



North American Association of Christians in Social Work

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## ***Social Work & Christianity* 2015 Graduate Student Paper Award: Call for Proposals**

The North American Association of Christians in Social Work is pleased to announce the creation of the annual Graduate Student Paper Award, with the winning paper to be published in *Social Work & Christianity* and the author to receive an Award Honorarium of \$500.

The purpose of this Award is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarly work by a graduate student on issues related to the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice and other professional concerns that have relevance to Christianity.

We are issuing a call for proposals from current MSW and PhD students regarding projects for which they would like to submit papers in consideration for this Award.

Proposals must be submitted by January 31, 2015. The Student Paper Award Committee of the editorial board will review proposals and encourage authors of proposals that show significant promise of meeting the award criteria to submit completed manuscripts by July 31, 2015. Completed manuscripts will be anonymously reviewed by the Student Paper Award Committee and the Award decision and notification will be made by September 15, 2015. The winning paper will be published in the Spring 2016 issue of *Social Work & Christianity*. Strong papers that do not win the award will be considered for possible publication in subsequent regular issues of the journal.

Proposals should provide a concise overview of a paper and its relationship to the ethical integration of Christian faith and competent professional social work practice and scholarship. They should include a clear explanation of the proposed topic or research question, the methodology used to address the question, and the intended contribution to social work scholarship and practice. Proposals should be no longer than 400-600 words and should be submitted by email attachment to David Sherwood, Editor, *Social Work & Christianity*, david@sherwoodstreet.com.

Criteria by which completed manuscripts will be evaluated are:

1. **Topic:** Does the paper have relevance for the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice or other professional concerns related to Christian faith?
2. **Significance:** Does this paper address an important issue? What is the potential contribution of this paper to the profession?
3. **Innovation:** Does the paper employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Is it original and innovative? Do findings or conclusions challenge existing paradigms or help develop new methodologies?
4. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the purposes of the paper? Does the author discuss the paper's limitations?
5. **Implications for social work practice and/or education:** Are the implications adequately articulated? Do the findings or conclusions have broad applicability?
6. **Writing:** Is the writing style concise? Are concepts, methods, and findings clearly explained? Does the submitted version of the paper suggest that the student carefully reviewed the paper (e.g., no grammatical, spelling, typographical errors) and had feedback from others to improve it?