Editorial

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I had intended to write an Editorial for my first issue as Editor-in-Chief of *Review of Religious Research*, in keeping with tradition, but I lost track of time and did not submit one. It took me a while to learn to use Springer's online editorial manuscript system, and I was still adapting to the larger number of manuscripts than I was used to processing as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy* from 2008 through 2017. The transition has been somewhat similar to a football quarterback moving up from college to professional football. The skill set is the same, but the game seems to be played at a much faster pace.

My main motivation to write this Editorial is to thank Dr. Adair T. Lummis for her years of service as the Editor-in-Chief of *Review of Religious Research*, and for helping me make the transition to the Pro's. As many of you may know, Adair became the Editor when Springer became the journal's publisher in 2011. I joined the Research Religious Association a couple of years earlier, so I have had a window on her work. Among other things, she was a strong advocate of Denominational Research Reports as a way for denominational/applied researchers to briefly describe their research findings in the journal, increased the journal's impact factor, and published over 500 pages of articles per year that generate the royalty payments that Spring annually pays to the Association. When I asked Adair to serve on the journal's Editorial Board, she politely and humorously declined by telling me that would be like the out-going pastor staying in the congregation and looking over the new pastor's shoulder.

Speaking of the Editorial Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 62 distinguished religious researchers who agreed to serve a 2-year term on the journal's Editorial Board. I also thank Dr. David E. Eagle, who is both an Editorial Board member and the new Book Review Editor, replacing Dr. Brian Miller who did a great job for the past several years.

As long as I have your attention, I would like to tell you about a few of the key changes to *Review of Religious Research* since January 1, 2020, if you have not had the chance to read the journal's Aims & Scope and Instructions for Authors. One is that the journal, befitting its name, now publishes reviews of religious research.

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Another change is that manuscripts must have a structured abstract of 250–350 words, consisting of five sections: Background, Purpose, Methods, Results, and Conclusions and Implications. The last change I want to mention is that the journal publishes what were called Denominational Research Reports under the name Applied Research Abstracts. The name was changed from “Denominational Research” to “Applied Research” at the suggestion of Dr. Scott Thumma, and the name was change from “Reports” to “Abstracts” because they have the same structured format as the abstract of other articles, although Applied Research Abstracts should be 350–550 words.

I welcome and encourage manuscripts from all members of the Religious Research Association in the years to come, as well as from researchers who are not members of the Association. However, please carefully read the journal’s Aims & Scope (<https://www.springer.com/journal/13644/aims-and-scope>) and Instructions for Authors (<https://www.springer.com/journal/13644/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20authors>) before submitting your manuscript at the journal’s submission website (<http://www.editorialmanager.com/rorr/>).

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Editor-in-Chief

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