

***What the Heart Knows---Theopoetics and the Renewing Power  
of Metaphor***

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## **Proposal**

**“The heart knows things the mind can never comprehend.”**

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate the necessity and potential of theopoetics for the post-modern age. The use of metaphor as the language of theopoetics will be developed. The breaking down of the Cartesian world view has left a philosophical and religious void that metaphor is uniquely qualified to address. Theopoetics with the use of metaphor is not only able to create new realities, it can also help bridge the gap between traditional/systematic affirmations and the new reality.

This project will explore theopoetics and the use of metaphor through the biblical story from Ezekiel known as the Valley of Dry Bones. This text is rich in imaginative and interpretive possibilities for theopoetics. The structure and outline of this project will emerge from the movement of the biblical text beginning with the chaos of despair moving eventually to the renewal of hope. The following is a proposed outline for the project. *Surveying the Landscape: A Collapsing Center, Considering the Improbable: A Crisis of Interpretation, Creating New Possibilities: A Potential Rediscovered, Making the Connection: A Shock of Recognition, and Pointing Beyond the Obvious: A Renewal of Hope.*