Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in our upcoming National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for college and university teachers, which will take place at the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies on the campus of Calvin College, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from Monday July 15 to Friday August 9, 2013. Our seminar topic, “Persecution, Toleration, Coexistence: Early Modern Responses to Religious Pluralism” addresses a key issue that challenged early modern Europeans and still resonates today: how should one deal with people in one’s family, community, or state who hold divergent religious beliefs? Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists, Anabaptists, Jews and Muslims all had an impact in early modern Europe, but was there room for people of different confessions or faiths within the same community? This seminar will examine the arguments made by religious and political leaders in favor of persecution or eradication of religious minorities, as well as propositions in favor of some measure of religious toleration. We will also consider the very real outcomes of these arguments by examining trial records, edicts of toleration, and other primary sources that will deepen our analysis of the practical strategies adopted by early modern Europeans in response to the challenge of divergent religious beliefs.

The co-directors of this four-week seminar are Amy Nelson Burnett, Professor of History at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Karin Maag, Director of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies. Amy Nelson Burnett’s research focuses on confessionally-divided areas of the German and Swiss lands, highlighting the ways in which Reformed and Lutheran religious leaders worked to shape their respective communities’ confessional identity through sermons, education, and printed polemic. She is also a veteran instructor in Reformation studies who has given serious attention to pedagogical methods and to teaching the Reformation effectively to undergraduates. Karin Maag’s research is oriented towards the French-speaking world (Geneva, France, and the southern Netherlands), focusing primarily on Reformed and Catholic interactions from the 1540s through the first decades of the seventeenth century. Her research interests include the writings of those seeking religious peace and conciliation, the shift in power between Catholics and Reformed Protestants by the final decades of the sixteenth century, and the use of woodcuts and other images to define a given group’s identity and to attack their religious opponents. In her survey courses and upper-level courses taught in the History Department at Calvin College, she has consistently worked to weave in accounts of the experience of religious and cultural minorities in the early modern period, especially the experience of Jews in late medieval and early modern Europe.

Both co-directors are well-known and well-networked Reformation scholars and will gladly share their expertise in seminar session and in informal discussions with participants. Over the course of the four-week seminar, we will also welcome three visiting scholars, each coming for a two-day visit: Benjamin Kaplan, Professor of History at University College London, Barbara Diefendorf, Professor of History at Boston University, and Dean Bell, Director of the Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies in Grand Rapids, October 22, 2012

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Chicago. Each of these outside experts will lead a seminar session and will make himself/herself available to meet with NEH summer scholars individually or in small groups on one of the research days during their stay.

We welcome applicants from the full range of humanities disciplines, including history, religious studies, languages and literature, art history, music history, etc. Although knowledge of a foreign language is an asset, it is not a requirement, as all seminar readings will be in English. **NEH summer scholars are expected to be in residence for the entire duration of the seminar.** They should commit to reading and preparing the documents selected for each session and to participate actively in discussions. (Check out our seminar reading list on-line: www.calvin.edu/meeter/NEH2013) Seminar sessions will meet three mornings a week, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, with a mid-morning break for refreshments. Over the course of the four weeks, each of the participants in turn will be asked to serve as moderator for a seminar session, leading the analysis of the assigned readings, drawing out the main themes, highlighting questions raised by the material, and overseeing the course of the discussion. Afternoons and two whole days a week will be reserved for the NEH summer scholars’ own research. The seminar co-directors will meet at least twice with each NEH summer scholar during the four weeks to discuss each person’s research/writing project. Communication among participants and between participants and the co-directors will be facilitated before and during the seminar through an online learning community powered by the Moodle software. Participants will be asked to post a brief overview of their project by the end of the third week of the seminar. In the final week, we will reserve one afternoon for parallel small-group presentations on the research work each participant conducted over the month, offering space for constructive feedback and suggestions from other group members to strengthen the projects. The groups will be divided according to their research interests and topics.

NEH summer scholars who are selected will receive a stipend of $3,300, payable in two installments: one half upon arrival and the other at the end of the second week. Participants can use the stipend to cover travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. **Please note that the stipends are taxable.** On-campus housing will be available in the Knollcrest East Apartments on campus. Each unit is an air-conditioned two-bedroom student apartment and can sleep up to four people. The cost of housing per apartment (not including food) is $230 per week, or a total of $920 for the four-week seminar. Those who prefer not to cook can buy hot or cold meals at lunchtime on campus.

NEH summer scholars who come on their own can expect to share the apartment with a colleague of the same gender: these participants would each have their own bedroom but would share the kitchen and bathroom. Those coming with families can expect to have an apartment to themselves. The apartments contain basic furnishings: beds, chairs, desks and major kitchen appliances (fridge, stove, microwave, toaster, and coffee-pot). A set of dishes, silverware, pots and pans, utensils, glasses and mugs will be available in each apartment. A set of sheets, towel, and blanket will also be provided for each participant. NEH summer scholars can arrange to rent (at their own instigation and expense from Grand Rapids rental companies) televisions, DVD players, etc. while in Grand Rapids. **Our best advice is to bring whatever you need from home to make yourself**
comfortable. Each apartment building does have a common room with a television. A small computer lab with networked campus computers is also housed in one of the apartment buildings, accessible with your apartment key. Each apartment has Ethernet hookups for those bringing their personal laptops. Each building also has free laundry facilities in the basement. The apartments have their own phones, which can be used to make free local calls. Outgoing long-distance phone calls need to be placed using a phone card or a credit card. Mail is delivered daily to the summer seminars office on campus that oversees housing for summer scholars. Finally, you should note that alcohol may not be brought into campus housing and that all apartments (including balconies) are non-smoking, although there are areas outside reserved for smokers. The College has a no-pet (apart from fish and service animals) policy in the campus apartments. There is free parking on campus next to the apartments, so participants are welcome to bring their own cars. Participants are of course free to make other off-campus arrangements for housing on their own, but they should notify us of their intention of doing so, so that we know how many campus apartments will be needed.

West Michigan in the summertime is very pleasant and offers a number of attractions for visitors. Grand Rapids (pop. 250,000) is West Michigan’s largest urban center, with its own airport (Gerald R. Ford International Airport). There are a number of museums in the city, including the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Gerald Ford Museum, and the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum. There is also an extensive complex of gardens and a sculpture park just north of the campus. The city hosts numerous festivals during the summer months, and visitors wishing to go further afield can also enjoy festivals at nearby towns, including along the picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline. Sandy beaches, perfect for summer fun, are less than an hour away. Grocery stores, restaurants and a range of good bookstores are all within ten minutes’ drive from campus. Previous NEH summer scholars in our summer seminar in 2004 and summer institutes in 2007 and 2009 particularly enjoyed going out to dinner together in groups and visiting the Grand Rapids farmers’ market on the weekend.

All NEH summer scholars will be given visiting scholar status along with an ID card, allowing them to borrow books from the college library, access the computer labs, and use the sports facilities (weight room, indoor pool) on campus. Accompanying spouses of NEH summer scholars will have their own ID cards for access to these same facilities. NEH summer scholars will also be given computer log-ins, which will enable them to access networked campus computers, including Macs and PCs in the Information Technology Center housed in the library. Participants with web-based email will be able to access and send messages from any networked computer on campus. We encourage you to bring your laptop. Laptops with Ethernet cards can be connected to the web in the Meeter Center and in the apartments.

The Hekman Library, open 8 AM- 9 PM Mon-Thurs, 8 AM- 4:30 PM Friday, and 9-1 PM Saturday is one of West Michigan’s finest academic libraries with more than 700,000 books and non-circulating periodicals on open shelving. The library currently subscribes to 2,745 periodicals with particularly strong holdings in religious studies, theology and history. To access the library catalogue, go to www.calvin.edu/library. Participants
should also familiarize themselves with the Meeter Center collection on Calvin, Calvinism and the Reformation, including its non-circulating monographs, essay volumes, theses and primary sources (about 6,500 works in all), its article database, its extensive microfiche and microfilm collection, and its rare book collection (c. 700 volumes). For more on the Meeter Center and its collections, go to www.calvin.edu/meeter or contact the Meeter Center to request a copy of our most recent Research Guide. Meeter Center staff will be delighted to help with any queries in advance of the seminar, including early requests for interlibrary loan books for research projects.

Application information is included with this letter. **Your completed application should be postmarked no later than March 4, 2013**, and should be addressed to Dr Karin Maag, Director, H. Henry Meeter Center, Hekman Library, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402.

This summer seminar is intended for qualified and interested college and university faculty, with up to two spots reserved for graduate students, as per NEH regulations. Part-time and adjunct faculty are eligible to apply, as are independent scholars, librarians, museum scholars, or public historians, provided they have projects that fit the scope of this seminar. Applicants must be American citizens or must have resided in the United States or its territories for at least three years prior to the application for the seminar. Interested applicants should submit three hard copies of the following materials:

- the completed seminar cover sheet from the NEH website: https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/
- a resumé (no more than five double-spaced pages), and
- a short essay (no more than four double-spaced pages).

The completed application package must also include two letters of reference.

Perhaps the most important part of the application is the essay. In it, applicants should outline the reasons for their interest in participating in the seminar and the specific research project that they intend to work on during their time at the Meeter Center in 2013, their qualifications to do the work of the project and make a contribution to it; and what they hope to accomplish by participation. Preference will be given to applicants who can show in their essay that they have an active research project that will benefit from participation in the seminar and access to the Meeter Center and Hekman Library collections, and who can clearly demonstrate the steps they plan to take to advance their project significantly over the course of the month. The selection committee is also interested in the connections made by the applicants between the content of the seminar and their teaching, and it is looking for candidates who can show that their active participation in the seminar through the readings and discussion will shape their presentation of the topic of early modern religious pluralism in their classes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email (kmaag@calvin.edu) with any questions. Thank you for your interest in this seminar!

Karin Maag, Director, H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin College
Seminar Schedule

Week 1: Heresy and Persecution

Monday, July 15
am: Seminar: heresy, co-existence, and the early Reformation
pm: Orientation to the Meeter Center and opening reception

Tuesday, July 16
Research day: individual meetings with co-directors

Wednesday, July 17
am: Seminar: advocates of persecution
(With Benjamin Kaplan as visiting scholar)
pm: Research

Thursday, July 18
Research day (Prof. Kaplan on-site)

Friday, July 19
am: Seminar: Trials for Heresy
pm: Research

Week 2: Tolerance in theory and in limited practice

Monday, July 22
am: Seminar: proponents of toleration
pm: Research

Tuesday, July 23
Research day

Wednesday, July 24
am: Seminar: Catholics in Elizabethan England
pm: Research

Thursday, July 25
Research day: individual meetings with co-directors
(Prof. Diefendorf on-site)

Friday, July 26
am: Seminar: Protestants in Catholic France
(with Barbara Diefendorf as visiting scholar)
pm: Research

Week 3: Co-existence and bi-confessional communities

Monday, July 29
am: Seminar: the Swiss lands and the Holy Roman Empire
pm: Research

Tuesday, July 30
Research day

Wednesday, July 31
am: Seminar: Eastern European models of co-existence
pm: Research
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 1</td>
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<td>Research day: individual meetings with co-directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 2</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>Seminar: Permeable boundaries &amp; social interactions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>pm</td>
<td>Research</td>
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**Week 4: Christians, Jews, and Muslims**

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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 5</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>Seminar: Legal Status and Theological Justifications</td>
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<td>pm</td>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Tuesday, August 6</td>
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<td>Research day: individual meetings with co-directors (Prof. Bell on-site)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 7</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>Seminar: Inter-faith Relations in Practice (with Dean Bell as visiting scholar)</td>
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<td>Small-group presentations</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 8</td>
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<td>Research day</td>
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<td>Friday, August 9</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>Seminar: Successes and challenges of co-existence</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Concluding seminar session, assessment, and outcomes</td>
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