

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to announce the third annual meeting of PAIDEIA, a community of Orthodox Christian scholars, clergy, monastics, and laity. Its name, “*PAIDEIA*,” comes from the Ancient Greek word meaning “education,” “learning,” and most importantly “*culture*” as deeply formative, especially in view of its derivation from the Latin “*cultus*,” or community of worship. This 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 within traditional cultures everywhere. Modern secularized forms of Christianity, however, have offered meager foundations for the rich and vibrant culture necessary to adequately articulate our faith. 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.

Our theme this year is “The Beauty of a God Who Is Among Us,” a phrase taken from Fr Chad Hatfield’s sermon at Divine Liturgy during last year’s meeting. As usual, the theme is meant to be suggestive, rather than prohibitive, focusing us upon a common subject matter. A sketch of this theme follows here:

THE BEAUTY OF A GOD WHO IS AMONG US.

Christian theology is by nature deeply Incarnational. This has not always been reflected in the prevailing Christian worldview, which to varying degrees, in varying times and places, has been “otherworldly,” directing its gaze more towards heaven than earth. Yet St Maximus the Confessor reminds us that the Incarnation of God into the world has been at work from the beginning of creation itself, culminating in (rather than being confined to) the Incarnation of Christ on earth and a renewed creation. Orthodox Christianity has been true to this commission in the many dimensions of its worship, from the veneration of icons and relics, to the symbols we find everywhere in temple and liturgy, to the Holy Mysteries themselves. Genuine beauty is inherently incarnational, and is perhaps best understood as the shining forth of the invisible within the visible. Thus, “The Beauty of a God Who Is Among Us,” the 2025 PAIDEIA theme, invites us to reflect not just upon narrowly aesthetic matters, but also upon sacramental and symbolic realities, upon the goodness and holiness we encounter throughout creation—upon all that might suggest the need for a more thoroughly Incarnational worldview that everywhere encounters the truth of the exhortation, “Christ Is in Our Midst.”

Our 2024 meeting will take place on **Tuesday, June 3 through Friday morning, June 6, 2025** 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 often the case, with papers of roughly 25-30 minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes discussion and then generous break-time for refreshment and informal discussion. We plan 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 prorated 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. Speakers for our last two conferences have included Metropolitan **Jonah (Paffhausen)**, Hieromonk **Macarius (Ruegemer)**, Fr. **Bogdan Bucur**, Fr. **Anthony (Gaelan) Gilbert**, **Ignatius Green**, Fr **Chad Hatfield**, Fr **Hans Jacobse**, Fr **John Schroedel**, Fr **Paul (Alfred) Siewers**, Fr **Thomas Soroka**, Dcn. **Brian Patrick Mitchell**, 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**, Dr. **Stoyan Tanev**, and Dr **Joseph (Rico) Vitz**. Additionally, there will be two plenary keynote speakers, who will be announced in January. 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 15, 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 June. And we urge you to share this Call for Papers with friends who may be interested.

In the spirit of Orthodox fellowship,

Sincerely yours,

Seraphim Foltz
for *PAIDEIA Conveners*:

David Bradshaw, Bruce (Seraphim) Foltz, Fr Chad Hatfield, Fr Hans Jacobse, Dcn Sampson (Ryan) Nash, Fr Paul Siewers