

to those new to the profession. Womanist Scholars, the Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network, and others meet that day, too, so it pays to go early. Besides, by the time the actual meeting starts you will know how to navigate the scene.

The **Women's Caucus** sponsors a reception during the Annual Meeting, as well as mentoring programs that are good chances to meet other women. There is a student group and an elected student director who serves on the AAR Board of Directors (see **SLG**). The students provide a session introducing the AAR to new members at each Annual Meeting. They have a lounge in which to relax and meet people. Many international colleagues attend the AAR/SBL. There are often special events for them as well.

Another important way to make connections is to attend the business meeting of the section(s) or group(s) in your field of study. Through these meetings, you can become acquainted with scholars in your area of interest, be involved in crafting the topics for the Call for Papers for the following year, and make yourself available to serve on the committee that decides which papers will be accepted for presentation. Like most things, what you put into it will mirror what you get out of the AAR, so consider it a worthwhile investment, especially if professional service is important for your tenure and promotion.

## **AAR, regional**

The AAR is broken down into geographic regions. If you are an AAR member, you automatically are part of a region. Each year the regions sponsor conferences, usually in the spring. You can attend, give a paper, or become involved in the governance and organization of your region. It is usually less expensive and more convenient to go to a regional meeting. It is a good way to accomplish what may be more daunting on the macro level, namely, to meet people in the field and display your work on a smaller scale before you tackle the Annual Meeting (see **AAR, Annual Meeting**).