

Call for Papers

Religion & Education

2013

Religion and US Education:

50 Years Since the Prayer and Bible Reading Decisions

This is a Call for Papers for the peer-reviewed academic journal *Religion & Education* (www.tandfonline.com/urel) for the issues throughout the publication year 2013. The year 2013 commemorates the Fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1963 ruling in the companion cases of *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp* and *Murray v. Curlett (Abington)*. Abington, when combined with the Court's 1962 judgment in *Engel v. Vitale*, has had significant impact on its First Amendment jurisprudence relating to religion and public education in the United States. Initially, these landmark cases were known for their requirement directing school boards and educational officials to remove mandatory prayer and reading of the Christian Bible from public schools in keeping with the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. As part of the Court's analysis, however, its opinion suggested that while it is not appropriate to teach *for* religion in public schools (in a devotional or religious formation sense), public schools may teach *about* religion (in an academic sense):

. . .it might well be said that one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization. It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities. Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be affected consistently with the First Amendment. (p. 225)

The Editors of *Religion & Education* invite manuscripts reporting on relevant developments in religion and education that have taken place since the *Engel* and *Abington* cases. More specifically, the Editors are seeking articles with a focus on public education in the P-12 or higher education settings in the United States. Authors are also invited to submit manuscripts if they touch on education in non-public schools insofar as they may relate to important developments in the wake of these cases. Numerous topics are of interest: approaches to teaching about religion and outcomes of these approaches; teacher and administrator training; textbooks and curricular materials; school board (state and local) initiatives and controversies, to name a few. Of particular interest are articles examining First Amendment tensions relative to free expression in a time of increasing religious diversity. Any and all methodological approaches are welcome including: historical, philosophical, survey research, ethnographic and other qualitative studies.

Prospective authors should submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to the Editor, Dr. Michael Waggoner, at mike.waggoner@uni.edu. Every effort will be made to notify authors within 30 days of submission. Abstracts will be reviewed on a rolling basis through June 1, 2012. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full manuscripts of up to 6000 words. These manuscripts will be peer-reviewed for final disposition for publication. Please consult the journal webpage (www.tandfonline.com/urel) for examples of past publications and style guidelines. Of course, prospective authors should feel free to contact Dr. Waggoner with any questions.