

A Message from the Editor

As you may have heard, the International Journal of Homiletics is going through some transitions. We give thanks for Alexander Deeg and Marlene Ringgaard Lorensen, our founding editors. Their vision, hard work, and collaborative spirit have helped this journal to grow into a vital part of academic homiletical conversation. I hope to follow in their footsteps as the new editor, and I am grateful that both Marlene and Alexander will continue to serve on the Board. A second major transition is that our journal is now hosted by the University of Groningen. Great thanks are due to Theo Pleizier, the staff at the University library, and also to Ferenc Herzig, our managing editor, who has spent countless hours adding resource identifiers, clarifying metadata, and updating formatting to make each article more searchable and visually appealing. Their work provides us with a platform that is easier for users to access and for us to maintain. Hopefully, you have already enjoyed the new web platform and layout.

At this moment of transition for the IJH, the Board and I recommit to the journal's vision of promoting global homiletical dialogue. This journal was the first to bring together homileticians from different national, religious, and cultural contexts. We seek to continue and expand upon this legacy. Our current volume features contributors from North America, Europe, and Asia. The first eight essays grew out of an ongoing dialogue about preaching the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. The final three essays explore collective testimony, narrative imagination, and ritualized embodiment in sermons. Together these homiletical essays offer fruitful consultation and thoughtful conversation.

I believe, as much as ever, the IJH is a vital source for homileticians and for the work of preachers today. There is growing need to confront global challenges like nationalism, climate change, and mass movements of refugees. There are great opportunities for collaboration, perhaps due to declining denominational numbers, where scholars and preachers are looking for insights and partnerships beyond their parochial boundaries more than before. And, there remains a demonstrated need to decolonize the study and practice of preaching. The International Journal of Homiletics—a journal that publishes open-access, peer-reviewed articles, welcomes submissions written in the author's native language, and seeks to foster the global exchange of homiletic ideas—offers substantive contributions to help meet the many challenges and opportunities of today.

My hope and commitment are for the IJH to continue our partnership with Societas Homiletica as we seek to recruit more global partners and scholars, especially beyond the North Atlantic context. So please share this journal widely with students and preachers, add your voice and scholarship to it, and take a moment to invite contributions from homileticians who may not yet know IJH as a welcoming platform for their voice and scholarship.

David M. Stark