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**Union Presbyterian Seminary**  
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## **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy - Division of Religion, May 1992

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Department: New Testament Studies

Dissertation: "Beyond The Boundaries: Cultural Perspective and  
New Testament Interpretation"

Director: Hendrikus Boers

Master of Divinity - New Testament Studies, May 1981

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

Bachelor of Arts - Religion and Psychology (Double Major), May 1978

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

## **ACADEMIC INTEREST**

The Synoptic Gospels, particularly Mark

The Book of Revelation

The Influence of Cultural Perspectives on Biblical Interpretation

New Testament Ethics

Modern Ethical Issues and the New Testament

The Black Church and The New Testament

Paul and the Black Church

Linguistics and New Testament Interpretation

## **TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

*President and Professor Of New Testament* - Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA;  
Charlotte, NC

2007 - present

*Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation* - Princeton Theological  
Seminary, Princeton, NJ

2004 - 2007

*Professor* - Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

2003 - 2004

*Associate Professor* - Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
1998 - 2003

*Assistant Professor* - Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
1992 - 1998

*Instructor* - Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA  
Cultural Hermeneutics: The Influence of Cultural  
Perspectives on Biblical Interpretation, Spring 1992

*Instructor* - Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
New Testament Greek Readings - Spring 1990

*Teaching Assistant* - Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
New Testament Survey - Spring, 1989; Spring, 1990

*Teaching Assistant* - Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
New Testament Greek - 1980 - 1981

## **AWARDS**

Princeton Theological Seminary: Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2018  
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Hampden-Sydney College, 2011  
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Presbyterian College, 2010  
Emory Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University: Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2004  
Lilly Faculty Fellowship, 2003 - 2004  
Woodruff Fellow, Emory University, 1988 - 1992  
Doctoral Fellow, The Fund For Theological Education, to Emory University, 1988 - 1990  
Edler Garnet Hawkins Award for Scholastic Excellence, Graduated Second in Class, Princeton  
Theological Seminary, 1981  
Benjamin E. Mays Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, to Princeton Theological  
Seminary, 1979 - 1981  
Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, College of William and Mary. Inducted Spring 1978

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*Moderator*, Imani Presbyterian Church, Trenton, NJ, 1998 - 2000.

*Moderator*, Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, 2000.

*Chairperson*, Committee on Representation, Presbytery of New Brunswick, 1995 - 1997.

*Pastor*, Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church, Newport News, VA - 1982 - 1988.

Administered church programming, coordinated worship activities, managed church staff and daily operations, implemented capital campaign, launched building program for new worship and support facilities. Conducted ground-breaking ceremonies in spring of 1988.

Directed the Road Ahead Clothing Center and co-founded a comprehensive hunger program at the same site. Coordinated program activities with the Department of Social Services, City of Newport News, and the Southeastern Food Bank of Virginia.

Chaired the Division of Mission (1986 - 1988) and the Committee for the Care of Candidates for the Ministry (1985 - 1988) for the Presbytery of Southern Virginia.

Chaired community development committee and served on the executive board for the Newport News Branch of the NAACP, 1982 - 1986.

Initiated and directed an inner city community rehabilitative project for the Southeast section of the city of Newport News, VA, 1983 - 1987.

Served as a community representative to the Criminal Justice Services Board and the Juvenile Justice Prevention and Delinquency Advisory Council for the State of Virginia, 1981 - 1986.

Established and directed an after-care program for incarcerated and previously incarcerated Juvenile Offenders in coordination with the Juvenile Court of Newport News, VA, 1984 - 1988.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

*President*, Society of Biblical Literature, 2018.

*Vice President*, Society of Biblical Literature, 2017.

*President*, Association of Theological Schools, 2018-2020.

*Vice President*, Association of Theological Schools, 2016-2018.

*Member*, Committee On Theological Education, Presbyterian Church (USA), 2007 - .

*Member*, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), 2007 - .

*Member*, Society of Biblical Literature, 1990 - .

*Member*, Council, Society of Biblical Literature, 2001 - 2007; 2017 - 2018.

*Chairperson*, Program Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, 2001 - 2007.

*Member*, Editorial Board, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2000 - 2005.

*Member*, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, 2005 - .

*Convener*, Consultation on the Teaching of Biblical Greek, Wabash Teaching Center, 2001 - 2002.

*Member*, Editorial Board, *The Westminster Discipleship Study Bible* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, projected 2006).

*Member*, Advisory Editorial Board, *Interpretation*, 2000 - 2004.

*Editor*, Bible Content Exam, Presbyterian Church (USA), 2000 - 2002. Associate Editor, 1998 - 2000.

*Member*, Research and Publications Committee, Society of Biblical Literature, 1994 - 2000.

*Member*, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey, 1995 - 1996.

*Member*, Committee on Underrepresented Constituencies, Association of Theological Schools for 1994 - 96 Biennium; 1996 - 98 Biennium.

*Co-Chair*, Consultation on Sociolinguistics and Biblical Interpretation, Society of Biblical Literature, 1992 - 1997.

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

2018 Presidential Address, Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, CO.

2017 McKay Lecturer, Taiwan Theological College and Seminary, Taipei, Taiwan.

2014 Keynote Speaker, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE), Baltimore, MD

2011 Beecher Lecturer, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Seminar Panel Review on Brian K. Blount, *Can I Get A Witness? Reading Revelation Through An African American Lens* (Westminster John Knox, 2005) in John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts, Ancient and Modern Section of Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA - Annual Meeting, November 2005.

2004 Keynote Lecture, Academy of Homiletics, Memphis, TN.

2003 John Albert Hall Lectures, The Centre For Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

1997 Staley Lecturer, Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia.

Seminar Panel Review on Brian K. Blount, *Cultural Interpretation: Reorienting New Testament Criticism* (Fortress Press, 1995) in Semiotics and Exegesis Section of Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA - Annual Meeting, November 1996.

"Go Fish! An Apocalyptic Call For Confrontational Discipleship"  
American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, IL - Annual Meeting, November, 1994.

"Preaching The Kingdom: Mark's Apocalyptic Call For Prophetic Engagement"  
Neumann Symposium, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ  
September 30-October 3, 1993

"Socio-Linguistics and New Testament Interpretation"  
American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, CA - Annual Meeting, November, 1992.

"A Socio-Rhetorical Analysis of Simon of Cyrene"  
American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA - Annual Meeting, November, 1990.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **BOOKS**

*Invasion of the Dead: Reading Resurrection Through the Lens of Apocalyptic Eschatology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).

*Commentary on Revelation* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

*The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Associate editor (Abingdon Press, 2009).

*The Discipleship Study Bible*, Associate editor (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2008).

*True To Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*, General Editor (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007).

*Can I Get A Witness? Reading Revelation Through African American Culture* (Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2005).

*Preaching Mark in Two Voices*, with Gary W. Charles (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).

*Struggling With Scripture*, with Walter Brueggemann and William Placher (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).

*Then The Whisper Put On Flesh: New Testament Ethics in An African American Context* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001).

*Making Room At The Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*, edited with Leonora Tubbs Tisdale (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000).

*Go Preach! Mark's Kingdom Message and The Black Church Today* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Press, 1998).

*Cultural Interpretation: Reorienting New Testament Criticism* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).

## ARTICLES

“Flesh in the Word: A Presbyterian Outlook for Our Time,” *The Presbyterian Outlook* 201 (2019) 32-52.

“The Souls of Biblical Folks and the Potential for Meaning,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 138 (2019) 6-21.

“Jesus as Teacher: Boundary Breaking in Mark’s Gospel and Today’s Church,” *Interpretation* 70 (2016) 184-193.

“Tending the Faculty Flock: The President’s Relationship with Teaching Colleagues,” *Colloquy* 20 (2011) 20-23.

Introduction and Text Notes on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, *The Discipleship Study Bible* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2008).

“Reading Contextually as Reading Reformed,” in *Reformed Theology, Identity and Ecumenicity II: Biblical Interpretation in the Reformed Tradition*, Wallace M. Alston, Jr., and Michael Welker, editors (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007).

“The Book of Revelation,” in *True To Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*, Brian K. Blount, General Editor, Cain Felder, Clarice Martin, Emerson B. Powery, Associate Editors (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007).

“The Witness of Active Resistance: Revelation From An African American Perspective,” in *From Every People and Nation: The Book of Revelation in Intercultural Perspective*, David Rhoads editor (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005) 28-46.

“Is the Joke on Us? Mark’s Irony, Mark’s God, and Mark’s Ending,” in *The Ending of Mark and the Ends of God*, Beverly Roberts Gaventa and Patrick Miller, editors (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005) 15-32.

“Wreaking Weakness: A Cultural Studies Reading of the Lamb in the Apocalypse,” *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 25 (2004) 285-302.

“Cultural Studies and Intersubjective Work: A Response,” in *Navigating Romans Through Cultures: Challenging Readings by Charting a New Course*, Yeo Khiok-khng, editor (New York: T & T Clark International, 2004) 290-294.

“The Last Word on Biblical Authority,” in *Struggling With Scripture* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002).

“Reading Revelation Today: Witness as Active Resistance,” *Interpretation* 54 (2000) 398-412.

“The Apocalypse of Worship: A House of Prayer For All the Nations,” in *Making Room At The Table: An Invitation To Multicultural Worship*, Brian K. Blount and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, editors (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000) 16-29.

“Kulturelle Interpretation: Jenseits von Begrenzungen von ‘Bedeutung’,” in *Hermeneutik–sozialgeschichtlich*, Erhard S. Gerstenberger und Ulrich Schoenborn, editors (Münster: Lit Verlag, 1999) 102-121.

"If You Get MY Meaning: Introducing Cultural Exegesis," in *Exegese und Theoriediskussion*, Stefan Alkier and Ralph Brucker, editors (Tübingen and Basel: Francke-Verlag, 1998) 77-97.

"Righteousness From The Inside: Transformative Spirituality and the Sermon on the Mount," in *A Critical Reader in the Theological Interpretation of Scripture*, Stephen Fowl, editor (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1996) 262-284.

"Reading Versus Understanding: Text Interpretation and Homosexuality," in *Homosexuality: Conversations In A Christian Community*, C.L. Seow, editor (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1996) 28-38.

"The Social World of Bandits," in *The Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37)*. An American Bible Society Interactive CD-Rom for Windows. New York: American Bible Society, 1996. See also: <http://www.newmediabible.org/1goodsam/travel/gstravelmainframe.htm>.

"Descending From Jerusalem to Jericho," in *The Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37)*. An American Bible Society Interactive CD-Rom for Windows. New York: American Bible Society, 1996. See also: <http://www.newmediabible.org/1goodsam/travel/gstravelmainframe.htm>.

"Preaching The Kingdom: Mark's Apocalyptic Call For Prophetic Engagement", *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, Supplementary Issue No. 3 (1994) 33-56.

"A Socio-Rhetorical Analysis of Simon of Cyrene", *SEMELA* 64 (1993) 171-198.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Cain Hope Felder, *Race, Racism, and the Biblical Narratives* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002) *Princeton Theological Review*, 25 (2004) 109-110.

Fernando F. Segovia, *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View From The Margins* (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2000) *Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology*, 9 (2001) 60-62.

W.R. Telford, *The Theology of the Gospel of Mark* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999) *Theology Today*, 57 (2000) 280-284.

Oliver O'Donovan, *Desire of the Nations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996) *Studies in Christian Ethics*, 11 (1998) 8-17.

Frank J. Matera, *New Testament Ethics: The Legacies of Jesus and Paul* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996) *Bible Review*, XIII (1997) 16-20.

Randall C. Bailey and Jacquelyn Grant, *The Recovery of Black Presence: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995) *Theology Today*, 53 (1996) 430-432. (Book Note.).

L. Michael White and O. Larry Yarbrough, *The Social World of the First Christians: Essays in Honor of Wayne A. Meeks* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995,) *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, 17 (1996) 367-369.

Theophus Smith, *Conjuring Culture: Biblical Formations of Black America* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), *Theology Today* 52 (1996) 516-518.

Willi Marxsen, *New Testament Foundations for Christian Ethics* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993). *Lutheran Quarterly* 8 (1994) 462-63.

Gerd Theissen, *Social Reality and the Early Christians: Theology, Ethics, and the World of the New Testament* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992). *Lutheran Quarterly* 8 (Spring, 1994) 87-88.

Joel Marcus, *The Way of the Lord: Christological Exegesis of the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 15 (1994) 73-74.



**SERMONS**

“Live Your Life Like it Means Something,” in *Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act*, Richard W. Voelz (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019) 79-85.

“Rise!,” in *Rethinking Celebration: From Rhetoric to Praise in African American Preaching*, Cleophus J. LaRue (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016).

“Material Grace,” in *Journal For Preachers*, T. Erskine Clarke and Walter Brueggeman, editors (Montreat, NC) 37-42.

“Pick A Fight!”, *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, 26 (2005) 126-135.

“Breaking Point,” in *Lament: Reclaiming Practices in Pulpit, Pew, and Public Square*, Sally Ann Brown and Patrick Miller, editors (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005) 145-153.

“Run The Risk,” in *Renewing The Vision*, Cynthia Campbell, editor (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2000).

“Makes Me Wanna Holler,” *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 16 (1995) 272-283.

“Stay Close,” *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 15 (1994) 173-183.