

For Immediate Distribution: March 2019

Job Description for Section Review Leader for the NRSV, Updated Edition

Friendship Press, on behalf of the National Council of Churches, welcomes nominations and expressions of interest from scholars with the skills and gifts to help guide the process of review of the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*. To nominate someone or express your interest in this role, please email your name and contact information, area of expertise, and curriculum vitae to nrsvupdate@friendship-press.org.

Eleven **Section Review Leaders** will be selected to assist in providing feedback on the updated version of the *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition of the Bible* (hereafter NRSV-UE) that is being completed by the Society of Biblical Literature in partnership with the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC). The Section Review Leaders will represent a broad cross-section of the NCCC's communions and will reflect the NCCC's commitments to diversity. The content of *NRSV-UE* has been divided into eleven sections of nearly equal length (see below the "Chart of Sections and Books").

Section Review Leader Requirements

1. Possess an academic degree in the field of biblical studies and be an active scholar with a current position in the field.
2. Have a working knowledge of biblical languages at the scholarly level.
3. Be engaged in research and teaching with a primary concentration in the Section in which you are expressing interest.
4. Understand the importance of and possess strong organizational and communication skills.

5. Commit to keeping a team of book reviewers on task and delivering a final report on time according to the review process schedule.

The Specific Tasks of the Section Review Leader

Broadly speaking the Section Review Leader will be responsible for the following actions:

1. Assist in the recruitment of Book Reviewers (see “Job Description for Book Reviewer”) for each of the books in the Section Leader’s Section of the Bible or Apocrypha. See the “Chart of Sections and Books.”
2. Read and review the Section assigned and provide feedback on the NRSV-UE. *Section Leaders and their Book Reviewers will be provided with a review checklist and guiding questions to use in gathering review comments.* See “NRSV-UE Section Reviewer Guidelines and Questions.”
3. Participate in training the Book Reviewers in their Section. This training will be done in conjunction with the Bible Translation and Utilization advisory committee, members of the Society for Biblical Literature’s NRSV-UE translation team, and Scribe (Scribenet.com). Scribe is providing the electronic software platform on which the workflow of the NRSV-UE and review process will be housed.
4. Guide and regularly communicate with Book Reviewers in order to receive proper review feedback in a timely way.
5. Prepare a report of Section review comments and recommendations for NRSV-UE and deliver the report to the NCCC Bible Translation and Utilization (BTU) Advisory Committee and Friendship Press staff on or before the scheduled deadline of May 21, 2021. The software platform mentioned above (#3) will be used to gather review comments and to access the work of the updates created by the SBL NRSV- UE translation committee.
6. Participate in a face-to-face OR video-conference meeting of the eleven Section Review Leaders, representatives of the BTU, and the Friendship Press staff on or near May 25, 2021.

Section Review Leader and Number of Book Reviewers
The Chart of Sections and Books

| SECTIONS / books | SECTION REVIEW LEADER / # of Book Reviewers |
|----------------------------|---|
| PENTATEUCH / 5 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Genesis (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| Exodus (2 book reviewers) | 3 |
| | 4 |
| Leviticus | 5 |
| Numbers | 6 |
| Deuteronomy | 7 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| HISTORY, PART ONE / 6 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Joshua | 1 |
| Judges, Ruth | 2 |
| 1 Samuel | 3 |
| 2 Samuel | 4 |
| 1 Kings | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| HISTORY, PART TWO / 6 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| 2 Kings | 1 |
| 1 Chronicles | 2 |
| 2 Chronicles | 3 |
| Ezra and Nehemiah | 4 |
| Esther | 5 |
| | |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| POETRY AND WISDOM / 5 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Job (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| Psalms (2 book reviewers) | 3 |
| | 4 |
| Proverbs | 5 |
| Ecclesiastes | 6 |
| Song of Songs | 7 |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| PROPHETS, PART ONE / 3 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Isaiah (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| Jeremiah and Lamentations (2 book reviewers) | 3 |
| | 4 |
| Ezekiel (2 book reviewers) | 5 |
| | 6 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| PROPHETS, PART TWO / 13 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Daniel | 1 |
| Hosea, Joel, Amos | 2 |
| Obadiah, Jonah, Micah | 3 |
| Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah | 4 |
| Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi | 5 |
| | |

| APOCRYPHA/DEUTEROCANONICAL BOOKS / 16 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
|---|----------------------------|
| Judith, Tobit, the Additions to the book of Esther, Wisdom of Solomon | 1 |
| Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), Baruch, The Letter of Jeremiah | 2 |
| Additions to Daniel (Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Jews, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon), 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, 1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh | 3 |
| Psalms 151, 3 Maccabees, 2 Esdras, 4 Maccabees | 4 |

| NEW TESTAMENT, PART ONE / 3 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Matthew (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| Mark (2 book reviewers) | 3 |
| | 4 |
| John (2 book reviewers) | 5 |
| | 6 |
| | |
| NEW TESTAMENT, PART TWO / 3 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| Luke (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| Acts (2 book reviewers) | 3 |
| | 4 |
| Romans (2 book reviewers) | 5 |
| | 6 |
| | |
| NEW TESTAMENT, PART THREE / 8 | BOOK REVIEWERS NAMES |
| 1 Corinthians (2 book reviewers) | 1 |
| | 2 |
| 2 Corinthians | 3 |
| Galatians, Ephesians | 4 |
| Philippians and Colossians | 5 |
| 1 and 2 Thessalonians | 6 |
| | |
| NEW TESTAMENT, PART FOUR / 13 | BOOK REVIEWER NAMES |
| 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus | 1 |
| Philemon, Hebrews | 2 |
| James, 1 and 2 Peter | 3 |
| 1,2,3 John and Jude | 4 |
| Revelation (2 book reviewers) | 5 |
| | 6 |

NRSV-UE Section Reviewer Questions and Guidelines

We are grateful for your consideration of the invitation to participate as a reviewer of the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition, of the Bible. Our vision and our hope are that this NRSV update will provide “fresh eyes” that evoke a constructive change in readers’ attention and understandings and lead to restorative transformations of attitudes, beliefs, character, and actions in the lives of individuals and communities.

This translation strives to:

- Allow for normative interpretations of Christian faith and practices;
- Provide space for diverse forms of expression and belief;
- Honor the written traditions of the biblical Hebrew community and New Testament Church as the people of God;
- Recognize the life and centrality of Jesus Christ, the testimony of the prophets, and the teachings of the apostles in the scriptures as part of the witness to the traditions of revelation;
- Provide for ways to encourage individual and communal usage of scripture in prayer and spiritual practices, learning and liturgy, worship and witness in Christian faith communities; and,
- Affirm God’s will for unity while respecting the diversity of experiences, traditions, and visions presented in the Scriptures.

Keeping this in mind, as **Section Review Leader** you will concentrate on the following questions as part of your review: In your Section,

1. Do you regard these changes or updates to be generally positive/negative/neutral?
2. Speaking of the changed portions only, what specific recommendations would make to the NCC committee in charge of the project?

3. How likely are you to use this new NRSV-UE in your context?
[More/Less/Don't Know].
4. Does the NRSV-UE uphold your particular faith tradition? If not, why not?
5. What additional thoughts do you have for the NCC committee in charge of the project?
6. Do you have any comments we may use in publicity for the NRSV-UE?

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*Approved, Bible Translation and Utilization Advisory Committee, Friendship Press;
2/13/19; last editorial revisions 3/14/19*