

Possible Nashotah Conference

Later this year, the Polanyi Society hopes to sponsor a conference on the abiding relevance of Michael Polanyi's philosophical thought. The purpose of this call for papers is two-fold:

- (1) Those willing and able to participate in an in-person conference are asked to inform the Society of their interest by **Monday, February 15**.
- (2) The principal organizing focus for the anticipated conference will be to mine Polanyi's social, political, cultural, and philosophical thought for its resources in dealing with contemporary problems. See the discussion below.

Relative to the first of these, the Society needs to determine whether or not it's realistic to plan an in-person gathering during a time when it is likely the nation will continue to be managing the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference would be held during the week of 31 May through 4 June, and would convene at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, WI.

The format of the conference would be comparable to the last two conferences the Society has sponsored that met at Nashotah House: it would likely include an introductory half-day seminar organized around discussion of primary source readings, followed by two and one-half days of sessions on a variety of topics and themes related to Polanyi's thought. The registration fee for the conference would be in the neighborhood of \$275 (which would include meals but not include travel or accommodations). The Society needs 25 people to register in order for an in-person Nashotah conference to break even financially. It is possible that a Zoom conference may be organized if we are unable to have an in-person conference.

If you would be willing and able to attend this conference, please contact the Society by Monday, February 15 to indicate your availability and commitment; send an e-mail to Andrew Grosso (atgrosso@icloud.com) and Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu).

Relative to the second purpose of this call, the Society hopes an in-person conference or a Zoom conference can serve as an opportunity to highlight the contribution Polanyi's efforts can make to current discussions about cultural, social, and political order. To that end, the Society invites proposals for papers on any of the following dimensions of and/or implications of Polanyi's thought:

- cultural, social, and political dynamics, organization, and order;
- pluralism and the prospects for shared public life in the face of philosophical differences;
- the place of intellectual and moral passions in thought and action, and the conditions that allow such passions to lead to philosophical and moral break-down;
- contemporary forms of moral inversion.

The Society is also interested in proposals for papers that explore possible ways contemporary communications technologies and media invite reconsideration of Polanyi's thoughts regarding cultural and social order. Proposals for papers on other topics related to Polanyi's thoughts are also welcome. Those interested in submitting a proposal should send their proposal to Andrew Grosso (atgrosso@icloud.com) by **Friday, March 12**. In the event the Society is not able to sponsor an in-person conference at Nashotah House in early June, the Society will attempt to

provide opportunities for the presentation and discussion of accepted papers via digital technologies and/or at subsequent in-person meetings.