 1 2023** on the beautiful grounds of Antiochian Village in the Laurel Mountains of Pennsylvania. We are structuring the conference to unfold at a less hectic pace than is usual, with papers of roughly 25-30 minutes followed by discussion and then generous break-time for refreshment and informal discussion. We are expecting to host multiple concurrent sessions, so the options for learning and discussion will be rich and diverse. Room and board at Antiochian Village are relatively modest: \$446.74 for a single and \$345.68 for a double room, for three days, which includes eight meals from dinner on Wednesday to brunch on Saturday. Fees will be pro-rated for shorter stays. The cities of Ligonier and Latrobe are nearby for those wishing to procure their own accommodations and dining. The conference fee will be \$100.00 for the gainfully employed, and \$50.00 for seminarians, students, monastics, and others with limited funding. Each evening will conclude with a reception featuring complimentary food and drink. A **link to register** for the conference will be posted will be posted at <https://www.antiochianvillage.org> by the end of January.

The conference will feature a mix of invited speakers along with speakers chosen on the basis of submitted abstracts. Confirmed speakers so far include Metropolitan **Jonah (Paffhausen)**, Fr **Ignatius Green**, Fr **Hans Jacobse**, Fr **Paul (Alfred) Siewers**, Dcn **Sampson Nash**, Dr **David Bradshaw**, Dr **Daniel Buxhoeveden**, Dr **Seraphim (Bruce) Foltz**, Dr **David Ford**, Dr **Mary Ford**, Dr **Edith Humphrey**, Dr **Cyril (Gary) Jenkins**, and Dr **Joseph (Rico) Vitz**. Our keynote speakers this year will be Fr **Thomas Soroka** and Fr **Chad Hatfield**. Additionally, Bishop **Thomas (Joseph)** will be greeting us with introductory remarks. And of course, those wishing to participate in the conference discussions without presenting a paper are heartily welcomed. Proposals (300—400 words) for papers on this year's topic should be **submitted by February 1, 2024** to *both* Foltz and Bradshaw at foltzbv@eckerd.edu and david.bradshaw@uky.edu. We expect a decision on accepted papers no later than March 1.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring. And we encourage you to share this Call for Papers with friends who may be interested.

In the spirit of Orthodox fellowship,

Sincerely yours,

Seraphim Foltz, David Bradshaw, Fr Hans Jacobse, Fr Paul Siewers
PAIDEIA Co-conveners