

Editorial

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“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” With these words (Rom. 15:7), Paul brings to conclusion the practical exhortation of his letter to the feuding house churches in Rome, grounding it in the theology of God’s own welcome through Christ. Apparently, factions within the network were refusing to sit at common table. Earlier, Paul had invited his readers “to pursue the befriending of the stranger/other” (12:13), including the persecutor and enemy, and culminating in a shared meal (12:14–21). Paul himself regularly relied on the hospitality of others, as when he requested that Philemon prepare the “guest room” for his use (Philem. 22), and that the Corinthians provide for his stay and his travels (1 Cor. 16:6–7; Rom. 16:23).

These are but a couple examples of the pervasive theme of hospitality in Scripture. Perhaps we could say that hospitality, like peace, is not an add-on to the gospel; it is the heart of the gospel.

The articles in this issue of *Vision* explore various aspects of this theme—from its biblical, poetic, and even cinematic expressions, to its liturgical, pastoral, ecclesial, and missional dimensions. We hope they stir your imagination.

And we invite your response. Send us a comment, reaction, or suggestion (vision@cmu.ca or vision@ambs.edu).

Many thanks go to all the contributors to this issue of *Vision*, for taking time and energy to write engaging and substantive essays. And special thanks to Barbara Nelson Gingerich, our managing editor, for her exceptional work in putting it all into attractive form.