Curriculum Vitae for J. Todd Billings

J. Todd Billings
Associate Professor of Reformed Theology
Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI
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EDUCATION

Harvard Divinity School — Cambridge, MA
Th.D., Theology — 2005

Fuller Theological Seminary — Pasadena, CA
M.Div. — 1999

Wheaton College — Wheaton, IL
B.A., *cum laude* — 1995
Majors: Philosophy, English

DISSERTATION

"Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: the Activity of Believers in Union with Christ"
Advisor: Professor Sarah Coakley, Harvard Divinity School

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Lord's Supper and Salvation: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation (working title), under contract with Eerdmans press (2013).

Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church (Baker Academic, November 2011).

The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of Scripture (Eerdmans, 2010). Winner of the Center for Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue Book Prize for 2011 (see "Academic Honors and Grants" below).

Calvin, Participation, and the Gift: The Activity of Believers in Union with Christ, in "Changing Paradigms in Historical and Systematic Theology" Series with Oxford University Press (2007). Winner of John Templeton Award for Theological Promise (see "Academic Honors and Grants" below).

Edited Book

Calvin's Theology and Its Reception: Disputes, Developments, and New Possibilities, co-edited with I. John Hesselink (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

Peer Reviewed Articles

"John Calvin and the Sacraments: A Contemporary Appraisal," *Calvin and His Living Theology*, a peer-reviewed collection of essays forthcoming from Brill.

"The catholic Calvin," *Pro Ecclesia*, 20:2 (Spring 2011): 120-134.

"The Lord's Supper and the Church's Public Witness: Bringing Together Heaven and Earth, Living Between Gift and Promise," *Theology Today* 67:1 (April 2010): 7-14.

"John Calvin's Soteriology: Key Issues in Interpretation and Retrieval," *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 11:4 (October 2009): 428-447.

"United to God through Christ: Calvin on the Question of Deification," *Harvard Theological Review* 98:3 (July 2005): 315-34.

"Milbank's Theology of the Gift and Calvin's Theology of Grace: A Critical Comparison," *Modern Theology* 21:1 (January 2005): 87-105.

"'Incarnational Ministry:' A Christological Evaluation and Proposal," *Missiology: An International Review* 32:2 (April 2004): 187-201.

"John Updike as Theologian of Culture: *Roger's Version* and the Possibility of Embodied Redemption," *Christianity and Literature* 52:2 (Winter 2003): 203-213.

"Theodicy as a 'Lived Question': A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question," *Journal for Christian Theological Research* 5:2 (2000).

Chapters and Entries in Books

"The Sacraments" in *Christian Dogmatics*, ed. R. Michael Allen and Scott R. Swain (London: T& T Clark, 2015).

"Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period," in *The Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology*, ed. Richard Cross and Sarah Coakley (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

"Radical Orthodoxy" and "John Milbank" entries, *New Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, forthcoming).

"The Historical Sense, the Incarnate Christ, and Spiritual Interpretation" (tentative title), forthcoming in a book from Regent College's conference in 2011: "Heaven on Earth? The Future of Spiritual Interpretation."

"The Contemporary Reception of Luther and Calvin's Doctrine of Union with Christ: Mapping a Biblical, Catholic, and Reformational Motif," Essay forthcoming in a book from the 2011 Calvin Studies Society and Luther Forum meeting.

"John Calvin's Theology of Union with Christ, and Its Early Retrieval," in *Calvin's Theology and Its Reception: Disputes, Developments, and New Possibilities*, ed. Billings, and Hesselink (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

"John Calvin: United to God through Christ," in *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Deification in the Christian Traditions*, ed. Michael J. Christensen and Jeffery A. Wittung, 200-218 (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007; reprint, Baker Academic, 2008).

Articles in Periodicals

"Premodern Biblical Exegesis: Why Does it Matter for Preachers and Teachers Today?" in *Catalyst: Contemporary Evangelical Perspectives for United Methodist Seminarians*, forthcoming.

"How to Read the Bible: New strategies for interpreting Scripture turn out to be not so new—and help deepen our life in Christ," cover article in *Christianity Today*, October, 2011.

"A Brief Guide to Resources on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture," *Christianity Today*, October 2011.

"Theological interpretation in Action," *Christianity Today*, October 2011.

"Assessing Incarnational Ministry: A Brief Primer," *Modern Reformation*, Sept./Oct. 2011.

"The Problem with TULIP, or More than TULIPs, in this Field," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, March 2011, 9-12.

"Calvin's Comeback? The Irresistible Reformer," cover article in *The Christian Century*, December 1, 2009, 22-25.

"Being Missional in the Reformed Tradition," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, May 2009, 3-5.

"Incarnational Ministry and the Unique, Incarnate Christ," *Modern Reformation*, March/April 2009, 19-22.

"Terms of Endearment: The Missional Buzz," *The Church Herald*, February 2009, 15-19.

"What Makes a Church *Missional*? Freedom from cultural captivity does not mean freedom from tradition," *Christianity Today*, March 2008, 56-59.

"On Giving and Receiving: How can Christians live out the commands of Matthew 25 – without the pity," *Sojourners Magazine*, April 2007, 48-51.

"Emergent Church: New Links, Old Traditions," *The Church Herald*, April 2007, 5-7.

"The Problem with Mere Christianity: We Jettison 'Nonessential' Theology at Our Own Peril," *Christianity Today*, February 2007, 46-47. Reprinted as "Featured Article" on *ChristianBibleStudies.com* website (July 2007).

"The Promise of Catholic Calvinism," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, April 2006,12-15.

"More Than an Empty Bed" (on Gregory of Nyssa's "On Virginity"), *Re:generation Quarterly*, April 1, 2002, 12-13.

"John K. Roth, the Psalms of Lament, and the Place of Theological Reflection on the Problem of Suffering," *The Other Journal*, www.theotherjournal.com, Issue 2, 2003.

"Theodicy as a 'Lived Question': A Postmodern Approach to the Theodicy Question," reprinted from *Journal for Christian Theological Research* in *Constellation*, Fall 2002.

Book Reviews

Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine, by Khaled Anatolios, forthcoming in *Books and Culture*.

Predestination: Biblical and Theological Paths by Matthew Levering, forthcoming in *Theology* journal.

Re-imaging Election: Divine Election as Representing God to Others and Others to God by Suzanne McDonald, forthcoming in *Journal of Reformed Theology*.

Participation in Christ: An Entry into Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics by Adam Neder, *Theology Today* 68:2 (July, 2011): 195-197.

The Eucharist and Ecumenism: Let Us Keep the Feast by George Hunsinger, forthcoming in *Journal of Reformed Theology*.

Covenant and Salvation: Union with Christ by Michael S. Horton, *Journal of Reformed Theology* 4:1 (2010): 73-74.

Participatory Biblical Exegesis, by Matthew Levering, *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 12:2 (April 2010): 242-245.

The Promise of Baptism, by James V. Brownson, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 23:10 (December 2008): 22-23.

Signs and Wonders: A Reformed Look at the Spirit's Ongoing Work by John A. Algera, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 23:9 (November 2008): 19-20, 23.

The Promise of Baptism, by James V. Brownson, *Reformed Review*: 61:1 (Winter 2007/08): 34.

Reading the Bible with the Dead, by John L. Thompson, *The Christian Century* (September 18, 2007): 43-45.

John Calvin's Ideas, by Paul Helm, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 58:1 (January 2007):149-150.

Lord and Servant: A Covenant Christology, by Michael S. Horton, *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 9:1 (January 2007): 109-112.

Introducing Radical Orthodoxy by James K. A. Smith, *Interpretation* 61:1 (January 2007): 104-105.

Violence, Hospitality and the Cross, by Hans Boersma, *Interpretation* 60:3 (July 2006): 352.

Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity by Kathryn Tanner, *Christian Scholars Review* 32:1 (Fall 2002): 141-143.

An Ethics of Remembering by Edith Wyschogrod, *Koinonia* 7:2 (Fall 2000): 261-263.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

"Renewing Theological Interpretation" (tentative title), invited lecturer for annual Alumni lecture, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbus, SC): May 9, 2013.

"The Historical Sense, the Incarnate Christ, and Spiritual Interpretation," invited speaker at "Heaven on Earth? The Future of Spiritual Interpretation," Regent College (Vancouver, BC): September 16-17, 2011.

Interdisciplinary Workshop on my book *The Word of God for the People of God* with Hope College professors (Holland, MI): May 20, 2011.

"The Contemporary Reception of Luther and Calvin's Doctrine of Union with Christ: Mapping a Biblical, Catholic, and Reformational Motif," invited speaker at Calvin Studies Society and North American Luther Forum (Minneapolis, MN): April 7-10, 2011.

"The Contemporary Reception of Luther and Calvin's Doctrine of Union with Christ: Mapping a Biblical, Catholic, and Reformational Motif," invited speaker at Ph.D. Colloquium at Calvin Theological Seminary (Grand Rapids, MI): March 24, 2011.

"Luther and Calvin on Participation in Christ: Their Retrieval and Development of a Biblical, Catholic, and Reformational Motif," Hope College -Western Seminary Theology Seminar (Holland, MI): March 17, 2011.

"Ministry in Union with Christ: A Constructive Critique of Incarnational Ministry," Public Lecture at Fuller Seminary (Pasadena, CA): Feb. 24, 2010.

"'To Unite Us to Our God': The Lord's Supper, the Law of Love, and Justice," Public Lecture at Central College (Pella, Iowa): November 17, 2010.

"Reading the Bible as God's Word (Rather Than as a Historical Artifact or a Diet Manual)," Searching the Sacred Public Lecture at Hope College (Holland, MI): October 26, 2010.

"Ministry in Union with Christ: A Constructive Critique of Incarnational Ministry," Public Lecture at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI): October 19, 2010.

"Encountering a Mystery: Calvin and Bavinck on Communion with the Incomprehensible God," Religion Seminar Presentation, Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI): October 19, 1010.

"Reading the Bible with the Church on a Journey in Christ (Or, Why the Bible Isn't Just a Christian 'Answer Book')," Hope College (Holland, MI): September 21, 2010.

"United to the Living Christ: The Dynamic Reality of Salvation in the Reformed Tradition," Invited Osterhaven Lectureship, Three Lectures at Hope College and Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI): March 16-17, 2010.

"Encountering a Mystery: Calvin and Bavinck on Communion with the Incomprehensible God," Invited Lecture at Aberdeen University (Aberdeen, Scotland): February 9, 2010; Edinburgh University (Edinburgh, Scotland): February 11, 2010; St. Andrews University (St. Andrews, Scotland): February 12, 2010.

"Calvin and Bavinck on Union with God and Divine Incomprehensibility," Invited Lecture at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL): January 26, 2010.

"*'I believe in the holy catholic church…'* Why African Theology Needs to Recover its 'catholic' Identity," Invited Public Lecture at Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): November 6, 2009. Invited Lecture at Ethiopian Full Gospel College (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): December 3, 2009.

"'To Unite Us to Our God:' The Lord's Supper, the Law of Love, and Justice," Invited Lecture at University of West Cape (Cape Town, South Africa): August 18, 2009, and Stellenbosch University (Stellenbosch, South Africa): August 20, 2009.

"Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period," Conference for the *Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology* (Berlin, Germany): August 14, 2009.

"John Calvin and the Sacraments," Invited Keynote Lecture, International Reformed Theological Institute Conference, (Aix-en-Provence, France): July 11, 2009.

"The Lord's Supper and Salvation: The Eucharist as an Entryway to a Renewed Theology of Salvation in the Reformed Tradition," Invited lecture for Templeton Scholars Colloquy (Heidelberg, Germany): May 23, 2009.

"Rediscovering the Lord's Supper: Growing Deeper into the Gospel," Invited Lecture, Calvin Symposium on Worship (Grand Rapids, MI): January 29-31, 2009.

Chair, Reformed Theology and History Group session of the American Academy of Religion on "Spiritual Practices in the Reformed Tradition" (Chicago, IL): November 3, 2008.

"What is a Theological Hermeneutic of Scripture?" Invited lecture at Hope College and Western Theological Seminary Theology Conference (Holland, MI): October 2008.

Invited speaker, ATS Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty, Association of Theological Schools (Chicago, IL): October, 2008.

Invited speaker, Documentary on John Calvin in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of his Birth, Witherspoon Publications (a publishing house of the Presbyterian Church USA): filmed June, 2008.

"The Lord's Supper and Dissent," Invited Lecture for the 20th Anniversary celebration of First Church Shelter (Cambridge, MA): October, 2007.

"Preliminary Reflections: Norms and Methodologies for Theology in the Reformation and Early Modern Period," Conference for the *Oxford Handbook to the Reception of Christian Theology* (Oxford University, United Kingdom): August, 2007.

"United to God through Christ: Assessing Calvin on the Question of Deification," Paper presented at *Partakers of the Divine Nature: The History and Development of Theosis/Deification in the Christian Traditions* (Madison, NJ): April, 2004.

"Milbank on Gift-Giving and the Theology of Grace in Calvin," Paper presented at the *Engaging Radical Orthodoxy* conference (Grand Rapids, MI): September, 2003.

"Holding Together Confession and Practice: an Evangelical Reframing of the Problem of Suffering," Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Evangelical Theology Group (ETG): November, 2000.

"After Tilley: The Sustaining Relevance of the Problem of Suffering as a Concrete Question," Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion National Meeting (Nashville, TN) for the Christian Theological Research Fellowship (CTRF): November, 2000.

"Salubrious Remembering? Nietzsche and Wyschogrod on the Function of History for Life," Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (Azusa, CA): April, 2000.

"Terrence Tilley and the Problem of Suffering," Paper presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers Pacific Regional Conference (Pasadena, CA): March, 2000.

"Wyschogrod's Ethical Remembering Encounters Nietzsche: Negotiating the Ontology of Violence." Paper presented at the Southern California Society of Philosophy annual conference (Irvine, CA): October, 1999.

"Beyond Belittlement: Nietzsche's Critique of Gift-Giving and the Rejuvenation of Christian Compassion," Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Meeting (San Francisco, CA): April, 1999.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER:

Baker Academic

Christianity Today Book Awards Judge, 2010

Harvard Theological Review

International Journal of Systematic Theology

Journal of Reformed Theology

Oxford University Press

Theology Today

TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL, AND ECCLESIATICAL POSITIONS

Hope College-Western Seminary Theology Seminar **Co-Founder, Co-Convener**	2010-Present
Associate Professor of Reformed Theology **Western Theological Seminary**	2009-Present Holland, MI
Reformed Theology and History Group Steering Committee **American Academy of Religion**	2007-Present
Theology Commission (elected member) **Reformed Church in America**	2007-Present
Reformed Confessions Joint Translation Task Force **Reformed Church in America and Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA)**	2007-2011
Visiting Professor **Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary** **Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology**	2009 (5 months) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Assistant Professor of Reformed Theology **Western Theological Seminary**	2005-2009 Holland, MI
Teaching Fellow **Harvard Divinity School**	2003-2005 Cambridge, MA
Church Elder **First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**	2002-2005 Cambridge, MA
NECTT Advisory Counsel **Northeast Colloquium on Teaching Theology**	2002-2004
Homeless Shelter Staff **First Church Shelter (UCC)**	2000-2005 Cambridge, MA
Teaching Assistant **Fuller Theological Seminary**	1998 Pasadena, CA

Instructor	1995-1996 (9 months)
Kale Hewet Ministry Training Center	Dilla, Ethiopia
Community Development Worker	1994 (6 months)
HIL (in cooperation with Anglican church in Uganda)	Aringa, Uganda
Teaching Assistant	1993-1994
Wheaton College	Wheaton, IL

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

Winner of the 2011 Center for Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue Book Prize for *The Word of God for the People of God*, selected from books published in 2010, recognized "for its contribution to biblical interpretation" (CCED Press Release).

John Templeton Award for Theological Promise in 2009, for *Calvin, Participation, and the Gift*. Awarded for the most outstanding first books by junior scholars in biblical, theological, and religious studies internationally.

Wabash Center Summer Research Fellowship, "Introducing Theological Interpretation: Scripture, Revelation, and Interpretation," Summer 2008.

Theological Scholars Grant (Lilly), "Participating in Christ: The Eucharistic Doorway to a Catholic-Reformed Vision of Salvation," The Association of Theological Schools, 2007-2008.

Wabash Fellow, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2007-2008.

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2004-2005.

Harvard Divinity School Grant and Stipend, Harvard Divinity School, 2000-2003.

Dean's Scholar Award, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996-1999.

ORDINATION

Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America (2007)

Ordained as Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA (2002)