

FROM THE EDITOR

In 1994 Oxford University Press published *Reimagining Denominationalism: Interpretive Essays*, edited by Robert Bruce Mullin and Russell E. Richey. This work was funded largely by the Lilly Endowment, and the contributing authors, all established scholars, offered a wealth of insight into various aspects of American denominationalism. This work still merits a careful read by anyone interested in American religious history and if it did nothing else, *Reimagining Denominationalism* suggests that interest in denominational history remains a topic of interest in the academy.

With that in mind, we are pleased to launch *The Journal of Baptist Studies (JBS)*. In some respects this journal will be like other Baptist journals in that it will feature articles that reflect current research into Baptist life and practice. In other ways, however, *JBS* will be different from other Baptist history journals. For starters, *JBS* is a completely electronic, online, peer-reviewed journal. Our editors are not apologists for one single viewpoint. We encourage scholarly dialogue about Baptist history in today's most accessible venue—the internet. Moreover, this journal will not be published on a quarterly or semi-annually basis. Rather, we will publish articles as they clear the peer-review process. Thus in a given year *JBS* may publish 6 articles or it may publish 16, depending on the number and quality of articles we receive. This format allows for great editorial flexibility. For example, we may occasionally solicit articles for a special edition dedicated to a special topic but generally speaking, our submission policy is open to scholars of all ranks and, yes, graduate students are welcome to submit articles for consideration.

Readers will also notice that the book review section of *JBS* will be different from standard printed journals. For instance, since we are not limited by the usual space considerations our reviews will generally run 1200–1500 words, not the more typical 300–500 words. Of course, we want to stay abreast of developments in the field but we also want to establish a bank of reviews on noteworthy older works. Either way our reviews will remain available at [Baptist Studies Online](#) as a resource for all interested parties.

We live in a day when some fret about the future of denominationalism's place in America's "religious free market." True enough, we live in a rapidly changing world. Even so, denominational history, at least as far as Baptists are concerned, is far from dead. *The Journal of Baptist Studies* is for Baptist scholars and anyone else who is interested in reading, teaching, and/or writing about Baptist history. Best of all – IT'S FREE, PEOPLE!! Pass the word if you like what you see.

Keith Harper