

RICHARD W. VOELZ

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship
Union Presbyterian Seminary
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University

Ph.D. in Homiletics and Liturgics, 2011

M.A., 2009

Dissertation: "A Youthful Homiletic: A Practical Theological Examination of the Relationship between Preaching and Adolescents"

Committee: John S. McClure (director), Ted A. Smith, Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Dale P. Andrews

Emmanuel School of Religion

Now Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan University

M.Div. with double concentration in Christian Ministries and New Testament, 2005

Thesis: "Preaching as Anamnesis: A Practical Theology of Preaching"

Milligan College

Now Milligan University

B.A., Cum Laude, 2001

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship, with tenure (2020-present)

Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship (2016-2020)

Courses Taught:

Introduction to Preaching and Worship

Preaching in the 21st Century

Children and Youth in the Bible & the Worship of the Church, with John Carroll

The Christian Year

Sacraments: Theology and Practice

Proclaiming Justice in the Church and Public Square

Preaching and Worship as Pastoral Care, with Carol Schweitzer

Preaching the Bible (online, through the UPSem Leadership Institute's
"Pathways to Learning and Leadership")
Sacred Space (Directed Study)
Preaching the Old Testament, with Samuel Adams

Vanderbilt University

Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Homiletics, Dale P. Andrews, 2011
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Homiletics, John S. McClure, 2008
Teaching Assistant for History of Christian Liturgy, Robin M. Jensen, 2007

Milligan College

Small Group Facilitator, Practical Ministries Colloquium, 2002-2005

Pastoral Experience

Ordained with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia
Senior Minister, Johns Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Johns Creek,
GA, 2012 – 2016

Minister, Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Springfield, TN, 2010-2012

Assoc. Minister for Youth, Boones Creek Christian Church, Gray, TN, 2001-2005

Youth Minister, Harrison Christian Church, Johnson City, TN, 2000-2001

Ministry Intern, First Christian Church, Titusville, FL, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act, Artistry of Preaching Series,
Abingdon Press, 2019.

*Youthful Preaching: Strengthening the Relationship between Youth, Adults, and
Preaching*, Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching Series, Cascade Books,
2016.

*Tending the Tree of Life: Preaching and Worship through Reproductive Loss and
Adoption*, Shook Foil Books, 2015.

Second edition, Energion Books, Academy of Parish Clergy Series, 2018.

Edited Works

With Casey Thornburgh Sigmon: *"Introduction to Sermons of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ), 1968-2018"* and Contributing Editor for *The Living
Pulpit of the Christian Church: Representative Preaching in the Stone-*

Campbell Movement (1968-2018), Chalice Press, 2018

Book Chapters

"Afterword," in *Preaching as Resistance: Voices of Hope, Justice, and Solidarity*, ed. Phil Snider, Chalice Press, 2018.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Reconsidering the Image of Preacher-as-Teacher: Intersections between Henry Giroux's Critical Pedagogy and Homiletics," *Practical Matters: A Transdisciplinary Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology*, issue 7 on Worship, Ritual, and Theory (Summer 2014).

"Reading Scripture and Watching Television," published by Practicing Our Faith, The Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, 2006.

Articles and Essays

"Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading with the World" on Mark 5:21-43, Mark 6:1-13, and Mark 6:14-29" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Resource*, Year B, Vol. 3 (Westminster John Knox, forthcoming).

"Commentary 1: Connecting the Reading to Scripture" on Luke 16:19-31, Luke 17:5-10, Luke 17:11-19" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Resource*, Year C, Vol. 3 (Westminster John Knox, 2019).

"Between Text and Sermon: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58," in *Interpretation*, Vol. 72, Issue 1, Jan. 2018

"Silence and Deficiency: Contemporary Pictures of Preaching and Youth," *Encounter* 76, no. 1 (2016), 21-49.

"Homiletical Perspective" on Mark 14:17-21, Mark 14:22-25, and Mark 14:26-31 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Mark*. Ed. Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

"Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What You See: Preaching to Youth and Homiletical Analysis, A Case Study," *Practical Matters: A Transdisciplinary Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology*, Issue 2 (Fall 2009).

Sermons

"Minding Your Own Business," in *Young Preachers Compilation*, Vol. 1. Shook Foil Books, 2012.

Reviews

Saving Images: The Presence of the Bible in Christian Liturgy by Gordon W. Lathrop

- in *Theology Today* 76, no. 2 (July 2019): 181–82.
- Ways of the Word: Learning to Preach for Your Time and Place* by Sally A. Brown and Luke A. Powery in *Interpretation*, 72 no 3 2018, p 352-353.
- The Sermon Without End: A Conversational Approach to Preaching* by O. Wesley Allen and Ronald J. Allen in *Interpretation*, 72 no 2 2018, p 235-236.
- Practical Theology in Church and Society* by Joseph E. Bush, Jr. in *Homiletic*, 42, n. 2 (Dec, 2017)
- The Touch of the Sacred: The Practice, Theology, and Tradition of Christian Worship* by F. Gerrit Immink in *Review and Expositor*, 113 no 4 Nov 2016, p 579-580.
- Distance in Preaching: Room to Speak, Space to Listen* by Michael Brothers in *Review and Expositor* vol. 112, no. 1 (Feb 2015), 181-182.
- Karl Barth's Emergency Homiletic, 1932-1933: A Summons to Prophetic Witness at the Dawn of the Third Reich* by Angela Dienhart Hancock in *Review and Expositor* vol. 111, no. 4 (December 2014), 426-427.
- The Children's Sermon: Moments with God* by Janet S. Helme in *Encounter* vol. 74, no. 1 (Fall 2013), 62-63.
- Children, Youth, and Spirituality in a Troubling World* ed. by Mary Elizabeth Moore and Almeda Wright in *Journal of Childhood and Religion*, (December 2011).
- Making the Words Acceptable: The Shape of the Sermon in Christian History* by Jonathan Hustler in *Homiletic* vol 36, no 2 (Winter 2011).
- A Cross-Shattered Church: Reclaiming the Theological Heart of Preaching* by Stanley Hauerwas in *Stone-Campbell Journal* vol. 14, no. 1 (Spring 2011), 100-103.
- Thank You for Asking: Conversing With Young Adults about the Future Church* by Sara Wenger Shenk in *Journal of Youth and Theology* vol. 7, no. 1 (April 2008), 99-101.

Work in Progress

- "Questions for Conversational Preaching," invited essay for *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 75.2
- "Theologies of Preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement," invited book chapter for *The Manifold Grace of God: Theologies of Preaching*, ed. Ronald J. Allen, Cascade Publishing

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Teacher-Scholar Grant, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship,
"Youthful Sermons" (\$18,000), 2020-2021

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Guest Editor, *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 75.2

Associate Editor, "Between Text and Sermon," *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 2019-pres.

Managing Editor, *Homiletic*, 2008-2011

PRESENTATIONS OF SCHOLARLY WORK

"Wrestling with Whiteness in Homiletic Pedagogy," invited paper for the Unmasking White Preaching Workgroup of the Academy of Homiletics, 2019 annual meeting

"The Preacher as Teacher and Critical Pedagogy: Homiletic Identity for Talking Taboos," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, November 2016

"'Carve Out a Special Portion': Preaching and Youth in 18th Century North America," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, December 2011

Respondent, "Preaching Christ Digitized: Digital Media as an Emergent Art in Preaching and Worship," Christian Scholars' Conference, Lipscomb University, June 2010

"Preaching, Youth, and Intensity in Homiletic Research," Presenter/Participant, Consultation on Youth in Religious Practices and Practical Theology, Emory University, 2008

"Preaching, Youth, and the Turn to the 'Other': An Agenda for Homiletics," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, 2007

GUEST LECTURES

"Tending the Tree of Life: Preaching and Worship through Reproductive Loss and Adoption," for D.Min seminar "Preaching and the Pastor: Voice and Vision," Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Prof. Lisa L. Thompson, 2015

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Union Presbyterian Seminary

Chair, Practical Theology/Christian Education Department, 2018-2020

Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care, 2019-2020

Member, Committee on Academic Programs, 2017-2020

Co-Organizer with Tinsley Jones, Carl Howie Center Event, led by The Many, 2019

Search Committee member, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, 2018-2019

Search Committee member, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics and

Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership,

2018-2019

Search Committee member, Director of the Global Mission Center, 2017-2018

Developer, UPSem Clinical Preaching Lab

Co-chair, Practical Theology/Christian Education Dept., Fall 2017

Member of the DMin working group, 2017-2018

Member, Community Life Committee, 2016-2017

Faculty facilitator, Communities of Learning, 2018

Vanderbilt University

Area Bibliographer, Homiletics and Liturgics, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, 2008-2011

Research Assistant, Dr. Ted A. Smith, 2006-2007

PROFESSIONAL and ACADEMIC SERVICE

Wabash Webinar, "Proclaiming Imagination and Upheaval," 2020

Mentor and Sermon Evaluator, Academy of Preachers' "National Festival of Young Preachers," 2019

Convener, Justice and Ethics Working Group, Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, 2017

Planning team, North American Academy of Liturgy Emerging Scholars panel, 2017

Peer Reviewer, *Practical Matters*, Summer 2014

Preaching Feedback and Evaluation Coordinator, Academy of Preachers' "Festival of Preaching," an initiative of the Lilly Endowment, 2011

Director, Academy of Preachers' Preaching Camp, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment, 2010

Mentor, Academy of Preachers' "Festival of Preaching," an initiative of the Lilly Endowment, 2010

Preaching Coach, Academy of Preachers Preacher's Camp, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment, 2009, 2011

Small Group Leader, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, Nashville, TN, 2008

Mentor, "Mentoring Project" of the Ministry and Undergraduate Fellows Program, The Fund for Theological Education, 2005

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cohort Member, Workshop for Early Career Theological School Faculty, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Religion, 2019-2020

Participant, Association of Theological Schools (ATS) New Faculty Roundtable Seminar, 2017

ECCLESIAL SERVICE

Member, Worship Committee, Seventh Street Christian Church, Richmond, VA, 2019-pres.

Member, UKirk VCU Advisory Board, 2017-2020

Member, Camp Christian (GA) Resource and Development Vision Task Force, 2014-2016

Member, Credentialing Committee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in GA, 2014-2016

Member, Clergy Misconduct Response Team, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in GA, 2012-2016

Member, GLAD (Gay, Lesbian Affirming Disciples) Open and Affirming Ministries Team, 2009-2011

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Directors, The IMPACT! Group, 2015-2016

Member, North Fulton Poverty Task Force, 2014-2016

ECCLESIAL PRESENTATIONS and CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

"Lenten Themes and Worship," Ashland Presbyterian Church, 2020

"Preaching the Old Testament," Leadership Institute of UPSem with Samuel Adams, 2020

"Open and Affirming Discernment," Seventh Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2020

"Preaching to Teach: Rethinking the Image of the Teacher for Preaching in Our Time" workshop for Union Presbyterian Seminary, "Seminary for a Day," 2019

"Preaching Through Advent: Faraway, So Close!" workshop for for "Called Together" Clergy Couple Retreat, Massanetta Springs, 2019

Lenten Speaker Series, River Road Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, 2019

"Blue Christmas: Meaningful Worship in the Face of Reproductive Loss," webinar for Disciples Seminary Foundation, 2018.

"Finding the Words to Preach," continuing education event for Presbytery of West Virginia, PC(USA), 2018

"Tending the Tree of Life: Reproductive Loss, Adoption, & the Ministry of the Church," Massanetta Springs Bible Conference, 2018

"Teach, Preacher! Reimagining the Role of Teaching in the Pulpit," UPSem Alumni Gathering at the Annual Conference of the Virginia UMC, 2018

"Preaching as Pastoral Care," National Festival of Young Preachers, 2018

Retreat facilitator, New Hope Presbytery Pastors and Educators Retreat, 2017

- Keynote, "Moving the 'Conversation' Along: Preacher, Congregation, and Public in Divided Times," Union Presbyterian Seminary, "Seminary for a Day," 2017
- "Form and Freedom in Christian Worship: Discerning the Balance for your Congregation," Union Presbyterian Seminary, "Seminary for a Day," 2017
- "Ministering through Reproductive Loss" at General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2017
- "Form and Freedom in Christian Worship: Discerning the Balance for Your Congregation," 2nd Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA
- "Gospel of Matthew: Challenges and Resources for Preachers Today," with Frances Taylor Gench and John T. Carroll, 2017
- "Preaching Contexts and Sermon Forms," Commissioned Ruling Elder Training, Presbytery of West Virginia, PC(USA), 2016
- Retreat facilitator, "Preaching Through Advent," Holston Presbytery of the PC(USA), 2013
- "Social Media: Being Church in the New Public Square," Columbia Theological Seminary, 2013
- "Preaching the Advent Texts," Oreon Scott Lecture, Tennessee Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2011
- "Contemporary Issues in Preaching and Worship," June Ramsey Class, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2010
- "Preaching & Adolescent Youth," June Ramsey Class, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2008
- "Vanderbilt Divinity School and Ministerial Education," Oxford Class, Belle Meade United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, 2008

PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS

- Installation service for Rev. Shane Smith, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2019
- Ordination service for Rev. Lauren Voyles, 2018
- 7th District Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia, 2018
- Massanetta Springs Bible Conference, 2018
- Baccalaureate service, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2018
- Ordination service for Rev. Allen Rogers, 2017
- Commencement, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2016
- Keynote speaker, CYF Conference, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, 2015
- Keynote Speaker, NW District Men's Rally of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, 2012
- Koinonia Ecumenical Youth Retreat, Northeast TN, 2005-2008

Keynote speaker, Holston Presbytery Youth Mission Trip, 2007
Philippi Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Deltaville, VA, 2018
Seventh Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Richmond, VA, multiple
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, VA, 2018
"A Sermon for Every Sunday," 4 sermons
Smyrna Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Bruington, VA, 2017
Denbigh United Presbyterian Church, Newport News, VA, 2017
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, 2018
Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, VA, 2018
First United Church – UCC, Nashville, TN, 2010
The Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, KY, 2010
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Waynesboro, TN, 2010
First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, TN, 2009
"Festival of Preaching," Vine Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Nashville,
TN, 2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contemporary Homiletic Theory, Critical Pedagogy, Homiletic Identity, Preaching and Justice, Preaching and Youth, Liturgics, Preaching and the Stone-Campbell Movement

HONORS and AWARDS

Disciples Home Missions Ministerial Grant, used for course in History and Polity of the United Church of Christ, 2014
University Scholarship, Vanderbilt University, 2006 – 2011
William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2010
International Society of Theta Phi, Emmanuel School of Religion, 2005
Owen L. Crouch Preaching Scholarship, 2004 – 2005
Joseph Dampier Preaching Scholarship, 2003
Fig Tree Fellowship, Emmanuel School of Religion, 2001
Dean's List, Milligan College, 1999-2001
Greek Award, Milligan College, 2001
W.I. Spahr Scholarship, Milligan College, 1998 – 1999
Bible Area Merit Scholarship, Milligan College, 1997 – 2001

ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Academy of Homiletics
American Academy of Religion

Association of Practical Theology