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## Womanist

African American women concerned with the well-being of women and the whole community, using their experiences and insights to create theoretical as well as practical strategies for change, call their work “womanist.” The term originated in the writings of Alice Walker, who described “womanish” practices as those that aided the survival of black women and their dependent children. In religious studies, womanist work has contributed mightily to the many women’s efforts to bring about equality and justice.

## Women’s Caucus

The Women’s Caucus in Religious Studies began more than twenty-five years ago. A group of enterprising women, students as well as faculty, realized that in order to survive the sea of suits that was the AAR/SBL Annual Meetings in those days, they would have to bond. They did so with enormous success, meeting yearly to bring constant critical attention to the needs and contributions of women in the field. They raised the need for childcare at the Annual Meeting and pushed behind the scenes for the election of the first women presidents in each society. The Caucus was the forerunner to the now several academic sections that deal with women-focused content.

The Caucus sponsors a premeeting seminar geared to student and newer members, as well as a **networking** reception. Dues are modest and on a sliding scale. Leadership rotates. Feel free to get involved. The Caucus needs you and you need the Caucus.