

Lebanon Valley College

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To: Michael Green, Dean of the Faculty

Date: August 4, 2009

RE: Sabbatical Report

In the fall 2007 I requested a sabbatical for one semester during the 2008-2009 academic year in order to work on a book manuscript. This request was granted for the spring 2009 semester. I am happy to report that during this time I was able to complete the writing of the manuscript. The monograph is called "Radical Democracy and Political Theology: Vanquishing the Shadow of Carl Schmitt." It was submitted to Columbia University Press for review on July 24, 2009. The editors will be sending it out for peer review shortly. I should know something definitive about its prospects for publication by this winter.

I am including a draft copy of the full manuscript as a part of this report. As you will see, it includes six full chapters, along with two chapter interludes, an introduction, and a conclusion. It is 229 pages, and approximately 70,000 words in length.

As I detailed in my original sabbatical request, this is the product of many years preparation, during which time I delivered a series of papers at national and international conferences on the broad topics of democracy and political theology. These have included "The Role of Religion in American Political Discourse," at the International Conference on Religion, Law, and Power sponsored by The Tunisian Association of Constitutional Law in Tunis, Tunisia in March 2009, "Left Behind: The Messianic without Sovereignty" at Lancaster University during the summer of 2007, "Thinking Transcendence with Levinas: From the Ethico-Religious to Politics and Beyond" at a meeting of the International Institute of Hermeneutic held at Mt. Allison University during the summer of 2006, "Secularization and the Multitude" at the American Academy of Religion conference in the fall of 2006, and "Beyond the Politics of Theological Despair" at Calvin College in the fall of 2006. During this same period I have also co-edited a special issue of the *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* (Vol. 8, No. 2) on "Religion, Democracy, and the Politics of Fright," and a volume of collected essays entitled *The Sleeping Giant Has Awoken: The New Politics of Religion in the United States* (Continuum, 2008).

I am very grateful to Lebanon Valley College for granting me this time away from full-time teaching duties so that I could complete this project. The time was intellectually rejuvenating. I am proud of the work I was able to accomplish and continue to believe that such focused research helps me to better live up to my professional responsibilities as a teacher-scholar, and thus, better serve the LVC students and community.

