



# News & Announcements

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT: NEW YORK CITY – HERE WE COME!

Our 2007 meeting will be held **August 10-12**. Meeting highlights and the location of our hotel make this meeting a “must.” The theme of the meeting is **Striving for a Better World: Religion and Social Change**. If you have a paper on religion’s role in overcoming injustice and inequality, I urge you to submit it to program chair Rachel Kraus. Her e-mail address and phone number are listed in the Call for Papers on the back page of this newsletter. Of course, we also invite papers on other topics on which you are currently working.

Given Paul Hanly Furfey’s belief that religion could (and should) foster social progress, I have invited Joseph Micon to give the 2007 Furfey Lecture. As the Executive Director of the Lafayette (Indiana) Urban Ministry since 1990, Joe has had years of first-hand experience increasing churches’ involvement in social issues. Since 2004, Joe has been a Democratic member of the Indiana House of Representatives. As a professional politician, he also has witnessed churches’ involvement in public policy issues. Joe is a gifted speaker who will share his insights on religion’s role in the public square. For more information on Joe, go to [www.in.gov/legislative/homepages/R26](http://www.in.gov/legislative/homepages/R26).

In my Presidential Address, I will affirm studies of stratification based on “race, class, and gender,” but I will also challenge sociologists of religion to take the lead in studying the ways in which religion affects people’s access to power, privilege, and prestige.

We have additionally scheduled three sessions linking our theme with ASA’s theme “Is Another World Possible? Sociological Perspectives on Contemporary Politics.” In these sessions colleagues such as Nancy Ammerman, Milagros Peña, and Ram Cnaan will deal with topics ranging from religious groups’ efforts to implement their visions for “a better world” through politics, church-sponsored service and advocacy programs at the grass roots, and religion’s role in overcoming inequalities based on race, class, and gender.

Of course, New York City is an exciting place to meet, and the **Marriott Marquis Hotel** puts us in the middle of everything “the city” has to offer: the theater district, Rockefeller Center, Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, the Empire State Building, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Union Seminary, the headquarters of the National Council of Churches, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and—of course—Yankee Stadium. If you have not seen the site where the former World Trade Center once stood, you should take this opportunity to do so. It is holy ground, and visiting it is a very spiritual experience.

I look forward to seeing you in “the Big Apple.”

Jim Davidson  
Purdue University