

A message from the CSA President

Dear Communal Studies Association Members,

The CSA board met this past week to consider how best to hold a conference this fall. Given the uncertain situation with the COVID-19 pandemic—including the potential health challenges of traveling and meeting together, as well as budget cuts and travel restrictions at many institutions—we decided that it would be best to **hold a “virtual” conference**. Our conference will occur on the same dates, **October 1-3**, and have the same theme, **“Foundations and Futures.”** But rather than meet at the Historic Ephrata Cloister in Pennsylvania, we will meet on-line to hear the latest scholarship and perspectives in the field of communal studies.

We plan to have a vibrant program and we invite you to participate! **Please consider submitting a paper or a panel proposal.** We hope to have both traditional sessions of scholarly papers as well as a range of panel discussions. Papers and panels that consider the current situation—community in a time of a pandemic and what that says about how we think about community—would be especially welcome. Meeting virtually brings opportunities to involve an even broader range of participants than our regular conferences. We especially hope that it will facilitate the participation of communitarians and students. **We are extending the deadline for papers and panels to July 1.** See below for a link to submit a proposal on our website

As part of the conference, we also plan to hold our traditional **CSA auction**. Please think about what you might be willing to sell and ship to another CSA member!

Best regards,

Matt Grow, President, Communal Studies Association