

Timothy L. Van Meter

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Education

Emory University - Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Ph.D. - Graduate Division of Religion, 2003

Teaching and Learning without Walls: A Strategy for Ecological Religious Education

Dissertation explored a place based model to teaching ecology and religion in dialogue with natural sciences, history, culture, and barrier island ecology on Sapelo Island, one of Georgia's Barrier islands.

Emory University - Candler School of Theology

1996 - M. Div.

Exemplars of the Perfected Community: Ecumenical Institute: Chicago (thesis)

Thesis explored a late 20th century progressive intentional community seeking to reform and renew religious practice through social engagement and rigorous philosophical and religious education.

Tennessee Technological University

1985 – B.S. Geology, minors in Biology and English

Current Work

Associate Professor of Practical Theology in Alford Chair for Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Coordinator of Ecological Initiatives – 2017 to present

Grant Director, "Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative," 425,000.00 grant from Luce Fund for Theological Education received by MTSO, Green Seminaries Initiative, Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development for three year initiative to work with seminaries to increase ecological engagement. 2017-2019.

Grant Director, "Theology, Ecology and Race: Crucial Intersections for Innovative Education" from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, for faculty, staff, students and alumni to engage in questions at core of MTSO mission and vision.

Coordinator, Seminary Hill Colloquy, a gathering of scholars from around the country to engage questions about theology, ecology, and race on the campus of MTSO.

Faculty Coordinator for Ecology and Justice Specializations in M.Div. MAPT, and D.Min degrees as well as Youth and Young Adult Specializations in M.Div. and MAPT degrees

Awards, Grants, and Symposia

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute "Extending the Land Ethic: Current

Humanities Voices and Sustainability." Summer 2016.

Grant Director, "Formation in Place: Renewing Teaching Through Attention To Our Contexts"
Grant awarded through Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2016.

Professional Service and Affiliations

Treasurer, Hispanic Summer Program – an organization offering Hispanic focused graduate level
theology, sociology, history, and biblical courses for seminary students
Executive Board member, Green Seminaries Initiative

International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry
American Academy of Religion
Ecological Society of America
Association of Practical Theology

Publications and Presentations

Created in Delight: Youth, Church and the Mending of the World. Portland, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.
*This book explored climate change as a hermeneutic for working with young people in the church,
school, and larger community.*

"Millennial Dreaming: Cultivating Hope and Ecological Vision" Earth Day lecture, Methodist Theological
School in Ohio, April 2016. <http://livestream.com/accounts/2709489/events/5227800>

"Do Something for the World: Youth Ministry and Ecology", *Circuit Rider*, Nov/Dec/Jan 2015/16, V. 40,
no. 1.

"Living in the Delight of Creation: Youth Ministry and Practices in Ecological Theology", *Journal of
Youth and Theology*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2009.

"No Longer Guests: On the Dynamics of Agency and Formation in Ministry with Older Adolescents" co-
written with Katherine Turpin, *Journal of Youth and Theology*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2002.

Recent Plenary & Paper Presentations

"Ecology in Theological Education" Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference – Paper
presentation; Aug 2018.

"Theology and Ecology in Place" UMC Chaplains conference; July 2018.

"Watershed Discipleship" Center for Earth Ethics Ministerial Training conference, Union Theological
Seminary; June 2018.

National Food System Resilience and Equity Workshop at Stanford University. Invited to be part of
Ohio State Food Equity Team. May 2018

"Eco-justice in Faith communities" - Spirituality and Sustainability conference in Assisi, Italy May
2018.

- "Imagining Hope: Ecology and Theology in Place," Ecological Society of America Annual Conference, Portland OR; August 2017.
- "Imagining Hope: Ecology and Theology in Place," Spirituality and Sustainability Conference, Rome and Assisi, Italy; July 2017.
- "Greening Theological Education: Seminary Hill Farm and MTSO," Aldo Leopold Conference, "Bridging the Urban/Rural Divide," Baraboo, WI; June 2017.
- "Millennial Dreaming: Cultivating Hope and Ecological Vision," Thrive Conference, Western PA UMC conference, May 2017.
- "Seeking Hope and Resilient Communities on a Warming Earth", presented to multiple groups at churches and schools, Jan 2015-present.
- "Constrained by Hope: Art, Poetry and Resilient Community," Food and Faith Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2015.
- "Youth, Embodiment, and a TheoPoetics for Creaturely Resistance," IASYM European Conference on Youth Ministry, Budweis, Czech Republic, April 2014.
- "What if They're Right? Young Adults Leaving Church," IASYM European Conference on Youth Ministry, Tallinn, Estonia, April, 2012.
- "Youth Cross-Cultural Trips in an Age of Empire: Mission, Service, Pilgrimage" International Association of Youth Ministry Conference, Cambridge, UK, January 2007.
- "Living in the Delight of Creation: Youth Ministry and Practices in Ecological Theology," International Conference on Youth Ministry, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, UK, January 2009.

Recent Teaching Experience

Methodist Theological School in Ohio (2006-present)

Courses include: Constructing Prophetic Hope through Creative Practice; Food, Land, & Faith Formation; Spiritual Formation and Social Change; Education for Peace and Justice; Connections between Religious and Environmental Education; Intimacy, Community and Vocation: Ministry with Young Adults; Ministry for/by/with Youth; Adolescent World;

Ohio Northern University (2008-2014)

Adjunct professor teaching course in Religion and Philosophy Dept.

Areas of Research

Place based education exploring ecological theology, science, religion, food security, and climate disruption. Additional areas of study include youth cultures, popular culture, spiritual practices, justice and peace movements, communal movements, ecological ethics, critical pedagogy, educational theory, contemporary contextual theologies through imaginative pedagogies in partnership with young people in the contexts of community, academy, and church.

Additional Teaching Experience

Lancaster Theological Seminary (2002-06)

Courses included: Theological Reflection on the Spiritual Disciplines (w/ Dr. Lee Barrett); Introduction to Educational Ministries; Adolescent Psychology and Faith Development; Adolescent History and Cultures; Spiritual Practices and Survival Skills for Youth Ministry; Intimacy and Community; Constructing a Theology of Vocation; Teaching and Learning Without Walls: Outdoor Ministry

Bethany Theological Seminary Courses (2000-02)

Futures in Youth Ministry; Vocation and Intimacy: Formative Questions for Adulthood Media and Violence (co-taught with Dr. Stewart Hoover); Spiritual Disciplines in Youth Ministry

Youth Theology Initiative - Candler School of Theology

Director of Research (Sept. 1999 - July 2000)

Dean of Summer Academy (2000)

Assistant Dean and Mentor Coordinator - Leadership Team (1999)

Mentor Coordinator - Leadership Team (1997 & 1998), Counselor (1996)

Designed and taught experiential course in science & religion (1998-2000)

"Exploring Sapelo Island: Ecology, Theology, Narrative and Place"

Additional Papers presented

"No Longer Guests" International Conference on Youth Ministry, Kings College, Cambridge, UK. (January 2002).

"An Ecology of Teaching/Learning: Exploring Faith on a Georgia Sea Island" APRRE, Minneapolis, MN, (November 2001).

Lectures and Retreats

"Holy Listening: Spiritual Direction and Youth Ministry" West Ohio UMC Youth Ministry training retreat, 2007.

"The End of Youth Ministry", McCauley Lecture, Lancaster Theological Seminary, May 15, 2004.

"Theological Exploration of Vocation" retreat for Church of the Brethren Colleges TEV grant through the Lilly Endowment Inc. served as facilitator and theologian in residence (2001-2005).

"The Importance of Doubt: Embracing a Life with Questions", Church of the Brethren Southwest District Conference, Bakersfield, CA, Fall 2001

"Listening to Impertinent Questions: Contemporary Art and Images of Jesus"

Church of the Brethren Ministerial Conference, Baltimore, MD, Summer 2001

"Bounding Intimacy: Formative Practices in Mentoring" Brethren Colleges Vocation Project - Conference on Mentoring, Elizabethtown, PA, Summer 2001.

"Mentoring: Ministry in Partnership with Youth"

Candler Youth Ministry Conference, Fall 1998.

"Sacred Awareness, Mundane Practice: Spiritual Formation in Student Life"

Candler Spring Retreat Spring 1997.

"The Hunger for a Common Life: Listening to Intentional Community"

Conference for Candler Community Life, March 23, 1996.

Planned and implemented all aspects of one-day conference.

"Praying with the Desert Mothers and Fathers"

UMC retreat, Winter 1996.

Past Professional Affiliations and Honors

Board Member. Center for the Study of Community, University of Southern Indiana, 2006 –
2007

Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Emergent Graduate Leader Award 1999-Omicron Delta Kappa, Emory University

Emory's Center for Teaching – Master Teacher Colloquium - May 1998

Ethics Graduate Associate - Emory Center for Ethics (Sept. 1995 - May 1996)

Graduate Representative - Policy and Curriculum Committee – Emory GDR

Certified Mediator - State of Georgia (Aug. 1993 - May 1996)

Volunteer Mediator - Fulton Co. Dispossessory Court (Sept. 1993 - Dec. 1994)

Laborers International Union of North America, Local 561, (1979-1986)