



# Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space

## ACLS Board Election 2017

### Nominee Biographies and Q&A

#### NOMINEES FOR PRESIDENT

##### **CAROL FRENNING**

Carol Frening is a liturgical design consultant who works with congregations throughout the country as they build or renovate their worship spaces. Trained as an art historian, her academic work is in the area of American religious architecture. She taught Sacred Architecture at the University of Saint Thomas and lectures at the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. A graduate of the first class of the Institute for Liturgical Consultants at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Carol serves as a founder and president on the board for the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space. She served as chair of the national advisory board for IFRAA-AIA (Interfaith Forum on Religion Art and Architecture which is part of the American Institute of Architects) in 2005. She was on the national planning board for the Form/Reform conference and formerly on the board for Faith and Form. She served as the convener for the Visual Arts and the Liturgy Seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. She is past chair of the Society of Architectural Historians Minnesota chapter as well as past chair of the art and environment committee for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

1. *How do you see ACLS growing in the future?*

I see growth for ACLS in two ways. First, in the area of membership we need to not only continue the steady growth we have had in the past few years, but to also increase our rate of growth. I see this happening through recruitment of new members such as: artists who also exhibit at conferences to which we are connected or those who belong to related organizations such as CIVA or Liturgical Artists; architects through a targeted effort to local AIA offices and diocesan lists of approved architects; and liturgists through targeted efforts through FDLC. Second, I see growth in the areas of ecumenical efforts (such as presence at Valparaiso Liturgical Studies Conference, etc.), educational efforts, and finally through increased enrichment and support for our members.

2. *What avenues do you see for growth?*

- Increased ACLS presence at additional conferences e.g. Valparaiso Liturgical Studies Conference, LA Congress, etc.
- Further development of webinars both for membership and for sale to the public through FDLC.
- Renewal of member services such as retreats, collaborative connections, sponsored trips, etc.



3. *Where do you think we should be headed in the long term?*

ACLS should become the 'Go To Resource' for assisting congregations, pastors, diocese and architects when building or renovating worship spaces.

4. *What specific areas do you see as important for the Board to be addressing now?*

- Continue and increase conference presence nationally.
- Further development of webinars.
- Renewed focus on support for members.

5. *How is the organization meaningful for you?*

As a founder of ACLS I saw a need that this organization fulfills to continue support for the vision spawned at the Institute for Liturgical Consulting. This vision was one of collaborative support for architects, artists and liturgists working together to create worship spaces that support the worship practices of faith communities. I continue to be a passionate supporter of this vision and of the work of ACLS members. This is a vision that inspires all my work. On a personal level I find most meaningful the many enriching friendships that have blossomed through my work with other ACLS members.

## **MARILYN MORGAN, RSM**

Marilyn Morgan, a Sister of Mercy, has been a Liturgical Design Consultant since 1996. Marilyn has an M.A. in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame, IN and completed the ILC program at Catholic Theological Union.

She works with churches, hospitals, schools and retirement facilities in renovating existing worship spaces, meditation spaces and chapels as well as new construction. Marilyn has also worked as an art consultant in getting artwork for hospitals.

1. *How do you see the ACLS organization growing?*

ACLS has added many new members in the past several years. I believe that continued personal outreach to prospective members is a way that has proven to work.

2. *What avenues do you see for growth?*

Members reaching out to professionals and inviting them to join. Passing out brochures at conferences helps to get the word out. Forming alliances with conferences around the country to get them to have workshops given by our members, not only opportunities for artists to display their work but also to expose the conferences to the work of liturgical consultants. We also need to keep up our advertising of ACLS.

As far as growth for members I think the webinars aim to further the knowledge of members. Working with the webinars and perhaps expanding some of them to the public is a avenue to be explored.



3. *Where do you think we should be headed in the long-term?*

We have done a great job of getting venues for our artists to display their work—at the SWLC, the Dallas Ministry Conference and the Cathedral Conference in particular. In addition to these I see a need to get the message out about the need and benefits of hiring liturgical consultants. We need to be telling people what it is that consultants do and why it is advantageous to hire consultants.

I also see a need/desire for members to gather together every other year for a retreat in order that members can meet each other and have time to share what is happening with them as well as the challenges they face. Meeting only in connection with a conference does not draw many members, nor provide adequate time to share with each other.

4. *What specific areas do you see as important for the Board to be addressing now?*

Keep up the discussions with Rita Thiron about how the FDLC can help us to get the word out to Diocesan Offices. I understand the Board is working on updating the list of consultants put out by FDCL.

We need to continue outreach to prospective members as to why they should join ACLS.

5. *How is the organization meaningful for you?*

I value ACLS. It is a wonderful way to learn from other colleagues, keep up on trends, get advice, share and have great friends.

## NOMINEES FOR BOARD

### **JIM HECK**

Jim Heck is the Senior Vice President of Fisher Heck, Inc., Architects of San Antonio, Texas. His firm specializes in religious architecture, historic preservation and master planning. Jim oversees all the firm's religious architecture projects. A graduate of the Class of 1972 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, Jim moved to San Antonio in 1976. His firm has worked on over 165 church projects of all types, sizes and Christian denominations throughout Texas. Jim has served on numerous professional, civic and charitable Boards including Catholic Charities of San Antonio and Christian Senior Services. He was a member of the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture Design Committee in 2013-2014. He has served as a workshop panelist for the Southwest Liturgical Conference in 2015 and was the presenter of the September 2016 ACLS webinar about the restoration of San Fernando Cathedral. Jim has been a member of the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Spaces since 2011.

Jim's firm was honored by the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture with a 2015 Religious Art and Architecture Award for Liturgical/Interior Design for its renovation of St. Monica Catholic Church in Dallas.

1. *How do you see ACLS growing in the future?*

The Membership Directory on the ACLS website lists a total of 63 members. Only 4 members are from outside the United States (two from Canada, one from Germany and one from Australia.) With an average only 1.18 members per State, I believe there is significant potential for growth within the U.S. alone.



2. *What avenues do you see for growth?*

We already have several members from outside the U.S. Expanding international membership has significant potential as long as ACLS is able to provide appropriate benefit for their membership.

3. *Where do you think we should be headed in the long term?*

The ACLS Mission Statement and Guiding Principles have laid a solid foundation for the association. Awareness about the organization and its membership to potential clients should be another long term goal. Recent participation in events such as the Southwest Liturgical Conference is an excellent way to make ACLS known to potential clients.

4. *What specific areas do you see as important for the Board to be addressing now?*

Keeping membership affordable and growing membership at a manageable pace are important. Since ACLS relies on members who volunteer their time to do the tasks to run the association, we need to be conscious of the effort required to maintain the quality of services we have come to expect. The current Board should be commended for the quality of the website, the directory and the very informative monthly webinars.

5. *How is the organization meaningful for you?*

I appreciate the ACLS for advocating an interdisciplinary approach to art and architecture with an emphasis on quality of craftsmanship and design. Having access to a network of knowledgeable and talented people has proven to be a great resource. My membership in ACLS has made me a better architect for my clients.

## **GREG LEWIS**

As liturgical artist and design director with the Greg Lewis Studios, a free-lance practice, I'm actively engaged in planning and creating permanent artworks for local, regional and national clients in publishing, architecture, interior design, health care and liturgical environments both in Catholic and Protestant venues. In addition to my 44+ year contemporary art & design career, I've taught art studios courses at Concordia University-Portland for 22 years and have co-founded the library's Art & Culture Program and have led art and architecture tours to London and Paris. Since retiring from college art teaching, I've focused on my private art lectures and workshops. For the last three years, I've presented my Art in the Christian Church Seminar: From Genesis, to the Catacombs, Cathedrals & Beyond – a richly visual presentation on our Judeo-Christian art heritage. I hold an AAS degree in Commercial Art and a BS degree in Visual Communications Education from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

I take a multi-use approach to my art and design décor furnishings. A simple drawing or sketch becomes a painted mural, bronze sculpture, giclee print, stained glass window, and a folding screen. "My goal has always been to create contemporary artworks that would challenge the viewer, as well as touch the human spirit."



1. *How do you see ACLS growing in the future?*

Exposure to its recruitment, exposure to its mission, exposure to its guidelines. Building on its member's faith, education, training, talents and abilities of the organization, and by the creative force of its principles and its collective "body of works".

2. *What avenues do you see for growth?*

- Focus on an ecumenical outreach for members and with other groups
- Traveling display and info tables to parish, district, synod, diocesan events and conferences to establish an on-going presence
- Develop a traveling speaker's bureau of liturgical talks, at the local, regional, national level
- Create and publish a crowd funded, full color annual of the best liturgical case studies of its member's liturgical art and architecture works
- Grant writing program that focuses on spiritual development, art and architecture education to targeted liturgical seminar audiences
- Development of a five to ten-year plan in support of ACLS mission, guidelines and members
- More membership networking and collaboration opportunities
- Establishing quarterly regional retreats for members and their referral guest(s) with keynote topics that invites everyone's work to exhibit and share

3. *Where do you think we should be headed in the long term?*

I envision a collaborative effort in planning, funding, designing and building a ACLS Center. A place for an ecumenical chapel for worship, meditation and conferences. The concept of the Rothko Chapel, Houston; the House of One, Berlin; the chapels of Brandeis University, Boston come to mind. A place for separate and ecumenical worship, art and environment education and rotating liturgical art works.

4. *What specific areas do you see as important for the Board to be addressing now?*

- Featuring member artist/architect of the month, via website
- Continued excellent webinar program
- Exploring grant writing programs for organizational development
- Publish survey from membership on various wants and needs
- Continue current efforts wider recruitment, newsletter and board minutes
- Continue ecumenical outreach i.e. EMO – Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

5. *How is the organization meaningful for you?*

As a relatively new and recruited member to ACLS, my focus was and still is, to seek out like minds and vision for professional friendship, mutual networking support, as well as possible artist/architect collaborations. These take energy, trust and follow through over time. Our work and mutual respect speaks for itself in the long term.



## JUANITA YODER

For two decades, artist Juanita Yoder has painted large scale installations on silk for liturgical, healthcare, and hospitality environments. Her work reflects the clients vision, architectural space, and is designed in an attitude of prayer. Yoder has been commissioned by such notable institutions as Princeton University Chapel, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center in Arizona, and Central Park Hotel in Sighisoara, Romania. She was awarded a BENE Award for Devotional Art for her commission of the fifteen Stations of the Cross for St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Glendale, Arizona. Yoder was honored in 2012 with an Alumni Achievement Award from Christopher Mennonite High School in Lansdale, PA. She is formally trained as a painter with a B.A. in art from Goshen College, Indiana, and an M.A. from Eastern Illinois University where she was awarded a full scholarship and a teaching assistantship. She also earned a teaching certificate from The College of New Jersey Yoder is a board member of the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space, a national organization to connect architects, designers and artists with clients who need quality, faith-based support in creating an environment of beauty and worship.

In spring of 2010 Juanita Yoder had the opportunity to participate in a group pilgrimage to Assisi and also La Verna, Italy. The overwhelming smell of jasmine, the gorgeous stone and terra cotta, and the panorama of the valley provided a place for Yoder to explore small, personal works. This experience continues to influence her spiritual practice and artwork.

Currently, Yoder is working on four processional pieces for the commencement of Georgian Court University in New Jersey. Her processional pieces have been used for major events in the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., the St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Washington, and the Princeton University Chapel, Princeton, New Jersey, among many others.

### 1. *How do you see the ACLS organization growing?*

I've enjoyed the expansion of ACLS into areas of education, both for the membership and the broader community at conferences. The connections forged with Southwest Liturgical Conference and the Cathedral Ministry Conference have expanded the offerings of ACLS members to church leadership. I especially enjoyed the workshop by Carol Frenning, Robert Habiger and Ken Griesemer to a room full of cathedral leaders on building and renovating cathedrals. These art and architecture tracks set up by Carol Frenning are an exciting expansion. The webinars are also streamlined and offer informational inspiration to members. The current website is more developed and interactive, thanks to untiring oversight by Will Brocius. I'm also pleased to have the affiliate category of membership to offer to businesses that serve liturgical environment. And I know there's more....

### 2. *What avenues do you see for growth?*

For this answer, I'll use a bullet point list:

- In talking with members and others, it seems important to continue to inform church leaders about the benefits of working with a Liturgical Design Consultant, and the spiritual & liturgical sensitivity that can be brought to the community through the process.



- It would help the website if members could flesh out their ACLS website pages with updated information and images from projects (disclosure - I'm guilty of not updating my page recently).
- We can always work towards expanding membership.

3. *Where do you think we should be headed in the long-term?*

I feel curious about the future of ACLS and how ACLS defines itself. Would it be good to open dialogue about new consultants, now that the Institute for Liturgical Consultants at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago no longer graduates new LDCs. How do new Liturgical Consultants apprentice or get trained? From where do they graduate? I'm sure this comment bites off way more than it can chew, given my allied membership, not LDC.

4. *What specific areas do you see as important for the Board to be addressing now?*

I'm happy with the continued work on expanding education and membership. I hope we can set up ways for the membership to meet annually. I like Sister Marilyn Morgan's idea of a membership retreat on the years we don't have an organizational meeting. Of course this is my own bias, because gathering in community is important to me, as are the informal dialogues that take place in person.

5. *How is the organization meaningful for you?*

I have enjoyed being a part of a community of artists and architects that serve liturgical space. As a member of ACLS I have been able to enjoy inspiring and supportive conversations about the work and spiritual practice of creating specifically for the church. I was happy to see Shelly Smith's work with the newsletter highlighting project stories by members. Learning from and being inspired by others has been a big part of my experience in ACLS. Basically, I love these people!