



Message Regarding Hyatt McCormick and Hyatt Regency at 2012 Annual Meetings

3/30/12

The labor contract for the hotel workers at two Annual Meetings 2012 conference hotels (the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place and the Hyatt Regency Chicago) has lapsed. As negotiations for a new agreement with the Hyatt are in process, Unite Here has urged a boycott of the Hyatt Regency hotels until a new contract is ratified.

The Society of Biblical Literature respects the rights, dignity, and worth of all people, and we recognize that its members retain a choice of hotels. At present we are continuing our arrangement with the Hyatt hotels, but we have recently renegotiated and reduced our obligations to the Hyatt in response to the labor situation. Cancelling the contract with the Hyatt would carry severe financial penalties for both SBL and AAR. Moreover, the Hyatt will serve those attendees and staff who need close proximity to the McCormick Center, and it is the only contracted hotel that provides a short distance for persons with disabilities and for members using childcare. We are closely monitoring this situation and our hope is that the union and the hotels are able to ratify a new contract well in advance of our meeting.