ILLUMINATING THE DARKNESS: Literature in an Age of Unbelief

“Better to illuminate than merely to shine, to deliver to others contemplated truths than merely to contemplate.”
- Thomas Aquinas

CONFERENCE LOCATION
COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Colorado Christian University (CCU) is located in Lakewood, Colorado — a suburb that sits on the edge of the Rocky Mountains, just ten miles west of downtown Denver. The University campus is in the heart of residential Lakewood.

In addition to the close proximity to Colorado’s mountain playground, CCU’s campus location provides easy access to downtown Denver and the Denver International Airport, hotel accommodations, and the Belmar restaurant and shopping district. Denver boasts the 16th Street Mall, the Denver Art Museum, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

The outdoor adventurer can visit historic mountain towns, catch a spring ski run, or explore hiking trails. All conference attendees will enjoy the majesty of the Rockies by simply looking to the west!

Western Region Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature
April 4-6, 2019
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Jill Peláez Baumgaertner is professor of English Emerita and former dean of Humanities and Theological Studies at Wheaton College (2001-2017), where she also served as Acting Provost in 2018. She received her Ph.D. from Emory University and taught at Valparaiso University.

Dr. Baumgaertner has authored five collections of poetry, including *What Cannot Be Fixed* (2014); a textbook on poetry; a book on Flannery O’Connor; and edited the poetry anthology *Imago Dei* (2012). She has also written lyrics for compositions by Richard Hillert, Carl Schalk, Michael Costello, and Daniel Kellogg.

Dr. Baumgaertner was a Fulbright fellow to Spain, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and is the winner of the White Eagle Coffee Store Press’s poetry chapbook contest, the Goodman Award, an Illinois Arts Council Award, the Illinois Prize of the Rock River Poetry Contest, and the CCL Midwest Poetry Contest.

She currently serves as poetry editor of *The Christian Century* and is a past president of the Conference on Christianity and Literature.

---

**CONFERENCE THEME**

**ILLUMINATING THE DARKNESS:**

Literature in an Age of Unbelief

Across the ages, literature has illuminated darkness: the darkness of sinful humanity, the darkness of confusion, the darkness of ignorance, the darkness of separation from God.

God is the agent who seeks to reveal Himself in the midst of darkness and unbelief.

In Psalm 18:28, a prayer of praise for God’s deliverance, David writes, “It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness” (NRSV).

Celebrate with us how literature of various genres, from origins both sacred and secular, illuminates darkness in our age of unbelief.

---

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**PROPOSALS COULD ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS:**

- How can writers of faith reach and touch an audience of faith and of unbelief?
- What kinds of darkness are especially present in our age, and how does literature illuminate them?
- How does a particular text/author open the way for God’s illuminating work?
- Does the source (writer, film director) make a difference in how God uses literature as a tool for illumination?
- What are new avenues for poets of faith to reach a wider audience?
- How can teachers of literature expose light implicit in literature of faith and literature of unbelief?

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

Send abstracts (250-350 words) via email to Janet Black at jblack@ccu.edu or mail to Janet Black, 8787 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood, CO 80226.