



Chris Wooton  
Director of Communications  
Direct: (502) 992-9358  
Mobile: (502) 599-5815  
cwooton@lpts.edu

## About Robert P. Jones, winner of the 2019 Grawemeyer Award in Religion

December 7, 2018 – Robert P. Jones is the founding CEO of PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute) and a leading scholar and commentator on religion, culture, and politics.

Jones is the author of the 2019 Grawemeyer Award-winning book, *The End of White Christian America* (Simon & Schuster). In his book, Jones argues that, although white Protestantism has dominated U.S. politics and culture for much of the nation's history, demographic changes and an exodus from churches by the young are bringing the era to a close. According to Jones, although 54 percent of the U.S. population met that description in 2008, the number fell to 45 percent in 2016. The election two years ago gave Republicans political control of the country but also signaled a "death rattle" for white Christian America.

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, jointly with the University of Louisville, awards the \$100,000 Grawemeyer Award to honor and publicize creative and significant insights into the relationship between human beings and the divine. The award also recognizes ways in which this relationship may inspire or empower human beings to attain wholeness, integrity, or meaning, either individually or in community.

Jones is also author of two other books and numerous peer-reviewed book chapters and articles. He writes a column for *The Atlantic* online on politics and culture and is frequently featured in major national media outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, NPR, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and others.

PRRI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts independent research at the intersection of religion, culture, and public policy. In addition to his work at PRRI, Jones serves as the co-chair of the national steering committee for the Religion and Politics Section at the American Academy of Religion and is a past member of the editorial boards for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion and Politics and Religion*, a journal of the American Political Science Association.

Jones holds a Ph.D. in religion from Emory University, an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a B.S. in computing science and mathematics from Mississippi College. He was selected by Emory University's Graduate Division of Religion as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2013, and by Mississippi College's Mathematics Department as Alumnus of the Year in 2016.

Before founding PRRI, Jones worked as a consultant and senior research fellow at several think tanks in Washington, D.C., and was an assistant professor of religious studies at Missouri State University.



**Robert P. Jones**

