

## Development (or Finance) Committee

The Development Committee is charged in By-Law I with responsibilities “to advance the Association’s long-term financial condition (including investments and fund-raising) and generate financial support for the annual meeting in its various locales.”

Currently, the Association’s investments are in the hands of a professional financial planner, but the Development Committee is asked to review these investments annually and advise the Executive Officer and the Council about the financial status of the Association. This advice is particularly important at the time that Council considers the proposed budget for the following year. Periodically, the committee may wish to review the performance of ASR’s investment accounts in comparison to the performance of other types of accounts (e.g., Vanguard) and recommend whether any changes should be made.

The committee is also charged with raising funds and collateral support for the annual meeting. At a minimum this means: (1) supplemental funding for the Presidential reception, preferably no less than \$1,500; (2) supplemental funding for the Furfey Lecture reception, preferably no less than \$1,500; and (3) a contact list for local media so the details of our program can be shared with them and invitations extended to them to attend and report on the findings presented at the annual meeting.

Past sponsors of ASR’s receptions have included: Brill, which usually donates \$1,000 for the opening night reception, at which the latest volume of the *Religion and the Social Order* series is unveiled; Oxford University Press, the publisher of our journal, which usually donates \$500-\$1000 for one of our receptions; SAGE, which in 2013 contributed a few hundred dollars to be listed as a co-sponsor of the Presidential reception in order to raise awareness of its new journal *Critical Research on Religion*; and various universities, including the universities of the President or the universities located in the cities hosting the annual meeting.

How the chair goes about doing these various fundraising and development tasks is largely at his or her discretion. Some chairs have done the work on their own. Others have worked closely with the other committee members or formed subcommittees composed of members residing in the city where the annual meeting will be held. The Executive Officer can assist by providing the names and contact information of ASR members who reside in the cities where meetings will be held. Any of these strategies can work well for the Association.