

The Theopolis Institute 2019 / 2020 Ministry Report



God's heavenly city
resurrects the cities of men.

Peter J. Leithart

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Dear friend of Theopolis,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking back over the past year, I'm inclined to sum up in two words: Mission Accomplished.

We kept doing the things Theopolis has always done, and we did the new things we said we would do.

We couldn't have accomplished the 2018-19 mission without our growing team.

A little more than a year ago, Brian Moats and I were it. Brian's still here, doing more than ever. But in the middle of 2018, we got some needed help.

We signed Alastair Roberts as an Adjunct Senior Fellow. He's been teaching in courses, appearing on podcasts and videos, sharing his deep biblical knowledge and wisdom.

Late last summer, John Crawford joined us as Executive Director. Managing our programs, budgets, schedule, and fund-raising, John made 2018-2019 our most successful year.

Every phase of our work was bigger, better, and more fruitful than ever before.

We've hosted intensive courses from the beginning, and added regional courses a few years ago. In 2018-2019, our courses were bigger and we added a Junior Fellows Program.

Our media output grew. We started a podcast a few years ago, and we've kept up with two weekly episodes. In 2018-2019, we added weekly videos and occasional longer videos.

We've produced a monthly newsletter for years, In Medias Res. In 2018-2019, we turned it into a weekly.

We've had a web site since 2013, but we gave it a facelift in 2018-2019.

We've always posted articles on the web site, but this year we added Theopolis Conversations and published many new writers.

I write books, but in 2018-2019, I wrote my first book for Theopolis, *The Theopolitan Vision*, the first volume of The Theopolis Fundamental series.

So, I repeat: Mission Accomplished.

Of course, as theology nerds know, we live in the tension of the already and the not-yet. The kingdom has come, but not yet in fullness. We're new creatures in Christ, but still live in the flesh.

Like everything and everyone, Theopolis exists between the already and the not-yet.

We're grateful to say, "Mission Accomplished." But we enter a new year knowing there's much mission left to accomplish.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Section 1

A Year in Review



A Year in Review

We had a successful series of **intensive courses** in 2018-2019:

- We had our largest class ever for Philosopher Esther Meek's course on "covenant epistemology" in Trinity Term 2018.
- Peter Leithart taught on the Ten Words during Easter Term.
- Dru Johnson of The King's College in New York, taught our Pentecost Term course on the theology of ritual.¹

We gave a local focus to our **sixth Nevin Lecture**, as Theopolis President Peter Leithart lectured on the failure of the white churches of Birmingham to address racial violence in the mid-twentieth century.

Our **regional courses** in Dallas and Chicago were significantly larger than the previous year.



¹ Dru Johnson lecturing

A Year in Review

We continued our **international work**,² with conferences in London and Kiev, Ukraine. Peter Leithart spent two and a half weeks in South Africa, testing the ground for an African Theopolis outpost. Theopolis Board member Uri Brito continued to cultivate contacts in Brazil, and several Portuguese-language websites publish Theopolis material on a regular basis.

We redesigned our [website](#), so that it now includes all our podcasts and videos, an archive of Peter Leithart's blog and Theopolis articles, information about upcoming events and courses. We have hosted a number of debates as Theopolis Conversations – on psychology and Christian counseling, catholicity, immigration, ritual, and divine simplicity.

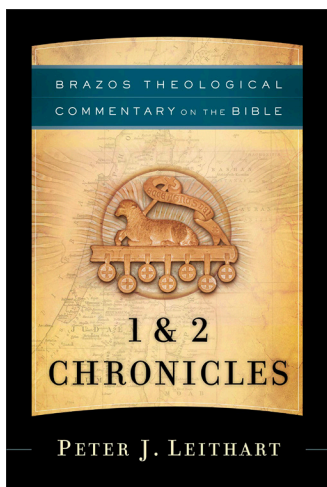


2 Peter lecturing in the UK

A Year in Review

President **Peter Leithart** published several books and lectured in a number of venues.

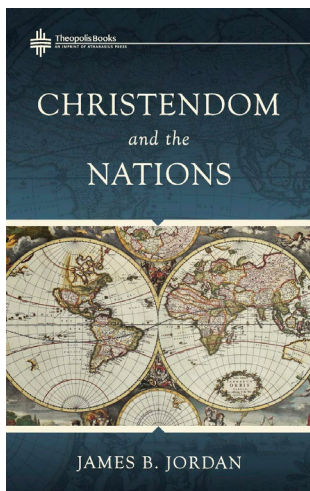
- The second volume of his Matthew commentary was released early in 2019.
- His commentary on 1 & 2 Chronicles will appear in August 2019.²
- He completed a manuscript of a short book on the Ten Words for Lexham Press.
- He lectured at the inaugural conference of the Methexis Institute in Charlottesville, served as theological advisor to the St. Peter's Fellowship of the Center for Pastor Theologians, and spoke at the Redeemer Pastors Conference in Monroe, Louisiana.



A Year in Review

In addition to his work for Theopolis, Adjunct Senior Fellows **Alastair Roberts** posted regular videos on his blog, contributed articles to various web sites, lectured at Davenant Institute events and the Redeemer Pastors Conference, and continued work on his forthcoming *Heirs Together: A Theology of the Sexes*.

James Jordan, our Emeritus Scholar-in-Residence, has a backlog of splendid books that have never been properly published. Athanasius Press produced *Christendom and the Nations*⁴ early this year, and is working on a few others.



Special Report

Junior Fellows 2019 / 2020



Junior Fellows

We are already up and running with our 2019-2020 programs.

The Theopolis Junior Fellows Program is our flagship course, where students are fully initiated into the Theopolitan vision of Bible, liturgy, and mission.

The 2019-2020 Fellows Program began with a summer session, a week and a half of intensive Bible teaching.⁵

Seven students from seven cities - Brooklyn, Phoenix, Charlottesville, Houston, Wichita, Minneapolis, Birmingham—and multiple denominations gathered in Birmingham for study, embedded in a cycle of liturgical hours, common meals, and training in Psalm chanting.



Junior Fellows

Jeff Meyers⁶, Alastair Roberts, and Peter Leithart shared the teaching load. Caleb Skogen led worship, accompanied by John Ahern on the organ. Paul Buckley served as Cantor and taught Psalm-chanting.

Over the next several months, we'll meet with the students twice a month for online seminars. They will return in January 2020 for a week of liturgical theology and practice.

Learn more from [this video](#).



6 Jeff Meyers lecturing

Section 2

A Look Ahead



A Look Ahead

In the coming year, we will **continue the programs and media** we've been running for the past six years.

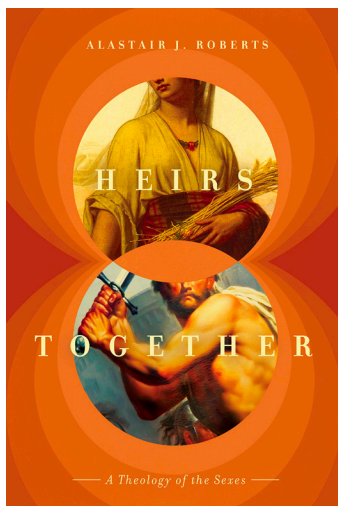
- Dr. David Field will teach the Easter term intensive (March 2020) on "Paths to Human Maturity."
- Dr. Kimbell Kornu, a palliative care physician and ethicist, will lead our Pentecost Term course on death and dying.
- We expect to publish two volumes of The Theopolis Fundamentals,⁷ one on hermeneutics and another on liturgical theology.
- We will continue our schedule of weekly podcasts, videos, and web articles.
- We will have regional courses on "How Should We Worship?" in Ft. Worth, Chicago, and Cary, North Carolina.
- In April, Peter Leithart will speak at a conference in London with apologist Glenn Scrivener and pastor Andrew Wilson.



A Look Ahead

We have a number of **new projects** in the works.

- In October, we will host the first session of the Civitas Group, a private discussion group on political theology, chaired by Dr. James Rogers of Texas A&M.
- Alastair Roberts's *Heirs Together* will be available during 2020.



Section 3

An Invitation



An Invitation

We've been able to accomplish our mission because of the generosity of our loyal longtime patrons, as well as new partners who have been inspired by the Theopolitan vision.

We need your financial support to continue and expand our work.

An Invitation

We strive to be good stewards of what God gives. Besides covering our standard expenses, we have specific needs:

- We borrow equipment for our video and audio recording. We need new tools to improve the efficiency and quality of our media.
- We need editorial support to manage our new web site, and we could improve the quality of the essays if we were able to pay writers.
- We would also like to add features to the website to connect Theos and Theas to Theopolis and to one another.
- Every member of the Theopolis staff draws income from “side hustles.” This helps us stay afloat, but we need money to support our current staff and add others.
- Last year, we moved from our offices to save money. We are on the lookout for a home, but we’ll need extra support when the time comes.

An Invitation

Theopolis is trying to “level-up,” which means we need a commensurate shift in giving.

Please consider becoming a Theopolis Partner by donating \$50/month or \$500/year. We would like to double the number of our Partners over the next year.

As a Theopolis Partner, you’ll receive a weekly newsletter from President Peter Leithart, free downloads of all our courses, and occasional copies of new books.

If you have questions about other options and creative ways to support the work of Theopolis, contact John Crawford at jcrawford@theopolisinstitute.com.

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We are grateful for all that the Lord has done for us through you.

Pray for us as we seek to serve our Lord Jesus and His church.

2019 — 2020
Ministry Report

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