

The Midwest Society of Biblical Literature
invites nominations for the
Regional Scholar Award

The Regional Scholar Award is a program developed by the National Society of Biblical Literature's Council of Regional Coordinators to recognize and promote promising entry-level scholars in the field of biblical studies. Its objective is to encourage their intellectual and professional development and to lend practical assistance by providing venues in which to present their work at the Society's Regional and Annual Meetings. To qualify for the SBL Regional Scholar Award, scholars should be at least ABD but no more than four years past the receipt of their Ph.D. at the time of nomination. The amount of the award is \$1,000.00 to facilitate attendance at the Annual Meeting.

The selection process and time-line is as follows:

1. **A Faculty Member** from an academic institution in the Midwest Region must send a letter of nomination by December 15, 2009, to Prof. Mark Whitters, President of the Midwest SBL, Dept. of History & Philosophy—701 Pray-Harrod; Eastern Michigan University; Ypsilanti, MI 48197.
2. **Nominee** must submit an acceptable paper proposal and present the paper at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Midwest SBL;
3. **Nominee** must submit hard and electronic copies of the paper along with nominee's CV to Prof. Whitters by March 1, 2010;
4. **The Regional Selection Committee** will select from the nominees one Regional Scholar candidate from the Midwest SBL and notify that candidate by April 15, 2010;
5. **Prof. Whitters** will submit the candidate's materials to the Convenor of the Council of Regional Coordinators by June 1, 2010;
6. **The Convenor of the Council of Regional Coordinators** will notify regional candidates selected as Regional Scholars by the National Committee by August 31, 2010;
7. **Regional Scholars** will submit their papers for consideration to the appropriate SBL national program units for the 2011 National Meeting;
8. **Regional Scholars** will attend a dinner in their honor at the 2011 National SBL Meeting, receive their monetary awards, and present a 3-4 minute summary of their papers at the dinner.

The selection process ultimately depends on the quality of the submitted paper and presentation, evaluated by the following criteria:

1. Solid knowledge of scholarly resources and publications
2. Knowledge of the relevant languages
3. Knowledge of the primary sources
4. Ability to think critically
5. Ability to use scholarship critically: to follow the argument and evaluate its foundations and the validity of the reasoning
6. Clarity of writing and presentation style
7. Originality: an ability to produce fresh ideas without indulging in far-fetched speculation

Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Decisions regarding the regional scholar will be made without regard to race, religion, or sexual orientation.