

**2026 Eastern Regional Meeting  
Call for Papers and Student Paper Competition**

Location: Lancaster Bible College, 901 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601  
Theme: Egypt and the Bible  
Date: April 10-11, 2026



The Eastern region's executive committee is excited to announce our spring 2026 meeting. The keynote speaker, James Hoffmeier (Ph.D., University of Toronto) is Emeritus Professor of Old Testament and Near Eastern Archaeology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a noted scholar specialized in the areas of biblical archaeology, ancient near eastern studies, and Old Testament. Hoffmeier is also the author, most recently of *Israel in and Out of Egypt* (Hendrickson, 2026) of *Israel in Egypt* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and a second, enlarged edition is in press, *Israel In and Out of Egypt* (Henrickson), and *Ancient Israel in Sinai* (Oxford University Press, 2005), *Akhenaten and the Origins of Monotheism* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and *The Prophets of Israel: Walking Ancient Paths* (Kregel 2021). We are thrilled that he will be joining us in 2026 to speak on this year's theme, *Egypt and the Bible*.

***Probable Plenary Sessions:***

1. Israel in Egypt: Evidence for the Hebrew Sojourn in Egypt
2. Israel out of Egypt: Evidence for the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt

***Some of Dr. Hoffmeier's suggested topics for parallel papers related to the Plenary sessions:***

1. Egyptian Regalia and Backgrounds to the Joseph and Moses Stories
2. Egypt in the Legal Material and Wilderness Narratives
3. The Role of Egypt in Prophetic Literature
4. Connections Between Israel and Egypt during the Monarchic Period

***Schedule.*** In-person registration will begin at noon on Friday, April 10, 2026, and the conference will end at noon on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Registration this year will be \$35 for full registrations, \$10 for spouses, and \$10 for students.

***Submitting a proposal.*** Any ETS member of any rank, from any region, may submit a proposal to present a paper. We are only able to accept 32 papers for presentation each year. It is a privilege to present a paper to your fellow scholars and leaders. Therefore, we are looking for high quality papers which will lead to effective oral presentations. In evaluating papers, especially when we have more than 32 submissions, we first look at the academic contribution of the proposed subject and work, then preference is given to papers that relate to the conference theme (Egypt and the Bible: Impact of Egyptology in Biblical and Theological studies) and preference is given to proposals from presenters who serve in the Eastern region.

***Ph.D. students*** may submit a proposal in the form of a completed paper which should include a recommendation from a professor who is also willing to work with them on the presentation as needed.

***Expectations.*** If selected to present, we have 40-minute sessions (8 each in 4 parallel sessions) and expect the presentation of the paper to be 30 minutes in length with 10 minutes of Q&A. We request that all presenters provide at least a one-page outline of the paper for the listeners to help them follow the presentation, as well as desire that whenever possible the presenter make an electronic version of their paper available (by e-mail request, on a website they maintain, or it can be sent to the ETS Eastern Secretary who would make it available to those present at the conference). We understand there are some instances when making papers available is not possible, but desire to have them accessible whenever possible to further the academic process. The Q&A time should be structured by the presenter to promote interaction about the subject of the presentation.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Carrie Wood ([carrwoo@regent.edu](mailto:carrwoo@regent.edu)). Place the proposal in the body of the email (not an attached separate document) and send by January 15, 2026. The email should include:

- (1) Regular - Presenter's Name, Contact Info, Title of Paper, Abstract, current Institutional/Ministry, Affiliation, **ETS Membership status**, any restrictions on day/times you could present at the conference (days/times you cannot present or preferences), and if you prefer your session not to be recorded by WordMp3.com.
- (2) Ph.D. Student Proposal – all of the above information plus attach a copy of your completed paper that you wish to present.

**Student paper competition.** Master's level students within the Eastern region may submit a full paper (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia). Students do not need to be ETS members to participate, but papers proposed should be consistent with the theme of the conference and the doctrinal basis of ETS. Student papers may or may not be slated for presentation (typically we only have one or two student papers actually present). Complete papers must be submitted electronically as a PDF by Jan. 31, 2026, and should not exceed five thousand words. Please email your student paper submissions and any questions to Carrie Wood ([carrwoo@regent.edu](mailto:carrwoo@regent.edu)). Recognition and prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place papers. Student Papers chosen to present should comport to the expectations and submission guidelines noted above.

**Conference registration.** Presenters must register for the conference and must have an active membership in ETS (Student paper competition do not need to be active members of ETS). Online registration information will be sent out in December 2026.

#### ***Executive Officers of the Eastern Region, 2025-2026***

Tony Shetter, President ([tshetter@lbc.edu](mailto:tshetter@lbc.edu))

Carrie Wood, First Vice President ([carrwoo@regent.edu](mailto:carrwoo@regent.edu))

Ronnie Campbell, Second Vice President ([rpcampbell@liberty.edu](mailto:rpcampbell@liberty.edu))

Mark Deckard, Secretary-Treasurer ([deckard.m@gmail.com](mailto:deckard.m@gmail.com))

**ETS doctrinal statement** –*“The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs. God is a Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each an uncreated person, one in essence, equal in power and glory.”*

#### ***ETS Eastern Region Mission Statement –***

*“Encouraging sound Biblical and theological scholarship through the provision of a platform for the presentation of original research to enhance the academic and ecclesial community.”*