

Katrina Jessica Olson

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education

PhD in Homiletics and Liturgics

2022

Vanderbilt University | Graduate Department of Religion

Advisor: Dr. John S. McClure

Qualifying Exam Dates: April 3-12, 2019

Minor: **Feminist Practical Theology** -- Advisor: Dr. Bonnie Miller-McLemore

Dissertation: *Worship Wider, Worship Deeper: Coorienting Relationship in the Christian Imagination*

In this dissertation, I use the social developmental model of coorientation to explore all elements of worship. I aim to create a tool that is both evaluative and constructive by examining how language creates reciprocal formation of both worshipping bodies and the individuals within them. In doing so, I not only expose limiting or harmful patterns to remove or rework, but I also show how to create fluidity in categorization for more inclusive and thoughtful worship and preaching. I contend that this is possible by paying careful attention to multifaceted role-taking rooted in scriptural witness. As a result, this model enhances communication on both a vertical and horizontal axis by mapping worship's embodied imagination space, offering greater opportunities to deepen our relationships with God, with others, and with ourselves.

Master of Arts

2020

Vanderbilt University | Graduate Department of Religion

Master of Theology in Worship

2016

Calvin Theological Seminary

Advisor: Dr. John D. Witvliet

Thesis Project: "Calvin's Eucharistic Theology: An Encouragement to the Weak"

Master of Divinity

2016

Calvin Theological Seminary

Bachelor of Music with Honors in Education

2006

The University of Western Ontario

Minor: Social Science

teaching experience

Visiting Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology

current

Church Divinity School of the Pacific – Berkeley, CA

- *Introduction to Pastoral Theology*
- *Introduction to Homiletics*

Visiting Instructor

2021-2022

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary – Austin, TX

- Introduction to Preaching
- *Worship Wider, Worship Deeper*

Teaching Assistant

2017-2020

Vanderbilt University – Nashville, TN

- History of Global Christianities II
- Collaborative Preaching
- Oratory and Rhetoric for Proclamation

.....**publications**

“Considering the Social Action within Preaching: Reading 1 Samuel 3 through the Lens of G. H. Mead and H. R. Niebuhr.” *Homiletic*, 46, no.1 (June 2021): 40-52.

Book Reviews

“*Work in Worship: Reconnecting Our Labor and Liturgy*” forthcoming in *Worship*

“Witness at the Cross: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Friday.” *Homiletic* 47, no. 1 (June 2022): 48.

“Pixilated Practices: Media, Ritual, and Identity.” *Homiletic* 46, no. 1 (June 2021): 97-98.

“Preaching God’s Grand Drama: A Biblical-Theological Approach.” *Homiletic* 45, no. 1 (June 2020): 25-26.

“Religion Online: How Digital Technology is Changing the Way We Worship and Pray.” *Homiletic* 44, no.2 (December 2019): 47-48.

.....**presentations**

“Hearing God’s Vision: How Preaching Can Construct Narratives About the Other with the Other”

Societas Homiletica (delayed due to COVID-19) **2022**

“Coming Together: How Language Shapes Worship’s Collective Imagination”

Christian Scholar’s Conference at Lipscomb University **2021**

“Considering the Social Action of Preaching: Reaching 1 Samuel 3 Through the Lens of G. H. Mead and H. R. Niebuhr”

Academy of Homiletics **2020**

“From Knowledge About Practice to Practical Understanding: Feminist Pedagogy in the Homiletical Classroom”

Academy of Homiletics **2018**

“Preaching in an Age of Alternative Facts: Communally Embodying Paradigms of Truth”

Christian Scholar’s Conference at Lipscomb University **2018**

.....**certificates & training**

Homiletical Peer Coaching Certificate

2021

Vanderbilt University

A three-week intensive course which equips participants with co-operative coaching skills for homiletics. This method works on incorporating the preacher into the evaluative process of their own sermons in both one-on-one sessions with a coach as well as in groups. The certificate trains both in theory as well as in practice through sessions assessing coaching skills.

Building Racial Equity: Foundations Seminar 2019***Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation***

This training worked to equip participants in building racial equity within institutions by creating common language, offering tools for internal analysis, differentiating levels of racial discourse and interaction, and identifying steps to move towards both justice and equality.

Teaching Humanities Certificate 2019***Vanderbilt University***

A two-week intensive seminar that combined both pedagogical theory and practice. This course aimed to equip future educators within the humanities to understand the unique gifts and challenges of this type of classroom.

Women and Gender Studies Certificate 2018***Vanderbilt University***

Core courses included feminist theory and feminist pedagogy. The remainder of the certificate was built around a religious feminist option.

..... **academic projects**

Curriculum Revision Project 2017

A major research project for Theology and Practice program which examined the Master of Divinity Program at Sewanee School of Theology, University of the South. It involved interviewing faculty, staff, and students to assess and propose curricular change in line with the school's stated goals, ATS and denominational requirements, and needs ascertained through research. Findings were presented to school administration.

Qualitative Methods Project 2017

This project interrogated female perceptions of gender in worship in the Christian Reformed Church of North America. It included creating a research statement, working through the IRB process, interviewing focus groups of women at different CRCNA churches, and a culmination of research findings into a critical paper.

..... **fellowship & awards**

Bettye Ford Award 2022***Vanderbilt University***

This award goes each year to a Graduate Department of Religion student who has contributed to the common life of students in the graduate program, informally through personal and relational means of support and advocacy, or formally through coordinating student activities, or by service on committees or student government.

Theology and Practice Fellowship 2016-2022***Vanderbilt University***

This multi-disciplinary program brings Ph.D. students together for specific training to equip them to be better scholars and teachers of people preparing for ministry. This is done in part through two coursework seminars: *Practical Theology*, *Theological Education and Religion in a Global Context* and *Research in Theology and Practice*. This program also includes monthly colloquy meetings where fellows across years and disciplines come together for meetings around topics

and speakers to strengthen vocational skills. Finally, this program offers opportunities to practice teaching for ministry at Vanderbilt and other partnered theological schools.

Scholarships

Calvin Theological Seminary

- John & Grace Wagenveld Memorial Scholarship 2015
- Lisa VanderWal Scholarship 2014-2015
- Van Hamersveld Scholarship for Women 2013-2015

Biblical Scholar Award in Old Testament

2013

Western Theological Seminary

.....affiliations

Ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Christian Reformed Church of North America

Academic Organizations

- Academy of Homiletics
- American Academy of Religion
- National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
- North American Academy of Liturgy (Visitor Status)

.....ministry leadership

Pulpit Supply

- Christian Reformed Church, North America 2013 - present
- Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (Middle Tennessee Presbytery) 2018-2020

Worship Coordinator

2006-2015

Westwood Christian Reformed Church

Planned all aspects of both a traditional and contemporary worship service each Sunday.

Recruited, organized, and led rehearsal for all musicians, audio-visual technicians, liturgists, dancers, actors, and any additional artists for each service. Additionally, oversaw the Worship Leadership Team, prepared devotionals, created and maintained all visual arts and displays, and acted as a liaison to guest preachers. Approximately one quarter of the time in this position was intentionally left open to provide flexibility to meet various needs of church ministry. This included developing prayer ministry, teaching adult education, leading youth ministry, designing the church's website, and directing mission trips.

Westwood Fine Arts Camp Creator and Director

2007-2013

Serving approximately 100 children over the course of two weeks, this camp provided instruction in dance, music, drama, and visual arts. Let the committee that advertised for, interviewed and hired the four instructors, as well as developed the advertisement campaign for the camp itself, and managed the 40-person team of volunteers. Let the instructors in setting a theme and assisted them in creating their curriculums.

.....skills

Online Learning Management System Experience

- Brightspace
- Moodle
- Canvas
- Blackboard

Languages

- reading comprehension in French
- qualitative research
- 6 M.Div credits in Koine Greek
- 6 M.Div credits in Biblical Hebrew

Musicianship

- Grade 8 Piano (of 10) and Level 2 Music Theory (of 2) from the Royal Ontario Conservatory of Music
- private piano studio teacher: 6-8 students (2009-2013)
- studied flute and voice at university
- amateur guitar and ukulele strummer