

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Lester Ruth

Research Professor of Christian Worship
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Education

Ph.D., 1996, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.

Master of Arts, 1994, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.

Master of Theology, 1988, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Master of Divinity, 1985, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky.

Bachelor of Business Administration, 1981, Stephen F. Austin State University,
Nacogdoches, Texas.

Scholarly Publications: Books

Ruth, Lester and Lim Swee Hong. *A History of Contemporary Praise & Worship: Understanding the Ideas that Reshaped the Protestant Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic 2021.

Ruth, Lester, ed. *Essays on the History of Contemporary Praise and Worship*. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2020.

Ruth, Lester. *Early Methodist Life and Spirituality: A Reader*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2005.

Ruth, Lester. *A Little Heaven Below: Worship at Early Methodist Quarterly Meetings*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2000. Awarded the Jesse Lee Prize by the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History.

General Publications: Books and Media

Ruth, Lester, ed. *Flow: An Ancient Way to Do Contemporary Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020.

Ruth, Lester and Eric Mathis. *Leaning on the Word: Worship with Argentine Baptists in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. The Church at Worship Series, vol. 7. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017.

Lim, Swee Hong and Lester Ruth. *Lovin' On Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017. Translated and published in Chinese, 2019.

Park, Andy, Lester Ruth, and Cindy Rethmeier. *Worshipping with the Anaheim Vineyard: The Emergence of Contemporary Worship*. The Church at Worship Series, vol. 5. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017.

Ruth, Lester. *Longing for Jesus: Worship at a Black Holiness Church in Mississippi, 1895-1913*. The Church at Worship Series, vol. 3. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013.

Webber, Robert E. *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail: Why Evangelicals are Attracted to the Liturgical Church*. Revised edition. Revised by Lester Ruth. New York: Church Publishing, 2013.

Caccamo, James F., Todd E. Johnson, and Lester Ruth. *Living Worship: A Multimedia Resource for Students and Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2011.

Ruth, Lester, Carrie Steenwyk, and John D. Witvliet. *Walking Where Jesus Walked: Worship in Fourth-Century Jerusalem*. The Church at Worship Series, vol. 1. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010.

Satterlee, Craig A. and Lester Ruth. *Creative Preaching on the Sacraments*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2001.

Ruth, Lester. *Accompanying the Journey: A Handbook for [Baptismal] Sponsors*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1997. Reprinted, Wipf & Stock, 2012.

Scholarly Publications: Articles, Essays, and Chapters

“In Case You Don’t Have a Case: Reflections on Methods for Studying Congregational Song in Liturgical History.” In *Studying Congregational Music: Key Issues, Methods, and Theoretical Perspectives*. Edited by Andrew Mall, Jeffers Engelhardt, and Monique M. Ingalls. Routledge, 2021.

“How ‘Pop’ Are the New Worship Songs: Investigating the Level of Popular Cultural Influence on Contemporary Worship Music.” *Global Forum on Arts and Christian Faith* 3, 1 (2015). Available at www.artsandchristianfaith.org.

“Some Similarities and Differences between Historic Evangelical Hymns and Contemporary Worship Songs.” *The Artistic Theologian* 3 (2015): 68-86.

“Divine, Human, or Devilish: The State of the Question on the Writing of the History of Contemporary Worship.” *Worship* 88, 4 (July, 2014): 290-310.

- “Liturgical Revolutions.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*, edited by William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- “*Lex Amandi, Lex Orandi*: The Trinity in the Most-Used Contemporary Christian Worship Songs.” In *The Place of Christ in Liturgical Prayer*, edited by Bryan D. Spinks. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2008.
- “How Great is Our God: The Trinity in Contemporary Christian Worship Music.” In *The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship*, edited by Robert H. Woods, Jr. and Brian D. Walrath. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- “The Times, They Are A-Changin’: How a Training Seminary for Online Education Changed a Seminary One Faculty Member at a Time.” Co-authored with Jeff Groeling. *Theological Education* 42, 2 (2007): 57-66.
- “Urban Itinerancy: ‘Stational’ Liturgy in Early American Methodism.” *Studia Liturgica* 32, 2 (2002): 222-239.
- “A Rose By Any Other Name: Attempts at Classifying North American Protestant Worship.” In *The Conviction of Things Not Seen: Currents in Protestant Christianity in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Todd E. Johnson. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2002. Reprinted in *American Theological Inquiry* 2, 1 (2009): 85-104.
- “Reconsidering the Emergence of the Second Great Awakening and Camp Meetings among Early Methodists.” *Worship* 75, 4 (July, 2001): 334-355.
- "A Little Heaven Below: The Love Feast and Lord's Supper in Early American Methodism." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 32, 2 (Fall, 1997): 59-79.
- "*Lex Agendi, Lex Orandi*: Toward an Understanding of Seeker Services as a New Kind of Liturgy." *Worship* 70, 5 (September, 1996): 386-405.
- "*Salvete Flores Martyrum*: The Feast of the Innocent Infants in the Early Church." *Ecclesia Orans* 12, 3 (1995): 373-394.
- "A Reconsideration of the Frequency of the Eucharist in Early American Methodism." *Methodist History* 34, 1 (October, 1995): 47-58.
- "The Early Roman Christmas Gospel: Magi, Manger, or *Verbum Factum*?" *Studia Liturgica* 24, 2 (1994): 214-221.

General Publications: Articles, Essays, and Chapters

- “The Hidden Diaspora of Mainline and Evangelical Adoption of Contemporary Worship.” *Liturgy* forthcoming, 2022.

- “UNMUTE YOURSELF: Thoughts on the Architecture of Virtual Worship.” *Liturgy* 36, 3 (July-September 2021): 5-7.
- “Confessions of a Liturgical Historian: A Journey of Rethinking the Bible’s Importance When Discussing Worship; or, What I Am Now Learning from Pentecostals and Evangelicals.” *Liturgy* 36, 3 (July-September 2021): 49-59.
- “Baptism, Communion and the Act of Offering.” *Reformed Worship* 142 (December 2021): 19-20.
- “Christmas Baptisms: A Different Meaning of ‘Christmas is for Children’.” *Reformed Worship* 141 (September 2021): 30.
- “Loving Our Baton-Passing, Triune God.” *Worship Leader* 30, 3 (June 2021): 7-9.
- “Aiming for Understanding: Preparing People for Hearing Scripture in Worship.” *Reformed Worship* 140 (June 2021): 23.
- With Mark Stamm. “A New Ritual for Reaffirmation of Baptism.” Available at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/a-new-ritual-for-reaffirmation-of-baptism>. Posted April 29, 2021.
- “Worship in an Age of Reconstruction: Introduction.” *Liturgy* 32, 1 (2017): 1-2.
- “The Eruption of Worship Wars: The Coming of Conflict.” *Liturgy* 32, 1 (2017): 3-6.
- “A Full Diet of Prayer: Are We Over Singing Our Comfort Foods?” *Worship Leader* 25, 4 (July/August 2016): 12-4.
- “Dear, Jesus?” *Worship Leader* 25, 2 (March/April 2016): 52-3.
- “The ‘Church of the Horse’: What Was It Like to be an American Methodist When Francis Asbury was Alive?” *Christian History* 114 (2015): 12-16.
- “Big God, Big Story: Yesterday’s Worship Leaders Speak to Leaders Today.” *Worship Leader* 24, 2 (March/April 2015): 20-23.
- “The Path of Faithfulness is Not Easy.” *The Truth: A Quarterly Publication of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.* (Winter, 2014): 1, 4.
- “Writing with Awe.” *Worship Leader* 22, 6 (September, 2013): 32-33.
- “The Most Republished Evangelical Hymn and Multiple Senses of Scripture: Text with Commentary.” *Liturgy* 28, 2 (April-June, 2013): 48-49.
- “Go East, Young Songwriter, Go East: How Ancient Eastern Orthodox Writers can Help Us Write New Songs.” *Worship Leader* 20, 3 (May, 2011): 32-33.

- “The Transcendent Economy of Trinitarian Worship.” *Asbury Herald* 120, 2 (Summer, 2010): 10-11.
- “New Song According to Charles Wesley: Capturing Biblical Honesty in Songwriting.” *Worship Leader* 20, 3 (May, 2010): 42-43. Reprinted as “The Example of Charles Wesley: Capturing Biblical Honesty in Songwriting.” In *Worshipping Through Grief*. San Juan Capistrano: Worship Leader Partnership, 2013.
- “What Writers of Contemporary Worship Songs Can Learn from Charles Wesley: Reflections and Axioms.” *Proceedings of The Charles Wesley Society* 12 (2009): 65-84.
- “Charles Wesley and the Power of Poetic Theology.” Co-authored with Matt Sigler. *The Asbury Herald* 117, 2 (Spring, 2007): 12-14.
- “Converting My Course Converted Me: How Reinventing an On-campus Course for an Online Environment Reinvigorated My Teaching.” *Teaching Theology and Religion* (October, 2006): 236-242.
- “Overture: ‘The Word of the Lord’.” *Homily Service* 38, 9 (August, 2005): 1-3.
- “Why not ‘Move’ Advent to November?” *Reformed Worship* 69 (September, 2003): 8-10.
- “The Second Sunday in Pentecost Worship.” *Circuit Rider* 26, 5 (September-October, 2002): 27-28.
- “Word and Table: A Wesleyan Model for Balanced Worship.” In *The Wesleyan Tradition: A Paradigm for Renewal*, edited by Paul Chilcote. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- “Creating Space for Baptism and the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant.” In *Worship Matters: A United Methodist Guide to Worship Work*, vol. 2, edited by E. Byron Anderson. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1999.
- “Where Heaven and Earth (and East and West) Meet: The Nativity Hymns of Charles Wesley.” *Sacramental Life* (Christmas, 1998): 170-175.
- “‘The Lord Appears Glorious upon Our Continent’: Revival among Methodists in the Second Great Awakening.” *Challenge to Evangelism Today* 1, 30 (Winter, 1997): 8.
- “The Use of Seeker Services: Models and Questions.” *Reformed Liturgy and Music* 30, 2 (1996): 48-53.
- “A Theological Critique of Church Growth Worship.” In *The Complete Library of Christian Worship*, vol. 7, edited by Robert E. Webber. Nashville: Star Song, 1994.

"Realized in the Eucharist: A Suggestion for Receiving New Members." *Sacramental Life* 6, 5 (Epiphany, 1994): 29-33.

Publications: Reviews and Miscellaneous

With Bruce Benedict. Entry for the Retuned Hymn Movement in *Hymns and Hymnody: Historical and Theological Introductions*, edited by Benjamin K. Forrest, Mark A. Lampport, and Vernon M. Whaley. Eugene: Cascade Books, 2019.

Edited issue of the journal *Liturgy* on the state of worship after the end of the worship wars, 2017.

Entries for Contemporary Worship, Explo '72, Jesus Movement, Willow Creek Association, and Charles Price Jones in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lampport. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

Review of Kimberly Bracken Long's *The Eucharistic Theology of American Holy Fairs* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011) for *Anglican Theological Review* 95, 3 (2013): 561-564.

Review of Karen B. Westerfield Tucker's *American Methodist Worship* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001) for *Wesley and Methodist Studies* 5 (2013): 177-179.

Co-edited with Michael Pasquarello issue of the journal *Liturgy* on spiritual reading of Scripture and liturgical imagination, 2013.

"The Christian Year." In the *Global Wesleyan Dictionary of Theology*, compiled by Al Truesdale. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2013.

Review of *Mashup Religion: Pop Music and Theological Invention*. (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2011) for *Divinity* (Fall 2011): 24-25.

Interviewed for *A History of Christian Worship: Ancient Ways, Future Paths*. DVD, 3 volumes. Ensign Media, 2010.

Entries for Spiritual Worship, Worship, Covenant Service, Sacraments, Duty of Constant Communion, Lord's Supper, and Love Feast in *The Wesley Study Bible*, edited by Joel B. Green and William H. Willimon. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009.

"Worship True to God" essay, *Institute for Worship Studies Alumni News* 1, 4 (April 2005); www.iwsalumni.org/Newsletters/Newsletter04.htm.

Review of John D. Witvliet's *Worship Seeking Understanding: Windows into Christian Practice* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003) for *Asbury Theological Journal*.

- Entry for Camp Meetings in *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, edited by Hans J. Hillerbrand. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Sidebar contributions on a marketing approach to worship and the misconception of Luther and Wesley having used bar tunes in Cornelius Plantinga, Jr., and Sue A. Rozeboom, *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking about Christian Worship Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Review of Kathy Black's *Worship Across Cultures: A Handbook* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998) for *Asbury Theological Journal*, 57, 2-58, 1 (Fall 2002-Spring 2003): 223-224.
- Review of Karen B. Westerfield Tucker's *American Methodist Worship* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001) for *Sacramental Life* 15, 2 (Spring 2003): 532-534.
- Entries for Extempore Prayer, Independent Evangelical Church Worship, and the Praise-and-Worship Movement in *The New SCM Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, edited by Paul Bradshaw. London: SCM Press, 2002. Published also as *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Review of Thomas H. Schattauer's (general editor) *Inside Out: Worship in an Age of Mission* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999) for *Cross Accent* 9, 1 (Spring, 2001): 28-30.
- Review of Laurence Hull Stookey's *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (Nashville: Abingdon Press) for *Christianity and the Arts* 8, 1 (Winter, 2001): 47.
- "Should worship be traditional, contemporary or both?" essay, The United Methodist Church, General Board of Discipleship web site, posted February 2001 (<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/should-worship-be-traditional-contemporary-or-both>).
- Entries for Stephen, the Holy Innocents, John the Baptist, Laurence, and Martin of Tours in *For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations for United Methodists*. Akron, OH: Order of St. Luke, 1995.

Papers, Presentations, and Other Teaching

- "Only One Way? Developing a Broader Context for the Contributions of Jesus People to the Worship and Music Revolutions of the Late 20th Century." Ablaze Conference 2021, Biola University, La Mirada, California, October 8, 2021.
- "Jesus People: Worship and Music." Plenary Address, Ablaze Conference 2021, Biola University, La Mirada, California, October 8, 2021.

- “Reconsidering the Role of the Jesus People Movement in the Historical Development of Contemporary Praise & Worship.” Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, United Kingdom, July, 2021.
- “Ancient Ways in Contemporary Worship: Is It Possible?” Plenary Address, Flow Worship Symposium, Methodist School of Music, Singapore, June 24, 2021.
- “Presiding at Communion in a Contemporary Service.” Address to pastors across southeast Asia. Hosted by the Methodist School of Music, Singapore, June 22, 2021.
- “Only One Way? Why We Would Still Have Had Contemporary Praise and Worship Even If There Had Never Been Any Jesus People.” Biblical Worship Section, Evangelical Theological Society, November 17, 2020.
- “Contemporary Worship in Historical Perspective.” Plenary Addresses, Contemporary Worship Across Time and Space Conference, Hong Kong, June 29-July 1, 2019.
- “Reflections on Contemporary Worship in Light of 2000 Years of Church History.” Plenary Address, Gathered as One Worship Symposium, Methodist School of Music, Singapore, June 22, 2019.
- “Enthroned Upon the Praises: The Sacramentalizing of Praise in the Historical Origins of Contemporary Worship.” Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, United Kingdom, July 19, 2017.
- “When the Music Fades: The Many Facets of Contemporary Worship’s Historical Development.” Plenary Address, Integrating Theology and Contemporary Worship Conference, London School of Theology, London, United Kingdom, July 17, 2017.
- “Lord, Teach us How to Pray: Learning from the Master, Jesus.” Plenary Address, National Worship Leaders Conference, Centreville, Virginia, May 17, 2017.
- “When the Music Fades: The Many Facets of Contemporary Worship’s Historical Development.” The Northcutt Lecture. Baylor University School of Music, Waco, Texas, April 11, 2017.
- “Enthroned on the Praises of Israel: The Role of Psalm 22:3 in the Historical Development of Contemporary Worship’s Music Sets.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, Washington, D.C., January 6, 2017.
- “Liturgical Misfit? Reflections on Rationales for a Wesleyan Liturgical Society.” Plenary address, Wesleyan Liturgical Society, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California, March 10, 2016.

“The Evolution and Devolution of Contemporary Worship Music.” Plenary address with DeAndre Johnson, Fusion Conference: The Future of Worship in the United Methodist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, February 4, 2016.

“In Case You Don’t Have a Case (And Sometimes When You Do): Reflections on Methods for Studying Congregational Song in Liturgical History.” Plenary address, Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, United Kingdom, August 6, 2015.

“Does Worship Keep Your Understanding of God Too Small? Insights from Ancient Constantinople about the Transcendent in Worship,” “Exploring the Anaheim Vineyard: How Has It Influenced Contemporary Worship Practices Today,” and “Ways to Discuss Worship Calmly and Productively.” Addresses to “Touching the Father’s Heart: Worship Conference at Kilbride Presbyterian Church,” Kilbride, N. Ireland, August 1, 2015.

“The ‘Turn Toward the Formative’ in Contemporary Worship.” Respondent, Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 29, 2015.

“The History of the Term ‘Contemporary Worship’.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 2, 2015.

“Contemporary Worship Beyond Worship Wars” and “Enriching Worship Regardless of Style.” Virginia Wesleyan College, Sacred Music Summer Conference. Norfolk, Virginia, July 30, 2014.

“True Liturgy as the Liberation of Worship Leaders.” Plenary Address, National Worship Leaders Conference, Centreville, Virginia, May 13, 2014; Kansas City, Kansas, July 16, 2014. Promotional clip by *Worship Leader* magazine available at <http://worshipleader.com/videos/lester-ruth-above-my-paygrade/>.

Plenary interview of Bill and Gloria Gaither, National Worship Leaders Conference, Kansas City, Kansas, July 15, 2014.

“Loving God Intimately: The Worship History of the Anaheim Vineyard, 1977-1983.” Society of Vineyard Scholars. Columbus, Ohio, April 5, 2014.

“At the Corner of Evangelical and Pop: A Theological and Textual Assessment of the Most-Used Contemporary Worship Songs.” Conference on Popular Performance Cultures and Christian Worship in the Eighteenth Century and Beyond. Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, February 28, 2014.

Loving God Intimately: Worship with the Anaheim Vineyard Fellowship, 1977-1983” and “Longing for Jesus: Worship at a Black Holiness Church in Mississippi, 1895-

1913.” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 30-February 1, 2014.

“Divine, Human, or Devilish? The State of the Question on the Writing of the History of Contemporary Worship.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, Orlando, Florida, January 3, 2014.

“Comparing American Ante-bellum Evangelical Worship Song and Contemporary Evangelical Worship Song: Reflections on the Trinity and Divine Activity within the Economies of Salvation and Worship.” Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, United Kingdom, August 2, 2013.

“Enriching Worship Regardless of Style,” “Worship in Truth,” and “Worship in Spirit” plenary addresses. Worship Symposium 2013. Methodist School of Music, Singapore, June 3-5, 2013.

“Similarities and Differences in Evangelical Song: Old and New. Reflections on Popular Worship Music in the Last 200 Years.” LaTourneau University, Longview, TX, April 8, 2013.

“Does Worship Keep Your Understanding of God Too Small: Insights from Ancient Constantinople about the Transcendent in Worship.” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 24-26, 2013.

“Trinitarian Similarities and Differences in Evangelical Song: Old and New.” Evangelical Theological Society. Milwaukee, WI, November 15, 2012.

“Perhaps Contemporary Music is Not That Contemporary: Reflections on Popular Worship Music in the Last 200 Years.” John P. Woods Distinguished Lectureship in Religion and Culture. University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Dubuque, IA, April 10-11, 2012.

“Worship True to God and True to Us: The Wonder, The Gift, and The Tensions of Trinitarian Worship.” Plenary lectures at One Voice Worship Conference. The Falls Church Anglican. Falls Church, VA, February 10-11, 2012.

“The Scent of Blessedness: What Today’s Preachers and Teachers Can Learn from a 4th Century Pastor” and “Does Worship Keep Your Understanding of God Too Small: Insights from Ancient Constantinople about the Transcendent in Worship.” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 27-28, 2012.

“Liturgy, Music, & Participation.” Plenary presentation at Anglican Worship: A Conversation on Liturgy, Mission, Formation & Art. Durham, NC, November 9, 2011.

“Christian Worship in 4th Century Jerusalem: Premodern Wisdom for Postmodern Times,” “Panel Discussion: What Can the Early Church Teach Us about Worship

Today?” and “Panel Discussion: What Role is there for Historic (or Recent) Confessions in Worship?” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 27-29, 2011.

Teaching Priests and Lay Catechists of the Kibungo Diocese, Anglican Church of Rwanda, Summer, 2009 and 2010. Topic: Pastoral liturgy

“Case Studies from the History of Worship: Prospects for Research and Pedagogy in a Variety of Theological Disciplines.” Calvin Seminars in Christian Scholarship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, June 28-July 16, 2010.

The Parkhurst lecture entitled “Wisdom from Charles Wesley for Contemporary Songwriters: Glimpsing the Passion of Theology in Lyrical Form.” Southwestern College, Winfield, KS, February 24, 2010.

“Teaching Worship Leadership: Content and Context,” “Wisdom from Charles Wesley for Contemporary Songwriters,” “Christian Worship in 4th Century Jerusalem: Premodern Wisdom for Postmodern Times,” and “The Origins of Contemporary Worship: The Case of John Wimber’s Anaheim Vineyard Congregation.” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 29-30, 2010.

“Charles Wesley for Contemporary Songwriters.” Charles Wesley Society, Princeton, NJ, October, 2008.

“A Whole Lot of Shakin’ Going On: Why Early Methodists Parted Ways with the Church of England” and “What Writers of Modern Worship Song Can Learn from Wesley.” Symposium on Charles Wesley entitled “A Thousand Tongues to Sing.” Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, March 10, 2008.

“The Most Used Contemporary Worship Songs: Their View of God and of Our Love for God” and “Public Biblical Praying.” Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 25-26, 2008.

“The Trinitarian Aspects of the Most Used Contemporary Worship Songs.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, San Diego, CA January 7, 2006.

“Practicing the Fullness of the Lord’s Supper: Diving into the Deep End of the Sacrament.” Workshop for This Holy Mystery Event: Teaching the Sacrament—Improving the Practice, General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, TN, April 28, 2005.

“In the Playground of God: Sacraments, Salvation History, and Proclaiming the Mysteries of God.” Workshop for Worship, Arts, Liturgy, and Preaching in the Emerging Church Conference, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, April 21, 2005.

- “*Lex Amandi, Lex Orandi: The Trinity in the Most Used Contemporary Worship Music.*” Conference entitled *The Place of Christ in Liturgical Prayer: Christology, Trinity, and Liturgical Theology*. Yale University, Institute of Sacred Music, February 27, 2005.
- “Praying Biblically.” Workshop for Ministry Conference, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, February 4, 2004.
- “Will the Real Sacrament Please Stand Up?” and “Two is Such a Lonely Number: Reconsidering Venues for Encountering God’s Presence in Worship.” Presentations at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA, February 27, 2004.
- “Classifying Protestant Worship: Beyond Traditional and Contemporary.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, Tampa, FL, January 5, 2004.
- “Enriching Contemporary Worship.” Workshop for the Winchester District, Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, September 13, 2003.
- “Worship that is True.” Workshop for the Owensboro District, Kentucky Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, May 5, 2003.
- “Enriching ‘Traditional’ Worship” and “Praying Biblically.” Journey into Worship: Church Health Summit 2 sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky, October 11-12, 2002.
- “Experiencing Grace and ‘Getting Happy’ Among Early American Methodists.” Worship and Spirituality working group, Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England, August, 2002.
- “Creative Preaching on Baptism.” Kentucky Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, Lexington, KY, June 19, 2002.
- “Baptismal Living” presentation in *Welcoming New Christians: An Ancient-Future Process for Making Disciples*, an ecumenical retreat held at the Canterbury Retreat Center, Oviedo, FL, March 16, 2002.
- Lectures on taxonomies of Protestant worship and different methods of “contemporary” worship, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, February 21, 2002.
- “When Worship is Truly Contemporary.” Ministers’ Conference, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, February 4, 2002.
- “The Methodist Background to and Participation in the Cane Ridge Revival.” Cane Ridge Bicentennial, First Christian Church, Paris, KY, August 6, 2001.
- “Wired for Worship: An Analysis of a Contemporary Worship Online Forum.” Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar Group, St. Louis, MO, January 6, 2001.

“A Shout of the King in the Camp’: The Ecstatic and Mystical Nature of Early American Methodist Spirituality.” World Methodist Historical Society, Wilmore, Kentucky, August 19, 2000.

“Introduction to Catechumenate Evangelism.” Retreat for the New England region of the Order of St. Luke, North Andover, MA, February 17-18, 2000.

“Worship and Evangelism Reconsidered: How Worship Can Enfold New Christians.” Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 15, 2000.

“Urban Itinerancy: Early Methodist Stational Liturgy.” Historical Research: 16th Century to the Present Seminary Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, Tampa, FL, January 4, 2000.

“On the Porch with Seekers: The Precatechumenate Ancient and Modern” and “Commissioning Disciples: Mystagogy and Integration.” Order of St. Luke annual retreat, Redlands, California, October, 1999.

“Early Methodist Mystical Spirituality.” Drew University, Ocean Grove, NJ, July, 1999.

“Issues in a Faithful Celebration of the Lord’s Supper.” Middlesex (CT) Association of the United Church of Christ, January 21, 1999.

“Reconsidering the Origins of Camp Meetings and the Second Great Awakening among American Methodists.” Wesleyan Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, November, 1998.

“Renewing Spirituality through a Wesleyan Approach to the Sacrament.” Florida Annual Conference’s School of Ministry, The United Methodist Church, October, 1998.

“Making Disciples in the 21st Century.” A workshop on catechumenate restoration jointly sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship and Drew University, Ocean Grove, NJ, July, 1998.

“We Did Set in Heavenly Places’: The Lord’s Supper in Early American Methodism.” Historical Research: 16th Century to the Present Seminar Group, North American Academy of Liturgy, Chicago, IL, January, 1997.

“Dwelling in the Suburbs of Heaven: The Love Feast and Lord’s Supper in Early American Methodism.” Wesleyan Theological Society Conference, Washington, D.C., November, 1996.

Songs Composed

With Josh Lavender and Andrea Hunter. “What Glory.” CCLI # 7115859.

With Liz Vice, Wen Reagan, Greg Scheer, and Bruce Benedict. “(Away from the Manger) The Refugee King.” CCLI # 7112182

Consultations

Advisory Board, CCLI Top 100 Songs Vetting Project, Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church, 2015-2018.

Hymnal Revision Committee, The United Methodist Church, 2009.

Member of Development Review Panel for Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; topic: volume 6 in the Renewing Worship series of provisional worship materials entitled *Holy Communion and Related Rites*; 2003-2004.

Presbyterian Church (USA), Seattle, WA; topic: “emerging churches” in a postmodern context; September, 2002.

General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN; topic: status of catechumenate restoration; June, 2001.

Presbyterian Church (USA) headquarters, Louisville, KY; topic: restoration of catechumenate; February, 2001.

Presbyterian Church (USA) headquarters, Louisville, KY; topic: contemporary worship; September, 2000.

Professional Employment

July, 2011--
present Research Professor of Christian Worship, Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina.

January, 2001--
January, 2015 Adjunct faculty in the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies’ Doctor of Worship Studies program in Orange Park, Florida.

July, 2000--
June 2011 Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky;
Lily May Jarvis Professor of Christian Worship.

January, 1998--
June, 2000 Assistant Professor of Liturgical Studies at Yale University’s Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School.

1997—2001 Adjunct faculty in the Institute for Worship Studies’ M.A. program at Tyndale Theological Seminary, Toronto, Canada and D.Min. program at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, Illinois

- 1996-1997 Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Overton, Texas.
- 1988-1991 Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Teague, Texas; Donie Memorial United Methodist Church, Donie, Texas.
- 1985-1987 Pastor, Lake Rayburn United Methodist Church, Lake Sam Rayburn, Texas.

Honors and Awards

Awarded (with Adam Perez, Glenn Stallsmith, Jonathan Ottaway, and Debbie Wong) Teacher-Scholar grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2020.

Awarded travel grant from the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, Wheaton College, 2014.

Received teaching award for excellence in the use of media, Asbury Theological Seminary, May, 2006.

Received teaching award for excellence in distributed learning, Asbury Theological Seminary, May, 2005.

Received teaching award for excellence in the use of media, Asbury Theological Seminary, May, 2004.

Received grant from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning for pedagogical enhancement of introductory worship courses at the seminary level, January, 2004.

Selected for participation in the 2003-4 Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Theological Faculty, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Senior scholar, Teaching of Worship Multi-Media Resource Project funded by the Lilly Endowment through the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2002.

A Little Heaven Below: Worship at Early Methodist Quarterly Meetings awarded the Jesse Lee Prize from the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History, May, 1999.

Advisory Board, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship liturgical renewal grants program, 1999-2004.

Fellow in Calvin Institute of Christian Worship scholarly seminar; topic: the Church's response to the growth of contemporary worship, 1999—2003.

Received grant from the University of Notre Dame to develop computerized media presentations for undergraduate courses, Summer, 1994.

Professional Affiliations

North American Academy of Liturgy: member of Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship seminar group

The Charles Wesley Society (Past president)

The Liturgical Conference: member of the Board of Directors

Society for Pentecostal Scholars

Editorial board, *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesley and Methodist Studies*

Advisory board, *Congregational Music Studies* book series

Advisory board, InterVarsity Press *Dynamics of Christian Worship* series

Advisory board, Baker Academic Books *Worship Foundations* series

Advisory board, Seedbed Publishing hymnal project (*Our Great Redeemer's Praise*)

Miscellaneous

Founding member, Yale Divinity School Gospel choir, 1999-2000. Participated in recording CD entitled "The Gospel in Song" during live concert, January, 2000.

Ministerial Affiliation

Elder, Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.