

Rev Dr Robert C Fennell

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Education

2005	ThD (Theology)	University of Toronto and Victoria University (conjoint)
1999	MLitt (New Testament)	University of St Andrews
1994	MDiv	University of Toronto and Victoria University (conjoint)
1991	BA (English)	University of Winnipeg

Employment

2025-current	Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Atlantic School of Theology
2011-25	Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Atlantic School of Theology
2022-23	Acting President, Atlantic School of Theology (4 months)
2017-23	Academic Dean, Atlantic School of Theology (two terms)
2006-11	Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Atlantic School of Theology
1994-2006	Congregational Minister, The United Church of Canada
1998-2003	Teaching Assistant, Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto
1998	Tutor in Practical Theology, University of St Andrews, Scotland
1995-97	Sessional Instructor, Parkland Community College, Yorkton, SK

Visiting Appointments

2011	Sessional faculty (Spring term), Vancouver School of Theology
2021	Barker Visiting Fellow, Durham University, UK
2022	Sessional faculty (Summer term), Vancouver School of Theology

Consulting

1999-2002	The United Church of Canada, Toronto
2012-13	St Andrew's United Church, Halifax, NS
2026	Central United Church, Lunenburg, NS
2026	South End United Churches, Halifax, NS

Professional Affiliations

Ordained Minister	The United Church of Canada (1994-current)
Member	American Academy of Religion (1998-current)
Member	Canadian Company of Pilgrims (2017-current)
Member	Canadian Theological Society (2006-current; President, 2015-16)
Member	International Bonhoeffer Society (2019-current)
Member	PEN Canada (2019-current)

Honours

1994	The Sanford Gold Medal in Divinity, Victoria University, Toronto
1999	Distinction in the Dissertation, University of St Andrews
2017	Medal for Good Service, Scouts Canada
2018	Order of Islington, Islington United Church, Toronto
2022-24	McGeachy Senior Scholar, The United Church of Canada

Courses Taught

(* = multiple iterations)

Atlantic School of Theology

GS 3000	Graduate Project and Seminar
HB/ST 3001	Christian Doctrine and the Old Testament
PT/ST 2503	Retreat and Pilgrimage Leadership
PT/ST 3138	Preaching Hope Within Crisis and Change
RM 1000	Research Methods and Practices
*ST 2135	Christianity after Christendom
*ST 2173	The Theological Vision of C.S. Lewis
ST 2204	The Holy Spirit in International Perspective
*ST 3102	United Church Doctrine
*ST 3128	Theological Hermeneutics: Reading for Life and Love
ST 3129	Christology
ST 3138	Covenant of Grace
*ST 3144	Moltmann: Creation and Eschatology
*ST 3146	The Doctrine of God
*ST 3170	Trinity
*ST/CH 2178	History and Theology of the European Reformations
*ST/CH 3145	Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church Struggle / Bonhoeffer and Tyranny
*ST/CH 3165	United Church History and Doctrine
*ST/CH 3179	The Social Gospel
ST/PT 2102	Intercultural Ministries and Theologies
*TF 1000	Theological Foundations

Directed Study:	Bermuda Methodism and The United Church of Canada
Directed Study:	Bonhoeffer's Theology and Spirituality
Directed Study:	Doctrine of God
Directed Study:	Ecumenical Pilgrimage (study tour to Taizé and Geneva)
Directed Study:	Exploring Trinitarian Communion
Directed Study:	Liturgical Theology in a Trinitarian Mode
Directed Study:	Moltmann: Creation and Eschatology

*Directed Study: Pilgrimage / The Pilgrim's Way / History of Pilgrimage
Directed Study: Preaching the Trinity
*Directed Study: United Church Doctrine
*Directed Study: United Church History and Doctrine
Directed Study: Theology and Practice of Small Group Ministries

Vancouver School of Theology
Becoming Intercultural Seminar
Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Spirituality of Confessing Christ and Resisting Tyranny

Parkland Community College
*The Interpretation of Dreams

Publications

Books: sole author

2018 *The Rule of Faith and Biblical Interpretation: Reform, Resistance, and Renewal.* Cascade.
2021 *31 Short Spiritual Practices: Getting (re)started in a daily spirituality of gratitude and contentment.* Robert C. Fennell.
2023 *Camino Close to Home: How to Plan and Thrive on Local Pilgrimages.* Novalis.
2026 *Passion, Power, and Promise: Introducing the Holy Spirit.* Wipf&Stock.
2028 *Why Did Jesus Die?* Forthcoming.

Books: co-author

2021 (with Russell Daye) *Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities.* Fortress.

Books: editor or co-editor

2008 (with David J.C. Zub) *Love and Freedom: Systematic and Liberation Theology in the Canadian Context: Essays in Honour of Harold G. Wells.* Toronto Journal of Theology Supplement 1, 2008.
2010 (with Ross Lockhart) *Three Ways of Grace: Drawing Closer to the Trinity.* United Church Publishing House.
2012 *Intercultural Visions: Called to Be the Church.* United Church Publishing House.
2015 *Both Sides of the Wardrobe: C.S. Lewis, Theological Imagination, and Everyday Discipleship.* Resource Publications/Wipf&Stock.
2019 (with Don Schweitzer and Michael Bourgeois) *The Theology of The United Church of Canada.* Wilfred Laurier University Press.
2019 (with Kimberlynn McNabb) *Living Traditions: Half a Millennium of Re-Forming Christianity.* Resource Publications/Wipf&Stock.
2023 *Following Jesus Today.* Robert C. Fennell.
2027 *Experiencing the Holy Spirit.* Forthcoming.

Chapters

2002 (with Sally A. Shaw) "John 6:1-14." In *Celebrating Covenant: A Resource for Worship*, Linda McKiernan-Allen (ed.), 105-112. Chalice.
2003 "Jeremiah 18:1-11." In *Celebrating Justice and Liberation: A Resource for Worship*, Linda McKiernan-Allen (ed.), 27-32. Chalice.
2008 "Renewing the Social Gospel through the Doctrine of Passibility." In *Love and Freedom: Systematic and Liberation Theology in the Canadian Context: Essays in Honour of Harold G. Wells*, David J.C. Zub and Robert C. Fennell (eds.), 125-42. Toronto Journal of Theology Supplement 1, 2008. TJT and Wilfred Laurier Press, 2008.

- 2010 "In the Bosom of the Beloved Disciple: The Fourth Gospel's Narrative Openness to Readers." In *The Bible as a Human Witness to Divine Revelation: Hearing the Word of God Through Historically Dissimilar Traditions*, Randall Heskett and Brian Irwin (eds.), 322-336. T&T Clark/Continuum.
- 2010 "Reading the Bible for Life and Love" and "What about the Sacraments?" In *Three Ways of Grace: Drawing Closer to the Trinity*, 44-50, 83-88. United Church Publishing House.
- 2012 (with Robert Brewer) "Proper 27 Year C: Trinity"; "Proper 28 Year C: Christian Hope"; "Proper 29/Reign of Christ Year C: Jesus Christ as Sovereign"; "All Saints Day: Communal and Personal Calling"; "Thanksgiving Day: The Nature and Will of God." In *The New Interpreter's Theological Companion to the Lectionary*, Paul Scott Wilson (ed.), 275-299. Abingdon.
- 2013 "Canada's Ever-Changing Contexts: Mission in a Radically Pluralistic Society." In *Green Shoots Out of Dry Ground: Growing a New Future for the Church in Canada*, John P. Bowen (ed.), 21-34. Wipf&Stock.
- 2013 "The Social Gospel and the Social Sciences." In *Theology and the Crisis of Engagement: Essays on the Relationship between Theology and the Social Sciences*, Jeff Nowers and Néstor Medina (ed.), 41-57. Pickwick.
- 2015 "Invitation to the Reader." In *Both Sides of the Wardrobe: C.S. Lewis, Theological Imagination, and Everyday Discipleship*, Rob Fennell (ed.), ix-x. Resource Publications/ Wipf&Stock.
- 2019 "Scripture and Revelation in The United Church of Canada." In *The Theology of The United Church of Canada*, Don Schweitzer, Michael Bourgeois, and Robert C. Fennell (eds.), 51-76. Wilfred Laurier University Press.
- 2019 "Luther, the Bible, and the Rule of Faith." In *Living Traditions: Half a Millennium of Re-Forming Christianity*, Kimberlynn McNabb and Robert C. Fennell (eds.), 86-101. Resource Publications/Wipf&Stock.
- 2021 "Racism is a Heresy." In *Reflections on Emancipation and Anti-Black Racism for Canada*, Rick Chaba et al. (eds.), 62-66. First United Church (Fort Saskatchewan)
- 2022 "Theology: God, the Trinity, Humankind, and Sin." In *Building God's Beloved Community: Discipleship in The United Church of Canada*, Taylor Croissant (ed.), 6-21. United Church Publishing House.

Articles

- 2008 "How Does the United Church Interpret the Bible? Part I: 1904 - 1940s: Tradition and Resistance." *Touchstone* 26, no.2 (May 2008): 13-22.
- 2008 "How Does the United Church Interpret the Bible? Part II: 1950s - 1990s: Tradition and Liberation." *Touchstone* 26, no.3 (Sept 2008): 31-42.
- 2010 "'A Sinner of Your Redeeming': Articulating Hope at the Time of Death." *Touchstone* 28, no.1 (Jan 2010): 8-18.
Reprinted, *Touchstone* 44, no.1 (Feb 2026): 44-53.
- 2010 "Response to Hugh Hecló's *On Thinking Institutionally*." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 13, no.3 (July 2010): 272-273.
- 2011 "On Ordained Ministry." *Touchstone* 29, no.1 (Jan 2011): 8-17.
- 2011 "How Does the United Church Interpret the Bible? Part III: A Song of Faith." *Touchstone* 29, no. 2 (May 2011): 21-29.
- 2012 "Fundamentally Eccentric: Reflections on What it Means to be Human in Our Time." *Touchstone* 30, no. 1 (Jan 2012): 44-50.
- 2013 "'The Bible will bring us to Christ': C.S. Lewis as an Interpreter of Scripture." *Touchstone* 31, no. 3 (Nov 2013): 14-21.
- 2014 "To Will One Thing." Guest editorial. *Touchstone* 32, no.3 (Oct 2014): 3-6.
- 2015 "The Theological Foundations of Social Justice." *Touchstone* 33, no. 2 (June 2015): 5-12.

- 2017 "Deus Absconditus: Luther and the Hiddenness of God." *Touchstone* 35, no. 2 (June 2017).
- 2019 "Radical Alignment with God's Purposes: A Christian View of the Golden Rule." *United Church Observer* 82, no.7 (Feb 2019): 32-33.
- 2024 "From the Heart: What I've Learned from Walking." *Touchstone* 42, no.2 (June 2024)
- 2028 "Surviving the Interdict: How an eleventh-century cathedral outlasted both pope and crown." Forthcoming.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2017 "Commentary on Galatians [Luther]," "German Peasants' War," and "On the Councils and the Church [Luther]" in *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation*, Mark Lamport (ed.). Rowman & Littlefield.

Book Reviews

- 2000 "The Gospel of John: In the Light of the Old Testament by Claus Westermann." *Interpretation* 54, no. 1:88.
- 2001 "A Passion for God's Reign by Jürgen Moltmann et al." *Touchstone* 19, no.1: 60-61.
- 2006 "The Gospels for All Christians: Rethinking the Gospel Audiences by Richard Bauckham." *AST Magazine* (October 2006)
- 2008 "Lord, Giver of Life: Toward a Pneumatological Complement to George Lindbeck's Theory of Doctrine by Jane Barter Moulaison." *Touchstone* 26, no.2 (May 2008): 66-68.
- 2010 "Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice: A New Approach to Homiletical Pedagogy, edited by Thomas G. Long and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 13, no. 1 (Jan 2010): 71-72.
- 2011 "Teaching for Understanding at University: Deep Approaches and Distinctive Ways of Thinking by Noel Entwistle." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 14, no.3 (July 2011): 287-288.
- 2012 "From Logos to Christos: Essays on Christology in Honour of Joanne McWilliam, edited by Ellen M. Leonard and Kate Merriman." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 63, no. 2 (October 2012): 801-803.
- 2013 "Captive to the Word of God: Engaging the Scriptures for Contemporary Theological Reflection by Miroslav Volf." *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 42, no.3 (Sept 2013): 421-422.
- 2013 "Awe and Expectation by Allen Jorgenson." *Touchstone* 31, no. 3 (Nov 2013)
- 2014 "Calvin, Classical Trinitarianism, and the Aseity of the Son by Brannon Ellis." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 65, no.1 (Feb 2014)
- 2014 "The United Church of Canada: A History, edited by Don Schweitzer." *Touchstone* 32, no. 1 (Feb 2014): 70-72.
- 2016 "Waiting at the Foot of the Cross: Towards a Theology of Hope for Today, by Pamela McCarroll." *Toronto Journal of Theology* 32, no.1 (Fall 2016), 170-71.
- 2016 "Calvin's Salvation in Writing: A Confessional Academic Theology by William A. Wright." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 67, no.2 (Oct 2016): 847-849
- 2017 "Theology and the Mirror of Scripture: A Mere Evangelical Theology by Kevin Vanhoozer and Daniel J. Treier." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 68, no. 1 (Apr 2017): 481-484.
- 2018 "The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture in The United Church of Canada: An Intercultural Adventure Part II by HyeRan Kim-Cragg and Don Schweitzer." *Touchstone* 36, no. 1 (Feb 2018): 63-65.
- 2018 "The Word Enfleshed: Exploring the Person and Work of Christ by Oliver Crisp." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 69, no. 1 (Jul 2018).
- 2020 "Retrieving Eternal Generation edited by Fred Sanders and Scott R Swain." *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) NS 71, no. 2 (Aug 2020).
- 2022 "The Marks of Scripture: Rethinking the Nature of the Bible by Daniel Castelo and Robert W. Wall." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 84, no.4 (2022): 686-687.

- 2023 “He Will Save You from the Deadly Pestilence: The Many Lives of Psalm 91 by Philip Jenkins.” *The Christian Century* 140, no.1 (Jan 2023): 83-85.
- 2023 “God in Himself: Scripture, Metaphysics and the Task of Christian Theology by Steven J. Duby.” *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) (21 March 2023).
- 2024 “Jesus and Elvis: Creative Resources for Schools and Churches, 2nd edition, edited by John McTavish.” *Touchstone* 42, no. 1 (Feb 2024): 69-70
- 2026 “Eating with Jesus: Reflections on Divine Encounters at the Open Eucharistic Table by Robert D. Cornwall.” *Touchstone* 44, no.1 (Feb 2026): 68-70
- 2026 “West Coast Mission: The Changing Nature of Christianity in Vancouver by Ross Lockhart.” *University of Toronto Quarterly* 95, no. 3 (Sept 2026). Forthcoming.

Forthcoming

“Tolkien Dogmatics: Theology through Mythology with the Maker of Middle-Earth by Austin M. Freeman.”

Commissioned Studies

- 2002 *Theological, Historical, and Contextual Considerations Regarding Presidency at the Sacraments*. Toronto, ON: The United Church of Canada.

Popular Press

- 2016 “Meditation on Isaiah 49:15-16.” *Upper Room Magazine* (Sept-Oct 2016)
- 2017 *Writing Prompts: 99 Karate Chops to Writer’s Block*. E-book. Pronoun/MacMillan.
- 2019 (with Peter Wyatt) “Can God Write Straight with a Crooked Pen? An Exchange of Letters on Prayer.” *Touchstone* 37, no. 2 (June 2019): 55-63.
- 2020 “Blazing New Trails in Atlantic Canada: How the ancient spiritual practice of pilgrimage meets modern needs.” *Faith Today* (12 March 2020)
- 2020 *Sarpedon: The Secret of the Sand*. E-book (novel). Robert C. Fennell.
- 2020 “Theological Education During a Pandemic.” *AST News* (Fall 2020): 2
- 2021 “East Cost Pilgrimages,” “Helping Hands and Hearts,” and “From Syria to Taizé.” In Julie McGonegal (ed.), *Faith on the Move: Daily Reflections on Hope and Change*. United Church Publishing House.
- 2021 “Scripture and Revelation in The United Church of Canada.” *Gathering* (Pentecost 2021).

Blogs

- 2013-current Co-curator of Creedalandlovingit: <https://creedalandlovingit.wordpress.com/>
Sole author:
 A Non-Creedal Church? (Apr 2013)
 Turkey Day (Oct 2013)
 Serving Cheerfully? Not on my own I’m not (Nov 2013)
 Lent is for Losers (Mar 2014)
 Easter Triduum (Apr 2014)
 Lukewarm is a Laundry Setting, Not a Vocation (Sept 2014)
 Fresh Pie with Jesus (Oct 2014)
 An Open Letter to the General Council Executive (Nov 2014)
 Evangelism in The United Church of Canada (Jan 2015)
 The Litmus Test of Mission (Feb 2015)
 On Prizing One’s Own Views (Feb 2015)
 Lord, Have Mercy (June 2015)
 Does Orthodoxy Matter? (Aug 2015)
 Advent (Nov 2015)
 If the War Goes On (Nov 2015)

- The Baptism of Jesus (Jan 2016)
 A Prayer for Holy Week (Mar 2016)
 John 12:1-12 (Mar 2016)
 Does Jesus Care if Young Adults Come to Your Sunday Morning Service? (May 2016)
 Should There be Religious Education in Public Schools? (May 2016)
 Almost There (Dec 2016)
 In Search of Civility: A Time for Tricksters? (Feb 2017)
 Jesus, Interrupted (Apr 2017)
 Canada 150 and the Call to be Reconciled (June 2017)
 Consumerism: What's the Alternative? (Nov 2017)
 A Moral Challenge to Pantheism (Nov 2017)
 The Good Friday Conundrum (Mar 2018)
 Cultivating Depth (July 2018)
 Why the Murders at Tree of Life Synagogue were not "just another mass shooting"
 (Nov 2018)
 Grief First: Response to the Christchurch Massacre (Mar 2019)
 COVID-19, Frozen 2, and "This Strange Time" (Mar 2020)
 On Unlearning Racism (June 2020)
 "Filling my soul at a time of despair": Can Communion Truly Happen Online? (Oct 2020)
 A Modest Proposal: Why Universal Basic Income is a Terrible Idea (by J. Swift) (Apr 2021)
 [note to the reader: this is satire]
 On the Soi-Disant "Aramaic Lord's Prayer": three theses (Dec 2023)
 What is Lent? (Feb 2024)
 Yet Another (un)Holy Week (April 2026)
- 2014 "Covert Racism in the Canadian Context: Racism, the Teacher, and the Classroom."
 Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religious Studies online blog,
Race Matters in the Classroom (5 December 2014)
- 2022 "Deep Spirituality is for Regular People Like Us." The United Church of Canada Round
 the Table Blog (21 Sept 2022)

Presentations

Scholarly Presentations

- 1998 "Intersections: The Fourth Gospel and the Cruciform Church." Bible and Theology Seminar,
 Society for the Study of Theology Annual Conference, Hulme Hall, Manchester, UK (31 March
 1998)
- 1999 "Martin Kähler as Critic of the Jesus Seminar." The Future of Christian Theology Conference,
 York, UK
- 2006 "Pastoral and Ecclesiological Implications of Anselm's Doctrine of Atonement." Atlantic School
 of Theology, Halifax, NS (March 2006)
- 2007 "Sacramental Ministry in The United Church of Canada." Anglican/United Church National
 Dialogue, Halifax, NS (20 April 2007)
- 2007 "Renewing the Social Gospel Through the Doctrine of Passibility." Annual Meeting of the
 Canadian Theological Society, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK (29 May 2007)
- 2008 "The Problem of 'Perspicuity': Luther's (Unspoken) Reliance on *Regula Fidei* for Biblical
 Understanding." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Theological Society, University of British
 Columbia, Vancouver, BC (4 June 2008)
- 2009 "Thorstein Veblen and the Social Gospel Critique of Capitalism." Annual Meeting of the
 Canadian Theological Society, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON (25 May 2009)

- 2010 (with Russell Daye), "The Death and Resurrection of The United Church of Canada." *More Franchises: A Second Cup* Conference of The United Church of Canada, Toronto, ON (19 June 2010)
- 2014 "Shifting Theology in a Changing Church." Queen's School of Religion, Queen's University, Kingston, ON (20-22 Oct 2014)
- 2014 "Evangelism in a Postmodern Liberal Mainline Christian Denomination: Four Paradoxes and Tensions." United Church of Canada Symposium on Evangelism, Alliston, ON (4 Nov 2014)
- 2015 "Seven Sinful Sentences" and "Five Faithful Facts." Presbyterian College Annual Continuing Education Event, Montreal, QC (21-22 May 2015)
- 2015 "The Theological Foundations of Social Justice." Presidential Address to the Canadian Theological Society, Ottawa, ON (2 June 2015)
- 2017 "The Perspicuity of Scripture and the Rule of Faith: Luther's Approach to the Bible." Living Traditions: 500 Years of Re-Forming Christianity Symposium, Halifax, NS (13 Oct 2017)
- 2017 "The Perspicuity of Scripture and the Rule of Faith: Luther's Approach to the Bible." Luther's Legacies Conference, Paris, ON (30 Oct 2017)
- 2018 "Five Interrogatives for Mission in the Twenty-First Century" and "Theological Reflection as a Spiritual Discipline." ReVITALize Conference, London, ON (27- 28 April 2018)
- 2019 "Will Christianity Collapse?" ReVITALize Conference, London, ON (26-27 April 2019)
- 2019 "The Thriving Christian Communities Project." ReVITALize Conference, Edmonton, AB (26-27 September 2019)
- 2020 "Problematizing Pilgrimage: A Theological Reconsideration of Contemporary Spiritual Tourism." Ushaw Lectures (via webinar), Durham University, UK (13 Oct 2020)
- 2021 "Problematizing Pilgrimage: A Theological Reconsideration of Contemporary Spiritual Tourism." Canadian Theological Society (via webinar), Edmonton, AB (2 June 2021)
- 2023 "Theological Education and its Futures." AST Symposium: Church and Academy in Dialogue, Halifax, NS (2 May 2023)
- 2023 "A Spirituality Inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer." ReVITALize Conference, Halifax, NS (11 June 2023)
- 2023 Guest lecturer on pilgrimage, Vancouver School of Theology, "Catechesis and Community in Post-Christendom" course
- 2024 "A Spirituality of Leadership inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer." AST Diploma in Missional Leadership Program (4 Feb 2024)
- 2024 "Cultivating Discipleship in a Post-Christian Society." Webinar for the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Council of The United Church of Canada (11 March 2024)
- 2024 "The Shy Friend: Rediscovering the Holy Spirit." ReVITALize Conference, London, ON (14 Sept 2024)
- 2024 "Taking Flight: The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life." Three keynote talks and three Bible studies for the Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County. Edmonton, AB (20-23 Oct 2024)
- 2025 "What is the Church and what is my place within it?" Atlantic School of Discipleship (14/28 Jan 2025)
- 2025 "A Spirituality of Leadership inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer." Atlantic School of Theology (16 Jan 2025)
- 2025 "Warning Signs: Proto-Fascism and Christian Nationalism." *Going Deeper Series*, Hillhurst United Church, Calgary, AB (26 April 2025)
- 2025 "The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life." Keynote at the Cork Lectures and Workshop, Vancouver School of Theology, Vancouver, BC (8-9 August 2025)

- 2026 “Resisting Christian Nationalism.” Webinar (6 May 2026)
- 2026 “The Commonplace of Commonplace Pneumatological Entanglement: What we can learn from quantum physics about the Holy Spirit and human relationality.” Canadian Theological Society, Winnipeg. MB (2 June 2026)

Public Talks

- 2008 “Hospital, Restaurant, or Orchard? Exploring Models of the Church.” Halifax Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, Halifax, NS and Fall River, NS (March 2008)
- 2009 “Suffering and Hope: Theological and Pastoral Responses.” The United Church Formation Group, Halifax, NS (14 October 2009)
- 2010 “Counterpoint: The shared counter-cultural role of musicians and clergy in producing and performing the liturgy.” Royal Canadian College of Organists, Dartmouth, NS (19 April 2010)
- 2010 “It’s the End of the Church as We Know It: The Church in the Post-Christian Age.” ShoreLight Ministries Centre, East Chezzetcook, NS (20 October 2010)
- 2011 “Theology for Camp Leadership.” Maritime Conference (United Church of Canada) Outdoor Ministries Training Event for Camp Directors, Halifax, NS (June 2011). Repeated for *Connections*, United Church of Canada National Camping Conference, Camp Abegweit, PEI (Oct 2011)
- 2012 “Who Are You? For God’s Sake.” Keynote addresses to Maritime Conference United Church Men’s Rally, Amherst, NS (28 April 2012)
- 2014 “What’s Up with the Church?” Chignecto Presbytery, Sackville, NB (15 March 2014)
- 2014 (with Ross Bartlett), “Theological Notes on *Fishing on the Other Side*.” Halifax Presbytery, Halifax, NS (1 April 2014)
- 2014 “If Not Us, Then Who?” Sermon and two addresses. East District, Newfoundland and Labrador Conference, The United Church of Canada, St. John’s, NL (23-25 May 2014)
- 2015 “The Seven Key Purposes of the Church.” St. Peter’s Parish, Dartmouth, NS (20 January 2015).
- 2015 “The Seven Key Purposes of the Church.” Cruxifusion Conference, Toronto (28 April 2015)
- 2015 “The Stewarding Self.” Maritime Conference of the United Church, Tatamagouche Centre (28 Sept 2015)
- 2015 “Christianity: An Astonishingly Brief Overview.” Rotary Club of Halifax, Halifax, NS (Oct 2015)
- 2015 “Pilgrimage and Spirituality.” Canadian Company of Pilgrims (Halifax Chapter), Halifax Public Library (15 Nov 2015)
- 2016 “Social Media and Ministry.” United Church and Anglican Formation Joint Program, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS (30 March 2016)
- 2016 “Dreadless: Finding Courage in the Storm,” “Waiting on God: Leading in Dangerous Times,” and “Leadership Through the Lens of Bonhoeffer.” Ministry in Motion Conference, Wellington Square United Church, Burlington, ON (15-16 Nov 2016)
- 2020 “Dream Interpretation in a Time of Pandemic.” AST Faculty & Friends Webinar Series. Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS (28 May 2020)
- 2021 “What Does the United Church Actually Believe?” Four-part series for St. John’s United Church, Fall River NS (May 2021)
- 2021 “Pilgrims and Pandemics: Our Journey Toward God in an Era of Distress and Hardship.” Barat Spirituality Centre (via webinar), Halifax, NS (11 Jan 2021)
- 2021 “Reconnecting,” “Remembering,” Reimagining.” Three sermons for the Berwick United Church Camp Meeting Association, Berwick, NS (July 2021)
- 2022 “Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities.” Webinar for Barat Spirituality Centre, Halifax, NS (18 Jan 2022)
- 2022 “Turning Ourselves Inside Out.” A Cup of Hope Conference. Webinar for *Leadershift*, Pacific Mountain Regional Council, British Columbia (4 Feb 2022)

- 2022 “Spirituality and Aging: Living with God's Grace.” Aging Gracefully in a Strange New World conference, Halifax, NS (4 June 2022)
- 2023 “Spirituality in Everyday Life.” Chinook Winds Regional Town Hall Webinar (25 January 2023)
- 2023 “Fair Taxation: Toward a Moral Economy.” Basic Income Conference, Halifax Central Library, Halifax, NS (1 April 2023)
- 2023 “The Agora of Theological Research.” United Church Foundation Reception, Halifax, NS
- 2023 “Theological and Biblical Sources and Norms for Discerning Issues Related to Becoming an Affirming Congregations and Same-Sex Marriage.” St. John’s United Church, Fall River, NS (19 Nov 2023). Previous iterations at St Andrew’s United Church, Halifax, NS; Woodlawn United Church, Dartmouth, NS; Rockingham United Church, Halifax, NS; and Fairview United Church, Halifax, NS.
- 2024 “Spiritual Practices for Everyday Living.” Barat Centre, Halifax, NS (24 January 2024)
- 2025 “Spirituality, A Just Society, and the Need for Basic Income.” St Andrew's United Church, Halifax, NS (23 March 2025)
- 2025 “Camino Close to Home: The Gift of Local Pilgrimages.” International Gathering of Pilgrims, Vancouver, BC (18 May 2025)
- 2025 “Life, Land, and Leadership – Loving With Our Feet.” Keynote at Rural Routes Through the Holy retreat, Sackville, NB (12-14 June 2025)
- 2025 “Interpreting the Bible, Theology and Sexuality from a United Church of Canada perspective.” Hillside United Church, Halifax, NS (26 Oct 2025)
- 2026 “In Search of Christian Unity in a Fractured World.” Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Halifax, NS (21 January 2026)
- 2026 “Science and Religion: Rivals or Companions?” Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS (29 Jan 2026)
- 2026 “Learning to Speak About Our Faith in a Post-Christian World.” Stairs Memorial United Church, Dartmouth, NS (11 April 2026)
- 2026 “Science and Religion: Rivals or Companions? The Case of Quantum Pneumatology.” Barat Spirituality Centre, Halifax, NS (15 April 2026)
- 2026 “When Walking Becomes Spiritual.” Keynote for the Canadian Company of Pilgrims Annual Meeting [online] (18 April 2026)

Media

- 2006 Interview with John Vennavally-Rao, “CTV [Canadian National] News: John Vennavally-Rao looks at the ads [The United Church of Canada Emerging Spirit Media Campaign]” (7 November 2006). Television.
- 2008 Interview with Jackie Foster, “CTV News: Do Religion and Politics Mix?” (8 October 2008). Television.
- 2009 “Atheist ads promote debate, understanding.” *Metronews*, Halifax, NS (5 February 2009): 6. Newspaper.
- 2009 (with Russell Daye) “*Church in the Gospel: Exploring our Ecclesiology*. Gospel, Ecumenism, and Theology Committee of Halifax Presbytery (United Church of Canada), Halifax, NS. DVD.
- 2013 Interview with CBC Radio One Halifax, “The C.S. Lewis Symposium at Atlantic School of Theology” (22 November 2013). Radio.
- 2013 Interview with CTV Television Halifax, “The C.S. Lewis Symposium at Atlantic School of Theology” (22 November 2013). Television.
- 2015 “The Stewarding Self.” Philanthropy Department, The United Church of Canada (5 Feb 2015). Webinar.

- 2016 "The Trinity and Everyday Spirituality." Three audio recordings for *The Prayer Bench – Lent 2016* (1 Jan 2016). Online.
- 2016 "AST Podcast." (5 Feb 2016). Podcast.
- 2016 "Essential C.S. Lewis Podcast." (14 March 2016). Podcast.
- 2016 Interview with John Allemang, "Christian Unity is resurrected in rural Nova Scotia town." *The Globe and Mail* (25 March 2016). Newspaper.
- 2017 Interview with Heidi Petracek, CTV Morning Live. "Getting Through Writer's Block/Better Grades Series" (20 Nov 2017). Television.
- 2017 "Giving as a Spiritual Practice" and "Living Thankfully." Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada. DVD and online.
- 2018 "The Cultural Influence of Billy Graham." Interview with Wendy Bergfelt, CBC Cape Breton (21 Feb 2018). Radio.
- 2018 "The Theological Significance of War." AST Podcast (7 Nov 2018). Podcast.
- 2018 "Advent and Apocalypse." AST Podcast (17 Dec 2018). Podcast.
- 2020 "Sacraments in The United Church of Canada." AST Podcast (12 Feb 2020). Podcast.
- 2020 "The Theology of The United Church of Canada." AST Podcast (3 Dec 2020). Podcast.
- 2020 "Giving is an expression of our gratitude." Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada. DVD and online.
- 2021 "Sticking Needles in our Eyes: Stewardship vs. Fundraising." Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada. Online.
- 2021 "Giving as a Spiritual Practice: How to Talk about Money in Church [for ministry leaders]." Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada. Online.
- 2023 "Pilgrimage and the Transformation of Society." Axiom TV. Online.
- 2024 "Searching for awe in a leaf or solar eclipse." Interview with John Demont, *The Chronicle Herald* (13 April 2024). Newspaper and online.
- 2025 "The Shawn LePage Journey, Ep.3." Podcast.
- 2025 "Coffee With Rob Fennell: The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life." United Church of Canada Foundation (27 March 2025). Webinar.
- 2025 Interview with Ian Coutts, "Local Pilgrimage in Canada." *Canadian Geographic* (15 April 2025). Print.
- 2025 Interview with Jennifer Anandanayagam, "Making Pilgrimage Local." *The Diocesan Times (NS&PEI)*, 25 April 2025. Print.
- 2025 Interview with Crystal Murray, "Be a Pilgrim in Your Own Province." *Saltscapes* May/June 2025. Online. <https://www.saltscapes.com/travel/3647-be-a-pilgrim-in-your-own-province.html>
- 2025 "Bonhoeffer Meets Trump." One-act, one-man play performed at Hillhurst United Church, Calgary, AB (26 April 2025). In person and online. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOrUHT9LDoM&t=1307s>
- 2025 Interview with John Pentland, "Be Awake and Be Aware: A warning for our times." *The Calgary Herald* (3 May 2025). Newspaper and online.
- 2025 Interview with Beverley Phillips, "Camino Nova Scotia coming to the Celtic Shores Trail." *The Inverness Oran* (2 July 2025). Newspaper and online.
- 2025 Interview with Andrew Stirling, "How Can Scripture Guide Us Through Difficult Times?" *Scripture Untangled Podcast*, Canadian Bible Society. Podcast and online. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StexU4_eRW4&list=PLi2Ozke56z_aHF8t2asZ_oeke2l06maRn
- 2025 Interview with Colleen O'Toole, "Exploring what it means to make a pilgrimage." *Pilgrim Footprints* (December 2025). Online. <https://mailchi.mp/santiago.ca/chapter-news-template-13393611#Features>

- 2026 "My Faith at Home." Video for United Church of Canada faith formation project. Online.
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/bBGzDZvCS50>
- 2026 "Faculty testimonial." *Atlantic School of Theology Donor Impact Report* (April 2026)

Forthcoming

"Why is the Bible important?", "Did all the stories in the Bible really happen?", "Is there a final judgement on our lives?", "Spiritual Practice in a Busy World," "The Power of Local Pilgrimage."
 AST Communications. Video.

Graduate Supervisions

- 2007 Gerald Gabriel
 MTS Thesis: "Towards Right Relationship: Exploring Trinitarian Theology as a Pathway to Communion"
- 2008 Maya Bevan
 MDiv thesis: "Waiting for God in (self-emerging) places: Martin Heidegger and faithful thinking"
- 2009 Susan King
 MTS thesis: "'Who do you say that I am?' The Experience of Family Caregivers as Individuals and as Members in a Congregation"
- 2009 Heather Rogers
 MDiv thesis: "The Christology of Athanasius"
- 2012 Derek Mitchell
 MTS thesis: "God's Commandment to Judge: A Description of a Christian Hermeneutic and Praxis for the Judgement of Others from a Co-Determinant Reading of Scriptural and Secular Narratives"
- 2012 Janice Frame
 MDiv thesis: "Proclaiming the Beauty of the Sea Glass: The Challenges of a White Woman Preaching Womanist Theology to a White Congregation"
- 2014 L.J. Roche
 MA thesis: "Walking with Justice: Liberation Theology in Occupied Palestine"
- 2015 Matthew Heesing
 MA thesis: "A Denomination's Dealings with Difference: Considering Recategorization and Mutual Intergroup Differentiation in the Context of The United Church of Canada"
- 2016 Elizabeth Hogan
 MA Thesis: "The United Church of Canada in Canadian Literature"
- 2021 Beatrice Gale
 MA Thesis: "Stairway to Heaven or Highway to Hell? : The Potential Missiological Efficacy of Liturgical Rock Music in Canada"
- 2025 Teresa Kent-Hillis
 MA capstone project: "Suffering and the Doctrine of the United Church of Canada"
- 2026 Lynda Airriess
 MA capstone project: "Can Robots or Digital Persons be Baptised into the Christian Faith? How AI has Altered the Christian Perception and Experience of Christ"

Grants and Funding

- 1997 Andrew Moore Traveling Fellowship, University of Winnipeg (\$10,000)
- 2000 McLeod Scholarship, The United Church of Canada (\$8,000)
- 2001 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Province of Ontario (\$8,000)
- 2003 Russell Graduate Fellowship, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto (\$8,000)

2007-26

- Pine Hill Divinity Hall (or Atlantic School of Theology) grants for research assistance (\$9,000)
- 2009 Research Grant, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religious Studies (\$3,000)
- 2009 Research Grant, Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada (\$5,000)
- 2010 Strategic Initiatives Grant, The United Church of Canada, for *Youth Ministry Diploma* (\$25,000)
- 2011 Strategic Initiatives Grant, The United Church of Canada, for “*Becoming Intercultural*” Course (\$7,000)
- 2013 Project Grant, The United Church of Canada Foundation, for *Camino Nova Scotia* (\$25,000)
- 2015 (with Russell Daye) Rowntree Scholarship, The United Church of Canada Foundation, for *The Thriving Christian Communities Project* (\$30,000)
- 2018 Research Grant, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religious Studies, for *Online Pedagogy Retreat for Faculty* (\$5,000)
- 2019 Program Grant, United Church of Canada Foundation, for *Diploma in Missional Leadership* (\$12,500)
- 2020 Research and Program Grant, Office of Gaelic Affairs (Province of Nova Scotia), for *Camino Nova Scotia: The Gaels’ Trail* (\$5,000)
- 2021 Program Grant, United Church of Canada Communities in Mission, for *Diploma in Missional Leadership* (\$12,500)
- 2022 Program Grant, Department of Community, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage (Province of Nova Scotia) for *Camino Nova Scotia: The Gaels’ Trail* (\$100,000)
- 2022 McGeachy Fellowship, The United Church of Canada Foundation (\$50,000)

Academic Service

- 2026-current Faculty Liaison, Certificate in Missional Leadership, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2025-current Member, *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford) Editorial Board
- 2025-current Member, Advancement Committee, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2024-current Editor, *Along the Arm*, The Journal of Atlantic School of Theology
- 2024-current Member, Canadian Association of University Teachers Defence Fund Board
- 2024-current Chair, Occupational Health and Safety Committee, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2024-current Faculty Representative, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2023-current Faculty Liaison, Certificate in Stewardship, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2013-current Founding Director, Program Leader, Advisory Group member, Faculty Liaison, Staff Supervisor, *Camino Nova Scotia* pilgrimage program, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2009-current Member, *Touchstone Journal* (Chair, 2011-2022) Editorial Board and Corporation
- 2006-current Member (or Secretary or Chair), United Church Faculty Group, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2006-current Member (or Secretary), Senate, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2006-current Member (or Chair), Faculty Council, Atlantic School of Theology
- 1999-current External assessor and peer reviewer for publishers and journals (McGill-Queen’s University Press; Wiley/Blackwell; Routledge Press; United Church Publishing House; *Journal of Theological Studies* (Oxford); *Toronto Journal of Theology*; *Teaching Theology and Religion*; *Humanities*; *Ad Limina: Research Journal on the Way of Saint James and Pilgrimages*; *Journal of Interreligious Studies*; *The Ecumenist*)
- 2026 Faculty Representative, Faculty Search Committee (Pastoral Theology)
- 2026 Culler of historic academic records, Atlantic School of Theology
- 2025-26 Member, Wise Stewards Initiative, In Trust/Atlantic School of Theology

2025-26 Member, Shared Governance Framework Working Group, Atlantic School of Theology
2025 Doctoral Thesis External Examiner, Toronto School of Theology
2024-26 Member (or Chair), ATS Self-Study Subcommittee 'B', Atlantic School of Theology
2023-26 Faculty Liaison, Diploma in Missional Leadership, Atlantic School of Theology
2023 External Faculty Reviewer, St. Mary's University, Calgary, AB
2023 Convener, *Church and Academy in Dialogue Symposium*, Atlantic School of Theology (2 May 2023)
2021-23 Co-convener, *reVITALize Conference*, Halifax, NS (7-9 June 2023)
2021-23 Provincial Microcredentials Standards Working Group, Province of Nova Scotia
2018 Convener, *Social Enterprise Symposium: Seeking the Good Society*, Atlantic School of Theology (11-13 Oct 2018)
2017 Co-convener, *Living Traditions: 500 Years of Re-Forming Christianity Symposium*, Atlantic School of Theology (13 Oct 2017)
2017 Doctoral Thesis External Examiner, Saskatoon Theological Union
2016-23 Approx. 25 provincial, bilateral, and internal committees *ex officio* (as Academic Dean)
2014-17 Member, Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion Board of Directors
2010-16 Canadian Theological Society (President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary)
2012, 2015 Doctoral Thesis External Examiner, Toronto School of Theology
2008-09, 2011-13, 2025-27 Faculty Representative, Board of Governors, Atlantic School of Theology
2013 Convener, *Both Sides of the Wardrobe: C S Lewis, Theological Imagination, and Everyday Discipleship Symposium*, Atlantic School of Theology (23 Nov 2013)
2011 Proxy Faculty Assessor, Doctor of Ministry program, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
2009-10 Convener, Diploma in Youth Ministry, Atlantic School of Theology
2006-17, 2025-current Board of Governors, Executive, and Subcommittees, Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, NS
2006-07 Chair, Senate Committee on Chaplaincy, Atlantic School of Theology

Book Endorsements

2003 Ross Lockhart, *Gen X: Y Faith: Getting Real with God*. Northstone.
2015 Catherine Faith MacLean and John H. Young, *Preaching the Big Questions: Doctrine Isn't Dusty*. United Church Publishing House.
2016 Ross Lockhart, *Lessons from Laodicea: Missional Leadership in a Culture of Affluence*. Cascade.
2016 Ross Bartlett, *On Holy Ground: You and Your Faith Story*. Wipf&Stock.
2017 Peter Andrew Smith, *Lectionary Stories for Preaching and Teaching: Series I, Cycle B*. CSS Publishing.
2020 Patricia G. Kirkpatrick and Pamela R. McCarroll, eds. *Christian Theology After Christendom: Engaging the Thought of Douglas John Hall*. Fortress.
2021 John Bowen, *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission, and Everything Else*. Fortress.
2022 G. Travis Norvell. *Church on the Move: A Practical Guide for Ministry in the Community*. Judson.
2023 Sue Campbell, *Spirit Refresh: Reflections to Comfort, Challenge, and Deepen Your Relationship with God Throughout the Year*.
2023 Kimmothy Cole, ed. *A Liturgy for All Bodies: New Words for a New World*. Cyclical.
2023 Michael Wood Daly, *God Doesn't Live Here Anymore: Decline and Resilience in the Canadian Church*. Cascade.
2024 Mary Taylor, *Embracing Scripture: Esther and Ruth*.

- 2025 Carmen Lansdowne, *Wearing a Broken Indigene Heart on the Sleeve of Christian Mission*. CMU Press.
- 2025 Sara Jewell, *Jesus in the World Today: Poetry and Prose About Jesus for the Twenty-First Century*. Resource Publications.
- 2026 Néstor Medina and Becca Whitla (eds.), *Decolonizing Church: Emerging Voices Speak*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- 2026 Jeff Crittenden, *Leisure Bound and Free: Communities of the Pilgrim*. Forthcoming.

Church and Community Service

- 2024-current Chair, Newcomer Choir Association Canada
- 2020-current Guaranteed Living Income Working Group, Regions East (The United Church of Canada)
- 2019-current Member and speaker, Basic Income advocacy group, Nova Scotia
- 2026 Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Fort Massey United Church, Halifax, NS
- 2025 Instructor, Scouts Canada, Wood Badge II (Spirituality for Leaders)
- 2025 Pop-Up Pilgrimage Co-Leader (with the Ecology Action Centre and Camino Nova Scotia)
- 2025 Panelist, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism watch parties, World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order Assembly, Egypt: "The 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed"
- 2024 Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Fort Massey United Church, Halifax, NS
- 2010-19 Youth Leader and Administrator, Scouts Canada
- 2014-15 Pastoral Charge Supervisor, United Memorial Church, Halifax, NS
- 2009-15 Intercultural Theological Education Collective, The United Church of Canada
- 2011-13 Chaplain, Royal Canadian College of Organists, Halifax, NS
- 2009-10 Volunteer tutor, Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network
- 2008-10 Instructor, Religion in Life Program for Scouts and Guides
- 2009 Theological education delegate of The United Church of Canada to *Communitas Contextual Education Conference*, United Theological College, Sydney, Australia
- 1988-current Leader of small group studies in local churches throughout Canada
- 1988-current Guest preacher or liturgist (250+ occasions)