



ASSOCIATION OF
PRACTICAL
THEOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

2025 APTO Symposium Call for Papers

On Behalf of the APTO Executive Committee,

We cordially invite you to our 2025 Symposium, taking place at the Terrace Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia, and Online via Zoom.

It will begin at 10am, December 4, 2025 through until 2pm December 5, 2025.

The symposium is titled ***Waves of Hope: Storied Theology***.

This symposium will provide an opportunity to look at the intersection between culture and practical theology, opening up theology embodied through story. It is designed to lead into our major conference in 2026, to be held in the Pacific Islands and titled *Waves of Hope: Storytelling from Oceania*.

Following the instructions below, we warmly invite you to submit a proposal to present an **academic paper** or **workshop** or **life story presentation**.

By taking part in this symposium, you will help us dialogue with the critical questions we are exploring in our work and in our world.

Your presence and contribution at this conference is welcomed and anticipated.

With kindest regards,

Jill

Dr Jill Gowdie, President, APTO

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On behalf of the APTO Executive Committee.

Conference Theme

The focus of the 2025 APTO symposium is *Waves of Hope: Storied Theology*, which will provide an opportunity to look at the intersection between culture and practical theology.

How do we open our practice of practical theology respective of our engagement with culture with the overriding notion of being carriers of stories of hope? How do we open ourselves to dialogue in a respectful and open-minded, open-hearted and open-spirited manner?

This symposium explores the range of theological, cultural, ethical, historical and spiritual issues associated with engaging with hope through a storied theology in the region of Oceania. All the disciplines of practical theology will be brought to bear on both an analysis of the issues and point the way to effective reflections on the practice of storytelling - emulating, celebrating and sharing hope.

Call for Papers

This symposium invites contributions that bring fresh and diverse perspectives to the symposium theme.

Each proposal should have a title, abstract (200 words), and a brief bio (100 words) which includes your affiliation and email address.

All proposals will be reviewed by the organising committee. Proposals can be emailed to the APTO secretary, Mr Julian Kluge via email: secretary@apto.asn.au by no later than **9:00am on 1 September 2025**.

The committee will correspond with participants about the proposal and process as soon as possible.

We are requesting all presenters to pre-record their paper/workshop/life story presentation and upload the recording to the 2025 APTO symposium website by the end of October 2025. (Further instructions and details will be provided in our acceptance of your proposal).

During the symposium, each presenter will be able to briefly remind participants of key ideas from their papers before we discuss them. Depending on the number of presenters, we will have 20–30-minute slots allocated to each presenter, with 4-5 minutes for that brief introduction and the remaining time for questions and answers, and discussion. This means that videos (and papers) of each presentation need to be viewed/read beforehand.

Contributions must:

- Be presented in a style that is engaging, accessible and motivating for participants.
- Be supported by a strong platform of research and theory.
- Enhance understanding of current knowledge in areas related to the topic.
- Raise critical questions and highlight key ideas that engage and empower participants to think about their own practice.

Possible subthemes for your focus:

1. Understanding hope:
 - a. cultural dimension
 - b. religious dimension
 - c. theological dimension
 - d. practical dimension
2. Characteristics of hope
3. Hope in the face of adversity
4. Hope as a source of motivation, resilience, and support
5. Hope as a catalyst for change
6. Hope as a shared experience within communities
7. Hope as mediator for personal relationships
8. Overcoming hopelessness
9. Experiences of hope - stories of fulfilment
10. Narratives of hope – Hopeful storytelling

Proposals addressing other practical theology topics are welcome, but preference will be given to proposals that explicitly address this year's symposium theme.

Questions and Queries

Please contact the APTO secretary, Julian Kluge via email (secretary@apto.asn.au) if you have any questions about the 2025 APTO symposium arrangements. www.apto.asn.au

Please feel free to contact me directly about APTO in general.

All the very best,



Dr Jill Gowdie

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