Summary of the World Religions Interest Group Business Meeting
Conducted on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at the ATLA Annual Conference

Compiled by Megan E. Welsh, University of Colorado Boulder,
Chair of the World Religions Interest Group

Attendance:
Megan Welsh, Karla Grafton, Stephen Sweeney, Patrick Milas

Discussion:
After reacquainting ourselves with one another, our first item of business this year was to discuss WRIG’s accomplishments from the past year. These included establishing a WRIG listserv to enhance internal communication, successfully requesting the addition of conference ribbons that say “Let’s talk about World Religions,” and committing to keeping better records of group activities and documents by using a cloud-based, collaborative platform shared with WRIG members.

The majority of this year’s business meeting focused on membership and potential project ideas. Megan Welsh was elected for another year as Chair of WRIG and Drew Baker remains Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. The secretary role is currently vacant and the group hopes to recruit a Secretary from its growing membership in Fall 2017. These roles will be reviewed at ATLA’s annual conference in 2018.

This year, WRIG will focus on recruiting new members and increasing the visibility of its current membership. We will develop a schedule so that members will regularly post interesting media relating to world religions to the Atlantis listserv and within the ATLA member newsletter. Additionally, we hope to host podcasts or webinars, highlighting different world religions and partnering with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI Committee) for future programming opportunities.

Our business meeting ended with a discussion on WRIG’s role within ATLA. The group discussed how WRIG is a spoke in ATLA’s “Global Hub of Theological Education” and that our role is educating the membership and promoting world religions throughout the year and at the annual conference. In reviewing our role within ATLA, the group decided that we should consider revising our charge to better fit into the hub metaphor that ATLA has adapted.