

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 Christian Worship

Introduction to Preaching and Public Proclamation

Introduction to Preaching and Worship

Preaching in the 21st Century

Worship 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
Intersecting Academic and Spiritual Journeys, with Lakisha Lockhart
Contemporary Movements in Christian Worship (Directed Study)
Advanced Preaching Seminar (Directed Study)
Sacred Space (Directed Study)
Preaching the Old Testament, with Samuel Adams
Preaching at the Intersections, with Melanie Jones
Preaching for Transformation (DMin, ThM, and MDiv)
Preaching the Bible (online, through the UPSem Leadership Institute's
"Pathways to Learning and Leadership")

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

Youthful Sermons, digital book with Working Preacher, 2022,
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/ebooks/youthful-sermons>

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

"Theologies of Preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement," in *Preaching the Manifold Grace of God: Theologies of Preaching in Major Historical Theological Families*, ed. Ronald J. Allen, Cascade, 2022.

"Wrestling with Whiteness in Homiletic Pedagogy: A Reflection on Teaching 'Proclaiming Justice in Church and Public Square,'" in *Unmasking White Preaching: Racial Hegemony, Resistance, and Possibilities in Homiletics*, eds. Andrew Wymer and Lis Valle, Lexington, 2022.

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

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"On Entanglement, Eradication, Obstruction, Discomfort, and Vigilance," in *Journal on Teaching (Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion)*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (2023).

<https://serials.atla.com/wabashcenter/issue/view/340>

"Questions for Conversational Preaching," in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 75:2, 2021.

"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, 2020).
- "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

- Introduction to Preaching: Scripture, Theology, and Sermon Preparation* by Leah Schade, Jerry Sumney, and Emily Askew in *Interpretation* (forthcoming)
- 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.

Public Scholarship

The Bridge for Early Career Preachers' "Preachercast," a monthly podcast

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- \$1 million: from The Lilly Endowment's "Compelling Preaching Initiative: Phase 2" to establish The Bridge for Early Career Preachers (www.upsem.edu/bridge)
- \$50,000: from The Lilly Endowment's "Compelling Preaching Initiative: Phase 1" to research programming for Phase 2.
- \$5,000: from The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion for "Assessing Pedagogical Diversity and Inclusion in the Academy of Homiletics," with co-director Dr. Leah Schade of Lexington Theological Seminary.
- Teacher-Scholar Grant, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, "Youthful Sermons" (\$18,000), 2020-2021
- Wabash Fellowship Program for Early Career Workshop, "Poetic Justice/Justice Poetics" (\$5,000), 2020-2022

EDITORIAL SERVICE

- Editorial Board, Wabash Center's *Journal on Teaching*
- Guest Editor, *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 75.2
- Associate Editor, "Between Text and Sermon," *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 2019-2022.
- Managing Editor, *Homiletic*, 2008-2011

PRESENTATIONS OF SCHOLARLY WORK

- "Assessing Pedagogical Diversity and Inclusion in the Academy of Homiletics," with co-presenter Leah D. Schade (Lexington Theological Seminary), Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, 2022
- "Wrestling with Whiteness in Homiletic Pedagogy," invited paper for the Unmasking White Preaching Workgroup of the Academy of Homiletics, 2019
- "The Preacher as Teacher and Critical Pedagogy: Homiletic Identity for Talking Taboos," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, 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, 2011
- Respondent, "Preaching Christ Digitized: Digital Media as an Emergent Art in Preaching and Worship," Christian Scholars' Conference, Lipscomb University, 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

- "The Preacher as Teacher" for D.Min seminar "Prophetic Preaching," Columbia Theological Seminary, Prof. Jacob Myers, 2021
- "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

- Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, 2022-2023
- Member of the Presidential Search Committee
- Co-Organizer with Tinsley Jones, Carl Howie Center Event, led by The Many, 2022
- Member of the Committee on Faculty Concerns, 2020-pres.
- Member, Hybrid MDiv Task Force, 2021-pres.
- Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, 2021-2022
- Co-organizer with Christine Luckritz Marquis, Faculty "Pedagogy Lunches," 2021-2022
- ATS Reaccreditation Subcommittee #3, 2021

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

Elected 2nd Vice President of the Academy of Homiletics (to serve as President in 2025)
Wabash Center Podcast, "Dialogue on Teaching," Episode 157, 2022
Peer Reviewer, *Homiletic* and *Theology Today*, 2021
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

Participant, Wabash Center "Colloquy on Writing," 2022
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, Deacon, Worship and Long Range Planning Committees, Seventh Street
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Richmond, VA, 2019-2022.
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, Milligan for All, 2021-2023.
Board of Directors, The IMPACT! Group, 2015-2016
Member, North Fulton Poverty Task Force, 2014-2016

ECCLESIAL PRESENTATIONS and CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

Workshop on writing and leading liturgy, Seventh Street Christian Church, 2022
"The Future(s) of Preaching and Worship," Ashland Presbyterian Church, 2021
"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

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Bon Air, VA, 2023
Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, 2023
Ashland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Ashland, VA, 2022
Triple Camp, Craig Springs Camp and Retreat Center, New Castle, VA, 2021, 2022
First Presbyterian Church Hopewell, Seventh Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2021
St. John's United Church of Christ, Richmond, VA, 2021
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," multiple sermons, multiple years
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