

**The 2011 Western Regional Conference on Christianity & Literature**  
Vanguard University of Southern California in Costa Mesa, CA, April 7-9.

## **Transformative Journeys: Literature, Faith, and Metamorphosis**

“Events in our lives happen in a sequence of time, but in their significance to ourselves they find their own order in the continuous thread of revelation,” writes Eudora Welty. Notable for a diverse range of epiphanic and transformative elements, our Christian journeys harbor a rich array of metamorphoses: individual confession, collective testimonies, stories of witness and salvation, the lyric strength of prayer, our forays into the wilderness, or journeys of healing and deliverance. Zora Neale Hurston refers to “years that ask questions and years that answer” as we glean insights along the way through trials, seasonal changes, and generational wisdom shared in communities, or perhaps as poet Rainer Maria Rilke puts it, “the only journey is the one within.” As Christians, our life stories shine outward as forms of witness while our collective faith journeys display the unfolding of God’s divine plan, wherein the pinnacle of creation is manifest in Jesus Christ.

Panel sessions may address any aspect of transformative journeys in all their literal and figurative senses: allegorical voyages, encounters with the divine, the notion of sacrifice, confessional autobiography, survivor narratives, memoirs of rehabilitation and recovery, spiritual metamorphoses, travel writings, diaries, letters, poetry, or film. Literary topics might engage the presence of God in our journeys, the recollection of memory, the role of forgiveness, narrating resistance to oppression and suffering, or the nature of time and human experience. Pedagogy panels on the integration of faith and learning in relation to “transformative journeys” are welcome. The conference theme also applies to cultural exchanges in global settings, distance and time in our digital age, travel in film and literature, or encounters with difference at crossroads, i.e. “the road less taken.”

Keynote speaker Dr. Jeff Hittenberger, Provost at Vanguard University and a noted speaker on Christian higher education, will explore personal, spiritual, and community-based aspects of the conference theme in his opening lecture. Additionally, a special keynote presentation will feature a staged reading of an original script by Vanguard University’s resident playwright, Professor Warren Doody.

**The 2011 Western Regional Conference on Christianity & Literature** invites proposals for scholarly or creative panels, interdisciplinary sessions, round tables, or individual fifteen to twenty-minute presentations on the interface between literary studies and Christianity. Panels including undergraduate students are also welcome. Special consideration will be given to papers relating to the conference theme, “transformative journeys.” Graduate student CCL members may apply for a grant to meet travel and registration fees. Applications must be received before February 1, 2011. See guidelines on the Graduate Student Grant page of the CCL site:  
<http://www.pepperdine.edu/sponsored/ccl/awardsandcontests/gradstudentgrant.htm>

**The deadline for all submissions is March 1, 2011.** Please e-mail 350-word proposals to Dr. Karen Lee, English Department Chair: [vuccl@ymail.com](mailto:vuccl@ymail.com) or by regular post (CCL 2011, c/o English Department, Vanguard University of Southern California, 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; Attn: Dr. Karen Lee). Presenters should be members in good standing with the Conference on Christianity and Literature. You may join the organization on-line prior to the conference or at the time of registration. For registration information, please visit the conference website:  
<http://vanguardccl.wordpress.com/>