

Curriculum Vitae James R. Nieman

Contact

Hartford Seminary
Hartford Institute for Religion Research
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Education

Degrees

Ph.D. 1997, Emory University
Atlanta, Ga.
M.Div. 1984, Wartburg Theological Seminary
Dubuque, Iowa
B.A. 1978, Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, Wash.

Dissertation

Local Theologies in American Protestantism: Proposals toward a Method for Research

Awards

George W. Woodruff Fellow for Graduate Study
Emory University

Ecclesial

Ordination

The American Lutheran Church, 1985

Ministries

Pastor, 1985-1989	Executive Director, 1985-1989
Iñupiaq Lutheran Church Anchorage, Alaska	Native Outreach Ministry Anchorage, Alaska

Licensed Minister, 1984-1985
Zion Lutheran Church
Clayton Center, Iowa

Synod

New England Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Academic

Institutions

Professor of Practical Theology, 2005-
Hartford Seminary, Hartford Institute for Religion Research
Hartford, Conn.

Professor of Homiletics, 1992-2004
Wartburg Theological Seminary
Dubuque, Iowa

Organizations

American Academy of Religion
Academy of Homiletics
Association of Practical Theology
Academy of Religious Leadership
International Academy of Practical Theology
Societas Homiletica

Leadership

Executive Committee, Association of Practical Theology, 2001-2006
President, Association of Practical Theology, 2002-2004
English language managing editor, *International Journal of Practical Theology*, 2002-
Editorial board, *Journal of Religious Leadership*, 2002-
Board of Directors, The Louisville Institute, 2004-
Secretary, International Academy of Practical Theology, 2005-
Co-convener, Hermeneutics and Biblical Study group, Academy of Homiletics, 2005-
Co-convener, Practical Theology group, American Academy of Religion, 2006-

Publications

Books

Knowing the Context: Frames, Tools, and Signs for Preaching, Fortress Elements of Preaching, ed.
O. Wesley Allen, Jr. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008).

Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times (Grand
Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005), co-edited with David A. Roozen.

Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001), co-authored
with Thomas G. Rogers.

Articles

“On the Dynamic Relation between Ecclesiology and Congregational Studies,” *Theological Studies*
70/x (forthcoming 2009): xx-xx, co-authored with Roger Haight.

“Theology in the Sermon,” in *New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon
Press, 2008).

“Career Path, Life Stage,” in *New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook of Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon
Press, 2008).

“The Idea of Practice and Why It Matters in the Teaching of Preaching,” *Teaching Theology and
Religion* 11/3 (July 2008): 123-133.

“‘Liturgy and Life’: An Account of Teaching Ritual Practice,” in *For Life Abundant: Practical*

Theology, Theological Education, and Christian Ministry, ed. Dorothy C. Bass and Craig Dykstra (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008), 150-167.

“Mapping the Field of Practical Theology,” in *For Life Abundant: Practical Theology, Theological Education, and Christian Ministry*, ed. Dorothy C. Bass and Craig Dykstra (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2008), 62-85, co-authored with Kathleen A. Cahalan.

“Why the Idea of Practice Matters,” in *Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice: A New Approach to Homiletical Pedagogy*, ed. Thomas G. Long and Nora Tubbs Tisdale (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 18-40.

“What Good Are Denominations?” *Zion’s Herald* 179/6 (November/December 2005): 35-36, 43.

“The Theological Work of Denominations,” in *Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times*, ed. David A. Roozen and James R. Nieman (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005), 625-653.

“Introduction,” in *Church, Identity, and Change: Theology and Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times*, ed. David A. Roozen and James R. Nieman (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005), 1-34, co-authored with David A. Roozen.

“An Ecclesiological Perspective on the Role of Scripture for Preaching,” in *Papers of the Academy of Homiletics 38th Annual Meeting* (Claremont: 4-6 December 2003), 62-66.

“Preaching as Words of God in a Multi-Faith Society,” *The Clergy Journal* 80/2 (November/December 2003): 3-5.

“Attending Locally: Theologies in Congregations,” *International Journal of Practical Theology* 6/2 (fall 2002): 198-225.

“Practice Where You Preach: Conditions for Good Preachers,” in *The Difficult but Indispensable Church*, ed. Norma Cook Everist (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002), 105-113.

“Images for Preaching” [seventeen exegetical synopses of lectionary texts], in *Sundays and Seasons: Worship Planning Guide, Cycle A, 1999*, gen. ed. Frank Stoldt (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1998), 50-129.

“What Is Preaching?” in *What Is Changing in Eucharistic Practice? Open Questions in Worship*, ed. Gordon Lathrop, vol. 5 (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1995), 6-13.

“Three Thuds, Four D’s, and a Rubik’s Cube of Children’s Sermons,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 22/4 (August 1995): 259-263.

“Preaching that Drives People from the Church,” *Currents in Theology and Mission* 20/2 (April 1993): 106-115. Reprinted in *A Reader on Preaching: Making Connections*, ed. David Day, Jeff Astley, and Leslie J. Francis (Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing Ltd., 2005), 247-254.

“A First Reading” [eleven exegetical synopses of lectionary texts], *Currents in Theology and Mission* 15/3 (June 1988): 302-317.

Reviews

Walter Brueggemann, *The Word That Redescribes the World: The Bible and Discipleship*, in *Theology Today* 66/4 (January 2009): xx-xx.

John Swinton and Harriet Mowat, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research*, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 14/2 (March 2007): 233-234.

David Lose, *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World*, in *Lutheran Quarterly* 20/3 (autumn 2006): 368-370.

Thomas G. Long, *Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian*, in *Family Ministry* 19/2 (summer 2005): 85-87.

Miroslav Volf, *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*, in *Dialog* 38/2 (spring 1999): 153-156.

Presentations

Lectures

“How can the church best foster a Christian way of life...?” panel presentation for the Christian Faith and Life / Religious Institutions Consultation at Louisville Institute, Louisville, Ky. (29-30 May 2008)

“A Voice in the Wilderness? Preaching and Its Publics” and “On the Green, on the Margin: Congregations in Public,” presentations for the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind. (31 Mar.-2 Apr. 2008)

“Theology in Congregations and How They Are Studied,” presentation for the “Ecclesiology and Ethnography: Exploring the Emerging Conversation Between Theology and Congregational Studies” conference at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn. (27-29 Sept. 2007)

“John 8:31-36 and Reformation Day,” presentation at the ELCA New England Synod Bishop’s Convocation, Worcester, Mass. (24 Oct. 2006)

“Denominational Challenges, Theological Identity, and Mutual Gifts in the ELCA” two presentations for the ELCA Church Council, Lisle, Ill. (28-30 July 2006)

“What We Have Seen and Heard: Preaching in the Stream,” three presentations at the ELCA New England Synod Spring Theological Convocation, Manchester, Conn. (20 Apr. 2006)

“Resounding Faith: Formation, Catechesis, and Preaching,” presentation for the Central Iowa Continuing Education Form, Ankeny, Iowa (20 Jan. 2004)

“Kent Knutson Memorial Lectures,” four presentations for the GIFTS program of the ELCA Western North Dakota Synod, Minot, N.Dak. (26-27 Sept. 2003)

“The Future Shape of Congregational Studies,” panel presentation for the “Congregational Studies: Roots Reaching to the Future” event, Hartford, Conn. (12 Sept. 2003)

“Summary Remarks on Theology in Denominations,” presentation for the final reporting session of the “Organizing Religious Work” project, Hartford, Conn. (10 July 2002)

“Preaching and Worship in a Time of Crisis,” presentation for the “Ministry in the Heartland in the Midst of Global Tragedy” event, Dubuque, Iowa (20 Oct. 2001)

“Attending Locally: Theologies in Congregations,” presentation for the “Teaching Leadership, Administration, and Finance at Theological Schools” conference, Chicago, Ill. (29 Apr. 2001)

“Sun of Justice, Come: The Winter Cycle, Its Time and Texts,” continuing education event for the Tri-State Forum, Dubuque, Iowa (2 Nov. 2000)

“Theologies in Congregations” lecture for the biennial Congregational Studies Institute, Hartford, Conn. (2000-2004)

“Local Catholicity and the Marks of the Church,” presentation for the Lutheran World Federation teleconference on “Communion, Community, Society” (18 Sept. 1999)

“Common Signs: Local Expressions of the Whole Church” continuing education event for the South West Area Ministry, Castle Rock, Wisc. (26 Jan. 1999)

“The Challenge of Multicultural Preaching,” presentation to cluster meeting of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago D.Min. program, Dubuque, Iowa (30 Nov. 1998)

“Preaching as a Social Act,” lectures for Core III seminar for three years of the ACTS D.Min. in Preaching program, Chicago, Ill. (1998-2001)

“Wisdom and Preaching,” panel presentation for the annual meeting of the Association of Practical Theology, St. Louis, Mo. (18 Apr. 1998)

“Local Theologies,” first call continuing education event for the ELCA Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods, St. Paul, Minn. (16 Apr. 1997)

“Thinking Your Way through Your Cultural Context,” certification school for the Center for Youth Ministries, Dubuque, Iowa (5 June 1995)

“Literary Genres and Preaching on Luke,” continuing education event for the L’Chaim: Iowa Center for Theology and Life, Waverly, Iowa (8 Nov. 1994)

“Preaching, Children’s Sermons, and the Word,” presentation for five certification schools for the Center for Youth Ministries, Dubuque, Iowa (1994-1997)

Essays

“An Account of Teaching Practices,” prepared for the “Seminar on Practical Theology and Christian Ministry,” Indianapolis, Ind.

“Why Practices Matter in the Teaching of Preaching,” prepared for the “Consultation on Teaching Homiletics,” Crawfordsville, Ind.

“The Concept, Adequacy, and Use of Frames/Lenses,” prepared for the semiannual meeting of the Congregational Studies Project Team, Cape Cod, Mass.

“Research Strategies for Denominational Theologies,” prepared for the “Organizing Religious Work” project, Hartford, Conn.

“What Counts as Theology?” prepared for the “Organizing Religious Work” project, Hartford, Conn.

“The Use and Limits of Narrative for Congregational Studies,” prepared for the “Congregations in Changing Communities” project, Atlanta, Ga.

“A New Way to Do Theology Locally,” prepared for the Center for Theology and Land, Dubuque, Iowa

Projects

Grants

Recipient and director of the “Enlarging the Conversation of Engaged Scholars Studying Congregations” grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. (2008-2011)

Recipient and director of the “Discerning Theologies: New Methods for Studying Congregations” grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. (2006-2008)

Recipient and director of the “Learning Communities: Pedagogies for Congregational Change” grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning (2002-2003)

Recipient and director of the “Common Signs: Local Expressions of the Whole Church” grant from the Louisville Institute (1998-1999)

Collaboration

Presider for the “Political Aspects of Practical Theology” session sponsored by the Practical

Theology group, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C. (20 Nov. 2006)

Participant in the “Seminar on Practical Theology and Christian Ministry” co-convened by Dorothy C. Bass and Craig Dykstra through The Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, Indianapolis, Ind. (2004-2006)

Presider for the “Horizons in Practical Theology: Religious Practices as a Context for Interreligious Engagement” session sponsored by the Association of Practical Theology, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Tex. (20 Nov. 2004)

Consultant to the “Faith as a Way of Life” grant program, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, New Haven, Conn. (24 Sept. 2004)

Participant in the “Consultation on Teaching Homiletics” co-convened by Thomas Long and Nora Tubbs Tisdale, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, Crawfordsville, Ind. (2002-2004)

Consultant to the Health Task Force of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church, facilitated by Criterion Consulting, Evanston, Ill. (22 Mar. 2002)

Organizer and convener for the “International Conference of Lutheran Scholars of Homiletics” held at the Wittenberg Center of the ELCA, Wittenberg, Germany (15-17 Sept. 2000)

Theological consultant to the “National Congregational Studies Seminar” project directed by Carl S. Dudley, Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford, Conn. (Apr. 2000)

Participant in the “Teaching the Practices of Ministry” consultation co-convened by Herbert Anderson and Lucinda Huffaker, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, Crawfordsville, Ind. (1999-2001)

Coordinator of theological case writers for the “Organizing Religious Work” project directed by Nancy T. Ammerman, Adair T. Lummis, and David A. Roozen, Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford, Conn. (1998-2002)

Service

Committees

Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees, 2007-
Hartford Seminary

Chair, Academic Policies Committee, 2006-
Hartford Seminary

Steering committee, “Cultivating Pastoral Leadership Grounded in Mission and Directed Toward Mission” grant, directed by Craig L. Nesson, Wartburg Theological Seminary, 1999-2001

Chair, Educational Technologies Committee, 1995-1998
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Chair, Globalization Committee, 1992-1998
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Programs

Director, Doctor of Ministry degree program, 2005-
Hartford Seminary

Chair, Ministry Division of the faculty, 2001-2004
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Coordinator, Master of Sacred Theology degree program, 2000-2004
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Community

Review Board for the Protection of Minors, 2002-2005
Archdiocese of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa

Chair, Dubuque Area Parents and Friends of Talented and Gifted, 1997-1998
Dubuque, Iowa

District Review Committee, Talented and Gifted Program, 1997
Dubuque Community School District, Dubuque, Iowa