

Ministry Report



2020 / 2021





God's heavenly city resurrects the city of man.

Peter J. Leithart

Letter from the President	02
A Year in Review	04
Junior Fellows: 2019 / 2020	09
A Look Ahead	13
An Invitation	15

Dear friend of Theopolis,

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

In Scripture, the third day, week, or year is a moment of crisis. So is the seventh day, week, or year.

The third day threatens to break the week to pieces before it has a chance to finish. If you make it past the third day, the sky can still fall in on the seventh day.

Yet the third and seventh days are also days of new life. God brings Jesus through the crisis of the third day, and He will usher the world past the seventh day into a new week of eternal light.

Years ago, my friend Rev. Rich Bledsoe taught me to take biblical numbers seriously. They're not Sunday School morality tales. They're the patterns of human life.

Many businesses, ministries, and marriages fail during a crisis in the third year. If a pastor is faithful through the upheavals of his seventh year, he's set for long-term ministry.

So I'm delighted to be able to say: Theopolis has nearly completed its eighth year of operation. The third and seventh years are behind us. Yet, behold, we live!

It wasn't a foregone conclusion. We've never been large or wealthy. And Year 7 was 2020, a tangled knot of a year.

For months, we shuttered all of our main events. We canceled courses. We canceled travel. We canceled our Fellows Program. For nearly half a year, we never gathered for worship or singing or meals. Not once.

But the Lord was faithful. Remarkably, 2020 was a great year for us financially. While we sat at home, the Lord made up a deficit of several thousand dollars, then added a surplus.

And in August 2020, we got back into gear. Since then, we have held Regional and Intensive courses and inaugurated another round of the Fellows Program.

We have published two books, made progress on the Psalter project, hosted the Civitas Group, and kept up with our usual round of podcasts, videos, and articles.

Eight years in, it feels as if we're beginning to grow up. I hope this report will encourage you, as it encourages us, to trust the God who raises the dead, on both the third and seventh days.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R. A." and the last name "Roth" clearly distinguishable.

A Year in Review





1 Theopolis Ministry Conference

Courses & Conferences

Between August 2020 and April 2021, we hosted **Regional Courses** in Dallas, Chicago, San Diego, Birmingham, and Cary, North Carolina, addressing the question, “What Should We Hope For?” In each city, this year’s turnout was significantly larger than previous years.

We had two successful **Intensive Courses** in Birmingham during the spring of 2021:

- In March, biblical theologian Jim Hamilton of Southern Seminary taught on the book of Psalms.
- Palliative care physician and ethicist Kimbell Kornu joined us for Pentecost Term in May to teach about death, dying, and the modern medicine.

Over sixty people attended our first annual **Theopolitan Ministry Conference** in Birmingham in July¹. Speakers included Peter Leithart, Paul Buckley, and Jeff Meyers, as well as Fellows alumni Drew Knowles, Jack Franicevich, Kyle Lamott, Kameron Edenfield, and Blake Johnson.

The **2021-2022 Junior Fellows Program** got underway with Trinity Term (July 2021). Thirteen students from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii joined us for a transformative week and a half of intensive Bible teaching, worship, singing, eating, drinking, and conversation.

Over the past year, Alastair Roberts taught **workshops** on the biblical theology of law and the Sabbath, with James Jordan assisting. Philosopher Esther Meek also taught a workshop on “Doorways to Artistry.”

The Theopolis political theology discussion group, known as the Civitas Group, gathered in Birmingham in April for a long weekend of vigorous debate and discussion. We have assembled a band of pastors, theologians, political scientists, journalists, and attorneys, including some of the most thoughtful political theologians of our day.

Media & Publications

Our **website** continued to host our written, audio, and video material.

- We recorded podcast series on Acts, Jonah, and Daniel, and posted weekly lectures from the James Jordan archive.
- Alastair Roberts presented a video series on the tabernacle, and Peter Leithart completed thirty-six short videos on Revelation and began a series on the Sermon on the Mount.
- We hosted Theopolis Conversations on hermeneutics, masculinity, poetry, nationalism, digital technology, sexual identity, and the Trinity in the Old Testament.
- Brian Moats posted recordings of Psalm chants on our YouTube channel².

We published two books under the **Theopolis Books imprint** of Athanasius Press:

- Theopolitan Mission, the final volume of the Theopolis Fundamentals series.
- Jim Jordan's Trees and Thorns.

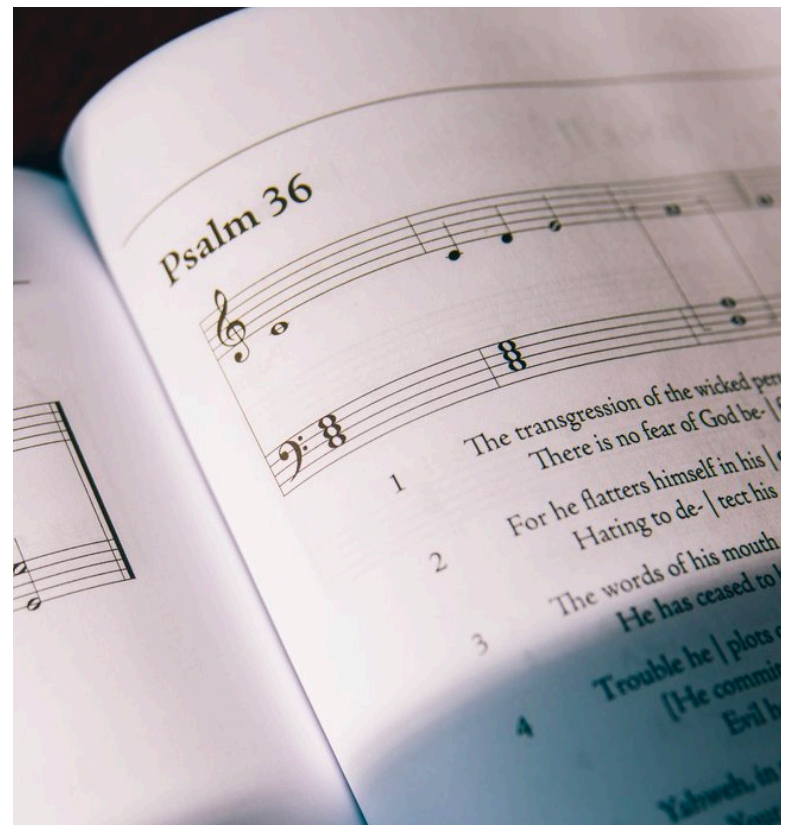
2 "Trees and Thorns"

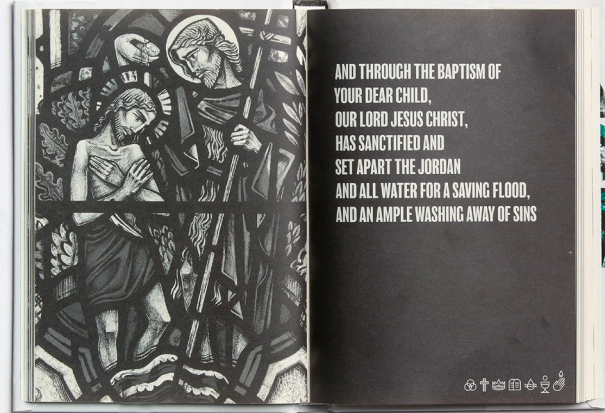


Psalter Project

Our team of musicians and translators made progress on the *Theopolis Psalter*. Most of the Psalms have been translated, and we have are in touch with leading composers to provide chant settings³.

3 The Theopolitan Psalter





4 *Baptism: A Guide to Life From Death*

Beyond Theopolis

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

- *Baptism: A Guide to Life from Death* was published by Lexham Press⁴.
- A study guide to *Shakespeare, Great Stage of Fools*, is forthcoming from Wipf & Stock.
- In February 2021, he delivered the Epiphany Lectures at Trinity Reformed Church in Moscow, Idaho.
- He lectured on Jane Austen at a conference at Hillsdale College in March 2021 .
- In July, he was a featured speaker at the THINK Theology conference in London.

Theopolis **Fellows and associates** were busy with projects of their own.

- Adjunct Senior Fellow Alastair Roberts continued his daily reflections on Scripture.
- Podcast regular James Bejon started his own Substack newsletter.
- Civitas Group member Mark Horne published *Solomon Says*.
- Civitas Group member Ben Peterson took a job teaching politics at Abilene Christian University.

Junior Fellows 2020 / 2021



David Bibee currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, FL where he serves as the Director of Christian Education at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church (PCA).

Jason Biette lives in North Pole, AK and serves as the pastor of Covenant Reformed Church of Fairbanks, AK (CREC).

Mark Brians comes from Hawaii where he is the rector at All Saints Anglican Church in Honolulu (ACNA).

Andy Gray joins us from Houston, TX where he attends Sojourn Heights, an Acts29 congregation.

Josh Hurd recently moved to Cary, North Carolina and serves as the pastoral intern at Christ Church of North Carolina (CREC).

Stuart Klenk is from Minneapolis, MN. He attends St Herman's Orthodox Church (OCA).

Connor Mahoney lives in Malabar, FL and attends the inter-denominational Brevard Worship Center.

Zach Parker is from West Monroe, LA where he and his family are members at Church of the Redeemer (CREC).

Leandro Passos is a student at Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA. He is originally from Igreja Batista Urbana in São Paulo, Brazil (Acts29).

Dods Pengra is also a resident of Houston, TX and is a member at Sojourn Heights (Acts29).

Jack Waters is a senior at Union University in Jackson, TN. He attends Christ the King Anglica (ACNA).

Andrew White lives in Longmont, CO where he goes to Epiphany Anglican Fellowship

Jonathan White currently resides in Crofton, MD where he is a member at Christ Reformed Evangelical Church Annapolis (CREC).



An M.Div Graduate from Covenant Theological Seminary, **Cody Dotson** serves as the church planting resident for Holy Spirit Anglican Church and is planting an ACNA Church in North Park, San Diego.

Kameron Edenfield is originally from the Atlanta area. He has worked in the software industry for 9 years. He is currently working in IT/software and serving as a pastoral intern at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL (CREC).

The Rev. **Jack Franicevich** (S.T.M., Nashotah House, 2021) serves as a deacon at Immanuel Anglican Church (ACNA) in Chicago, Illinois, and as a middle school teacher at The Field School.

Blake Johnson is Rector of Church of the Holy Cross in Crozet, Virginia (ACNA).

Drew Knowles is a pastor and church planter serving a growing network of congregations in Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (2009) and the Theopolis Fellows Program (2019).

Kyle Lammott lives and serves in Wichita Kansas as the Lead Pastor of Exodus Church which he planted in 2017. He moved to Wichita with his wife and three kids after graduating with his M.Div from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2015.

Joe McCulley is from Central Iowa. He served in the US Army before finishing his bachelors and masters degrees, both focused on religious studies and biblical studies. Currently Joe lives with his wife, Mandy, and daughter, Verity, in Hawaii, where he teaches at a small classical Christian school called Saint Benedict Hall. Joe also just stepped into a church planting residency at Christ the Foundation Anglican Church.



John Crawford is a husband, father of four, and grandfather of two. He currently resides in Greenville, SC as an entrepreneur while also serving as Chairman of the Board of The Theopolis. 12

Jacob Hanby grew up in Cass City, Michigan and was raised in the Baptist church. His wife, Charity, and he met at a Bible college in Northern Wisconsin and are blessed with four sons. After spending four years in Birmingham, he returned to the Thumb of Michigan where he is the pastor at Providence Church in Caro.

7 2017 Class (John—R, Jacob—L)



A Look Ahead





8 Dr. David Field

A Look Ahead

In the coming year, we will **continue our regular programs and media.**

- Our Fellows will participate in online Pesher Group seminars during the autumn, and return for Epiphany Term in January 2022.
- Missionary Wes Baker will reprise his course on “Holistic Mission” during Easter Term (March 2022).
- Dr. David Field⁸ will return in Pentecost Term (May 2022) to teach Part 2 of his course, “Paths to Human Maturity.”
- The Civitas Group will regather in September for another round of discussion.
- This fall, we will offer four Workshops: James Bejon on Judges; Jerry Bowyer on the economics of Jesus; Alastair Roberts on baptism; and Douglas Jones on Hamlet.
- Between September 2021 and April 2022, we will host Regional Courses on “What Is Creation?” in Wichita, Fort Worth, Chicago, Birmingham, and Cary, North Carolina.
- We hope to publish two volumes of the new Theopolis Explorations, a series of focused studies on topics in Bible, Liturgy, and Culture.
- Our Psalter team will continue to work on the Psalter, completing James Jordan’s translation and matching them with chant settings.

An Invitation





9 Scholarship Fund

We Need Your Help

We need your financial support to maintain and expand our work. In particular, we need money to fund specific programs:

- A scholarship fund⁹ to help qualified students pay for the Fellows Program.
- Bonuses for authors who write volumes in the Explorations series.
- Additional funds to pay leading composers to produce chants settings for the **Theopolis Psalter**.

Recurring donations help us plan future initiatives. Please consider becoming a Theopolis Partner by donating \$50/month or \$500/year.

As a Theopolis Partner, you'll receive a weekly newsletter, The Theopolitan, from President Peter Leithart, occasional free books, free downloads of all our courses, and periodic opportunities to spend time with the Theopolis team.

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.

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Theopolis Institute teaches men and women to lead cultural renewal by renewing the church. Participants in its various programs—its courses, conferences, and publications—will gain competence to read the Bible imaginatively, worship God faithfully, and engage the culture intelligently.
