



## SACRED WRITES

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP ON RELIGION

### MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

#### *Religion News Service: Racial Integration and Segregation in American Religion*

Sacred Writes is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for a funded media partnership with Religion News Service (RNS). Applicants must have training in religious studies, theology, biblical studies, or related field. This partnership is open to faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students. Priority deadline is **30 October 2019**.

### ABOUT RNS

Religion News Service reports on religion and its intersections with political and cultural issues. Its vision is “to inform, illuminate and inspire public discourse on matters relating to belief and convictions.” RNS distributes stories to the nation’s leading newspapers, news magazines, online media outlets, broadcasting firms and religious publications and at religionnews.com.

### SCOPE

RNS is planning a series about the **future of segregation and integration in American religion**, particularly in American Christianity. The scholar will help shape the stories for this series, but the general topics RNS is interested in include:

- What would ending “the most segregated hour of the week” really look like for congregations?
- Reconciliation, reparations or restructuring – How will denominations and other faith organizations deal with the nation’s changing demographics? What are they doing to acknowledge their debts to enslaved people or their participation in segregation?
- The future of multiethnic congregations – Can they move from a culture of whiteness to one that values plurality and diversity?
- What do the nation’s changing demographics mean for segregated congregations?

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## SCOPE, continued

The scholar selected for this assignment will work closely with the **award-winning journalist Adelle Banks**. Banks is a national reporter and projects editor for RNS, where she has worked since 1995. RNS won the 2014 Wilbur Award for digital communications and multimedia for a project Banks spearheaded on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, and she has twice been honored as a third-place winner in the Religion News Association's Religion Reporter of the Year contest.

This funded partnership is a unique opportunity to learn how to write engaging, short-form pieces by working alongside a seasoned religion reporter. The scholar will also be mentored through the process of writing an opinion/analysis article based on their expertise.

The ideal scholar for this partnership will have contacts in religious communities and/or faith-based organizations, and be able to collaborate on pitching, reporting, and writing for a broad audience on this topic.

Preferred start date is **4 November 2019**. The collaboration will last for approximately 3 months, during which time the scholar will co-report three stories with Banks and produce a sole-authored opinion piece. Sacred Writes will provide a **\$3500 stipend** to the scholar selected for this partnership.

## TO APPLY

Please submit the following materials through the online form.

- A 1-2 page cover letter explaining how your scholarly expertise can help frame the series
- C.V. (include any relevant public scholarship experience)

Finalists may be interviewed via phone or Zoom.

