

CALL FOR PAPERS

For presentation at the 4th Triennial Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives

**June 10-13, 2012
Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois (Chicago)**

Submissions due by April 1, 2012.

The Program Committee welcomes submissions reflecting your work on children and spirituality in these Submission Categories:

1. Biblical/Historical

- Theological perspectives and traditions
- Historical perspectives and practices
- Biblical perspectives
- Denominational history and distinctions

2. Research and Theory

- Recent or ongoing research with data (qualitative or quantitative) on any aspect of child spirituality, including *but not limited to* spiritual experiences, family processes, children's spirituality within and outside organized religion contexts, congregations, or liturgy.
- Definitions and theory regarding children's spirituality
- Methodological advances and innovation in measuring/studying child spirituality

3. Social Contexts and Social Justice

- Urban ministries
- Ethnic/multicultural ministries
- Children with disabilities
- Missions/cross-cultural ministry
- Children in crisis (poverty, abuse, relief agencies)
- Cultural challenges to children's spirituality

4. Pedagogy and Spiritual Formation Practices

- Curriculum/resources
- Vocational training
- Evaluating pedagogical methods
- Courses/literature on children's spirituality
- Experiential processes in spiritual formation
- Storytelling, visual arts, music, drama

** What do we mean by "children"? For this conference, youngsters are considered children from birth to age 12 (approximately), but we will consider work on children slightly older if there is justification (e.g., a research project that compares 10-year-olds and 14-year-olds).

TO SUBMIT: All submission materials must be e-mailed.

1. Copy sections titled "I. Submission Cover Sheet" and "II. Submission Information" into a new WORD document or into the body of an email. Or, scan and send as a pdf.
2. Where lines are provided, type in the appropriate information and attach the pages or paste the information in the body of your email and send to: submissions@childspirituality.org
3. **Attach your 400-500 word summary** of your submission.

I. Submission Cover Sheet

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Highest degree earned and discipline: _____

Title/position: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Your primary work setting and affiliation:

_____ Academic institution (college, university)

_____ Ministry setting (church, faith-based community organization, chaplaincy, etc.)

_____ Academic setting (public/religious school)

_____ Other: _____

Have you attended one or more previous Children's Spirituality Conference/s?

_____ No _____ Yes: 2003 2006 2009

Experience with Presenting a Paper or Workshop at Professional Conferences (check one):

_____ I have *never presented* at a conference before.

_____ I have *presented* at a conference or conferences previously. List conference(s) here: _____

Are you currently a student? No Yes (if yes, list your institution in your mailing address)

If yes, does your submission have an advisor or senior colleague as a co-author?

II. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Title of your submission:

Note: Titles should be 8-15 words, with key descriptors (topic, sufficient reference to a submission category, the sample studied or methodology used, etc.). For example:

Bad title: *Using Godly Play in the Church*

Better title: *Evaluation of Godly Play Curriculum for Enhancing Preschool Children's Spiritual Growth*

Of the 4 Submission Categories, in which one would you categorize your submission?

Biblical Research Social justice Pedagogy

Your preferred format of presentation (select one):

Paper

(An oral delivery, usually within a panel of related papers, followed by brief Q&A. Length for each paper can be 20, 30, or 40 minutes.)

Poster

(Visual display accompanied by presenter, displayed in room with other posters/presenters for a 90-minute session. Posters are ideal to visually convey ideas and allow for extended conversations between presenters and attendees.)

Workshop

(Interactive sessions guided by presenter, in which participants interact, learn new skills or ways of thinking, and discover ways to apply new knowledge to their own work. Scheduled for 45-60 minute sessions)

Paper Sessions: The program committee will assign papers on related topics into panels and will determine an appropriate amount of time for each paper. Brief question and answer periods will follow each paper. Submitters should indicate their preferred length for their paper. Requesting a shorter length may increase the likelihood of being included in the program.

An appropriate length for my paper presentation would be:

20 minutes 30 minutes 40 minutes

If your paper is selected for a paper session, would you be willing to serve as the chair and moderator of the panel? Yes No Only if necessary

III. SUBMISSION SUMMARY: Each submission must include a summary of **400-500 words** (about 2 pages; typed and double-spaced, standard 12 pt font) describing the work. Attach this summary in Microsoft Word to your e-mail submission.

A. Summaries of papers and posters must address the following:

1. What is the focus of your presentation: *research findings, applied work, or theoretical/conceptual* issues?
2. Is there some theoretical framework for your work? Describe this in sufficient detail for the committee to see the context of your work.
3. What are your new findings or ideas that are important to share with this conference? If your work is a literature review, explain how it synthesizes prior work in a novel and important manner.
4. Does the summary explain how your work defines and approaches children's spirituality? Explain how your submission speaks directly to the issue of children's spirituality (rather than some general aspect of children's development or well-being).
5. What is the target audience for your work -- primarily scholars/researchers or practitioners? If practitioners, what specific group would be most interested in/best served by your work? If you feel your work has multiple audiences, please describe that.
6. What are the applications for practitioners and the practical, applied implications? Even if your work is entirely theoretical or historical, describe its potential applied value.

B. Summaries of workshops should explain and describe the workshop's proposed plan, general and specific objectives, target audience(s), and activities, materials, and resources.

Submit all materials via e-mail to the Chair of the program committee:

Dr. Kevin E. Lawson at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University:

submissions@childspirituality.org

If you have questions about submission procedures or the suitability of your work for this conference, contact:

Dr. Kevin E. Lawson
Dr. Holly Allen

submissions@childspirituality.org
hallen@childspirituality.org

Notification:

Submitters will be notified within 2 weeks of submission that their materials have been received; contact Kevin Lawson if you are *not* notified within 2 weeks. Final decisions on acceptance/rejection status will be sent within 2 months.