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Announcement of Changes

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES

Ever since this publication transitioned from printed to electronic copies a remarkable upsurge in readership occurred. Readers need only to access <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/> to see both the geographical distribution and the number of downloads on a monthly and yearly basis, going back to the year when our web editor, **Alex Rolfe** placed us on the Digital Commons platform. Alex, who is a librarian at George Fox University, has also provided his library as the mailing address of OPREE.

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In order to more effectively serve our readers, I decided to strengthen the editorial team. We obtained two very capable co-editors who are going to assist me in the core editorial responsibilities but also assure the long-term functioning of OPREE. **Beth Admiraal**, who is a professor of political science at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA and who served until now as the book review editor consented to be "upgraded" in responsibility. **Ines Murzaku**, professor of Catholic Studies at Seaton-Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, and a native of Albania, who contributed articles to this publication will match in energy and knowledge this leadership "troika" (to use the image of three hitched horses used in Russia to pull sleds). With two co-editors we decided to eliminate the position of associate editor. **Paul Crego**, a specialist in Georgian history and religious developments accepted the position of book review editor. **Lena Van** continues to be assistant editor with the primary responsibilities to copy edit and format each article. It is our aspiration to add **advisory editors** from all former socialist countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Suggestions for such additions are welcome. Another change is that we are no longer listing Christians Associated for Relationship with Eastern Europe as sponsoring organization, which it was for many years in the past; it has de facto ceased to operate. My hope that it might be resuscitated some day is no longer realistic, hence there is no sponsoring society for OPREE.

In addition to the personnel improvement, this new editorial team decided also to improve the stature and policies of the publication. We decided to upgrade to a peer-reviewed publication for academic papers submitted to us for publication. Additional submissions will be under a separate heading and may include travel or meeting reports, announcements of conferences, instructions for certain activities, responses to articles, reprints from other publications, documents, and similar. Also, we are attempting to provide greater uniformity in style (see Policies on the web page) and provided more detailed information to those who wish to submit manuscripts. Manuscripts should be submitted either to me or to the two co-editors; our emails are provided in the editorial section.

We invite our Board of Advisory Editors and readers to send us their suggestions, criticism, and most of all recommend us to potential authors and new readers. Seeing how well we succeeded made us cognizant that there is still more possibility for quality scholarship and information about this area of the world which is critically important for stability and peace in the world. One thing that did not change is that all past and present issues of *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe* (formerly also under the title *Religion in Eastern Europe*) are free of charge and correspondingly all the work of the editors and authors are labors of love.

Paul Mojzes, editor-in-chief