Ronald A. Rienstra

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Education

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. September 2004- present.

- Ph.D. Candidate (Christian Worship; minor in Homiletics), at the Center for Advanced Theological Study. Anticipated graduation in January, 2011. Dissertation topic: Jean-Jacques von Allmen's Liturgical Ecclesiology: Implications for Preaching and Worship" (in process).

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ. September 1989 - June 1992.

- Awarded M.Div. degree, June 1992.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. September 1985 - May 1987. B.A., with high distinction. Major: Philosophy.

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. September 1983 - May 1985.

Ordination

Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. *Classis Holland, Hope Reformed Church, Holland, MI, August 1, 1993.*

Teaching Experience

Western Theological Seminary, *Holland, MI. September, 2006 - Present*

- *Visiting Assistant Professor of Preaching & Worship.* I presently teach a range of courses in both residential and distance-learning formats. Introductory courses in Homiletics, Worship, and Theology. Advanced classes include CM545: In Search of the NuHomiletic (postmodern preaching), and CM 592: Worship Words.
- Faculty advisor for daily chapel. I have been working this past year to introduce a pattern of communal daily prayer while supervising students, balancing devotional and pedagogical concerns.

Calvin Theological Seminary, *Grand Rapids, MI. Spring, 2008*

- *Adjunct Instructor.* CM 677: Music and the Arts in Worship

Wesley Seminary, *Washington DC. June, 2007*

- *Adjunct instructor.* PW 260: Issues in Contemporary and Emerging Worship.

Calvin College, *Grand Rapids, MI. 1999-2007 (various)*

- *Adjunct instructor in Religion.* Spring, 2007. Rel. 237: Introduction to Christian Worship.
- *Adjunct instructor.* Worship Renewal Past and Future" a 3-week interdisciplinary off-campus course in the U.K. (May/June 2003).

Fuller Theological Seminary, *Pasadena, CA. September 2004-June 2006*

- *Theological Educator.* WS511: The Theology and Praxis of Leading Worship. Taught in conjunction with supervision of the chapel program and development of a chapel intern program at Fuller Seminary.
- *Adjunct Instructor,* Spring 2006. WS5512: Crafting Words for Worship (with Debra Rienstra).
- *Adjunct Instructor of Preaching.* Winter 2005-Spring 2006. Regular instructor (multiple quarters, multiple sections) of PR511, a preaching practicum.

Chaplaincy

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. Sept. 1998 January 2004.

- *Associate for Student Worship, Chaplain's office.* During my tenure at Calvin, I was part of team nurturing the spiritual life of students. My work involved three areas: LOFT, Jazz Vespers, & the Worship

Apprentice program.

- At the **LOFT**, I led a team of students who prepared and led a Sunday night worship experience. My goal was to encourage the enthusiastic participation of the primarily student congregation, and to root it in a classic pattern of dialogic worship to direct and shape our thoughts, affections, and behavior, as together we traversed the contours of the covenant life.
- **Jazz Vespers** was a mix of poetry, prayer, and live jazz, designed to attract students at the fringe of Calvin worship life. Held in the coffee shop on Thursday nights, we prayed through an ancient office (vespers) in a creative, informal, multi-sensory way.
- In both these ventures I coached the student musicians, poets, prayers, artists, dramatists, and technicians who raised the sails each week to the Spirit's wind. Recognizing the need for more thorough leadership training, I began, with the help of a Lilly grant, the **Worship Apprentice program**. Through it, I mentored about a dozen students each year, each of whom piloted their own squads" and had particular worship responsibilities on campus. Together we explored through practical experience and thoughtful theological reflection how they might fit worship leadership into their larger Christian vocation.

Central College, Pella, IA. September 1992 - June 1996.

Assistant Chaplain at RCA-affiliated Liberal Arts college. Offered worship leadership, incarnational ministry, and thoughtful programs to catalyze students toward greater spiritual maturity. Increasing responsibility in three broad areas: worship, service, and nurture.

- **Worship:** Preached regularly, led and equipped team of students in planning weekly worship opportunities. Introduced contemporary music, drama, and liturgical forms within Reformed context.
- **Service:** Reorganized and administered campus volunteer program to increase student leadership, responsibility, and participation.
- **Nurture:** Supported student-led Bible-study groups, and offered precisely targeted, chaplain-led small groups to supplement them, including The Bible's Greatest Hits," Real Live Questions" and accountability Growth Groups." Private counseling as needed.

Other Pastoral & Professional Experience

Various churches, July 1996 present.

- *Pulpit supply.* Preached and lead worship at area congregations an average of one sermon/month during the school year, two sermons/month during the summer. (Tapes and/or references available upon request.)

CRC Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. February 2000-present

- *Associate/Contributing Editor, Reformed Worship.*

CARE Board/Christian Community College, Sun Valley, CA. Sept. 2004-June 2006.

- *Director/Coordinator of Student/Residence Life.* Developed policies and programs for emerging collegiate bridge program. Responsible for all areas of student life; supervised small staff and mentor a dozen mostly Hispanic students for academic success, whole-life skills, and Christ-likeness.

Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church, Holland, MI. June - August 1999.

- *Interim Minister of Preaching & Worship.*

Gun Lake Community Reformed Church, Wayland, MI. August 1998 - January 1999.

- *Interim Minister of Preaching & Worship.*

Peapack Reformed Church, Gladstone, NJ. October 1990 - June 1992.

- *Seminary Assistant.*

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, NJ. June - August 1991.

- *Chaplain.* Satisfied requirements for basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Publications

Books

- *Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry.* Co-written with Debra Rienstra (Baker Academic, January 2009). This book argues for the importance of the careful use of words in worship both to express and form our devotional life together.
- *Worship*. A basic treatment of the meaning and purpose of corporate worship. Daily readings and discussion guides as part of the *Disciples* educational series (Faith Alive Resources, April 2008).
- *Ten Service Plans for Contemporary Worship, Vols 1 & 2*. Faith Alive Resources, January 2003, April 2006. These two booklets model thoughtful and engaging 'contemporary' worship. Used in seminary classrooms.
- *Jean-Jacques von Allmen's Liturgical Ecclesiology.* Based on my dissertation research, I am contracted with Eerdmans to co-edit (with John Witvliet) a book of Swiss Reformed theologian Jean-Jacques von Allmen's best essays on liturgical and ecclesial issues. I hope to complete this work in 2011 or 2012.

Chapters

- Come to the Feast: Ecclesial and Pedagogical Issues Surrounding the Lord's Supper at Seminary Worship" in *Teaching Worship at Seminary*, ed. Todd Johnson & Siobhán Garrigan (Pickwick Publications, January 2010).
- An essay I wrote The Shape of the NuHomiletic: Approaches to Authority in Postmodern Preaching" was accepted for inclusion in a forthcoming book on homiletics from Baker Academic (*Your Preaching Matters*, ed. Mary Hulst). The economic slowdown has pushed that project to the sidelines for now.

Reviews (selected)

- Bill Dyrness' *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go. Interpretation*. January, 2010.
- O.C. Edwards' *A History of Preaching* in *Calvin Theological Journal* 41.1, April 2006.
- First Things First: Teaching About Worship by Asking the Right Questions." Review of Marva Dawn's *How Shall We Worship?* in *Books & Culture*. November/December 2003.

Articles (selected)

- Juggling Jesus," (*Homily Service* 43.3, Fall 2010).
- Observations, Affirmations, Circumspections: A Response from a Member of the Reformed Family to the AR&LW-themed Issue of *Liturgy*." (AR&LW newsletter, Spring, 2009).
- Veering off the Via Media: Emerging Church, Alternative Worship, and New Media Technologies in the USA and the UK," (*Liturgy,* 23.3, May 2008).
- No Astrologers or Ad-men, Please: Ancient-Future Evangelism, Dynamic Equivalence and the Professional Scrutinies of the *Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus*." (*Doxology,* #24, 2007). Peer reviewed.
- Music & Technology in Worship: Where Are We Headed?" *Theology, News, & Notes,* Spring, 2006.
- How (Not) to Create the Perfect Youth Sunday Service." *ACPE Advocate*, 2002.
- Call Waiting" (with Debra Rienstra). *Perspectives*, Oct. 2001.
- Caught in the Middle: A Character Study of an Accidental Secessionist." *Historical Highlights* #41. June 1994.

Reformed Worship Articles (selected). Over 50 articles published between June 2000- present, including:

- A Pastoral Pastoral Prayer." RW 87 (March 2008).
- Complexifying the Liturgy: An Alternative Order for Campus Worship." RW 81 (September 2006).
- Worship Pedablog: A Web-based Teaching Tool for Worship Teams." RW 80 (June 2006).
- Table Graces: Connecting Sung Prayers in Church with Meal Prayers at Home." RW 76 (June 2005).
- God's Words, Whose Voice: Divine Discourse and Lay Leadership." RW 69 (Sept. 2003).
- If I Speak in Tongues of Men, What about the Women? Talking with Leadership Teams about Gender-Inclusive Language." RW 68 (June 2003).
- Inspiration, Illustration, and Integration: Resources for the Visual Artist on the Web." RW 64 (June 2002).
- Principles & Practicals: Cue Cards for a Crash Course in Leading Worship." RW 63 (March 2002).

- Singing, Saying, Preaching, Praying Psalms in Contemporary Worship." RW 60 (June 2001).
- Into and Out of the Depths: Letting the Text Shape the Service." RW 58 (Dec. 2000).

Pedagogical Materials (selected)

- Church at School and School in Church: Studying Worship on Seminary Campuses." A web-based report on a nationwide consultation. See http://www.calvin.edu/worship/wcom/campus/seminary.php. Nov. 2007-
- Fresh Winds in Worship: Reform through the Ages," a web-based report on 2003 U.K. interim course on worship. See http://www.calvin.edu/worship/global/uk.php, October 2004-present
- A Service Celebrating the Educational Ministries of the Church," *Learning for Life: Worship.* RCA publications, 2001.
- (Booklet) *So You've Been Asked to Lead Congregational Song* (with Randall Engle). CRC Publications, 2000.

Music Resources

- The Lord Be With You" song published in *Contemporary Songs for Worship*. CICW & Faith Alive Publishing, 2008.
- (CD) *Jazz Psalms: Music from Jazz Vespers at Calvin College*.
- (Music Book) *Jazz Psalms: Music from Jazz Vespers at Calvin College*.
- (Hymnal) *Sing! A New Creation Leader's Edition*. (Co-Editor). CRC Pubs, April 2002.

Presentations

Upcoming (selected):

Watch Your Figures: Naming Sin, Salvation, and the Kingdom Imaginatively and Biblically. *Worship Alive!* Conference, United Church, Rogers Park, IL, March 6 & 7, 2010.

Staley Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series, Central College, March 24-25, 2010.

- Meaning What We Say, Saying What We Mean. Multiple presentations (speeches, sermons) at Central College and at local churches on topics of contemporary worship, liturgical language, and naming God.

Worship Principles and Practicals, Bethel Reformed Church, Sheboygen, WI, June, 2010.

- Consistory & worship team consultations on fundamentals of worship; Workshop on enculturation and emerging forms and expressive styles in worship; Preaching at four weekend services.

Past (selected):

Bast Preaching Festival, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, Oct. 26-27, 2009.

- Workshop leader.

Validity and Voluminousness. Union-PSCE Seminary, Richmond, VA, March 23-25, 2009.

- Three-day workshop including lectures, conversations, preaching, and worship preparation to model vital and faithful worship that embraces a broad spectrum of expressive styles

RCA General Synod. Holland, MI., June 5-10, 2008.

- Prepared and led seven prayer or festival services, involving dozens of leaders

Symposium on Worship. Grand Rapids, MI. January 25-26, 2008.

- Media and Spiritual Practices in Postmodern and Emerging Worship," a moderated panel discussion.
- Alt.Vespers service. Prepared and led multi-sensory alternative worship.

Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts. St. Louis, MO. July 17-19, 2007.

- Finding good literature in contemporary worship song."
- The recruitment, care and feeding of a worship team."

Hawaiian Island Ministries Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii. March 28-31, 2007.

- Three sessions: With All Your Mind: A Theological View of Worship"; A Cloud of Witnesses: An Historical View of Worship"; and People of the Book: A Biblical View of Worship."

Symposium on Worship. Grand Rapids, MI. January 26-27, 2007.

- NuHomiletic: Approaches to Preaching in the Emerging Church" (panel convener and participant).
- Emerging Worship in L.A. and the U.K.: A Critical Appraisal."

North American Academy of Liturgy, Toronto, Ontario. January 4-7, 2007.

- Advent Idolatry: The Cosmological Religious Dynamic of our Consumer Culture." A presentation to the Advent seminar group at annual professional academy meeting.

Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. April 10, 2006.

- Changing Diapers, Changing the World." Convocation Address (with Debra Rienstra).

Hymn Society Annual Conference. St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. July 11-15, 2004.

- Psalms Old and New." Planned and led plenary evening Hymn Festival

General Assembly, ELCA, Milwaukee, WI, August 13, 2003.

- Led morning prayer and evening Thomas Mass at annual gathering of ELCA delegates.

PC(USA) Study Group on Emerging and Sacramental Worship. Seattle, WA, Sept. 12-14, 2002.

Welcoming New Christians, a Catechumenate Conference in Orlando, FL. March 13-16, 2002.

- Member of worship band that prepared and led twice-daily worship.

Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts, January 11-12, 2002.

- With members of my LOFT team, led plenary session for all attending conference-goers, and offered two presentations introducing the hymnal supplement *Sing! A New Creation.*

Magnify the Lord! Worship Conference, Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario. July 14-15, 2000

- Reclaiming Liturgical Function in Contemporary Worship."

Awards, Honors, Memberships

- Member, Association of Reformed & Liturgical Worship, 2008- present
- Member, Academy of Homiletics, 2007-present.
- Member, North American Academy of Liturgy, 2007-present.
- Member, Board of Directors, Liturgical Conference. 2007-present.
- Member, Advisory Board, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2004-present.
- Editorial Consultant, *Reformed Worship*, 2004-present.
- Brehm Scholarship from the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07.
- Doctoral Fellowship from Center for Excellence in Preaching at CTS, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07.
- Winner of John T. Galloway Prize in expository preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, June, 1992.

References

Alison Ash (Formerly Director of Chapel, Fuller Theological Seminary)
Clay Schmit (Associate Professor of Preaching, Academic Director of the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary)
Todd Johnson (William & Dolores Brehm Chair of Theology & Culture; Associate Professor of Worship, Theology and the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary)
Rich Mouw (President, Fuller Theological Seminary)
Neal Plantinga (President, Calvin Theological Seminary)
Mary Hulst (Asst. Professor of Homiletics, Calvin Theological Seminary; Chaplain, Calvin College)
Laura Smit (Professor of Religion, Calvin College, past Dean of the Chapel)
John Witvliet (Director, CICW; Professor of Music & Theology, Calvin College and Seminary)
Leanne VanDyk (Dean of Faculty, Professor of Theology, Western Theological Seminary)
Tim Brown (President and Bast Professor of Preaching, Western Theological Seminary)
David Stubbs (Associate Professor of Theology & Ethics, Western Theological Seminary)
Carol Bechtel (Professor of Old Testament, Western Theological Seminary)
Trygve Johnson (Dean of the Chapel, Hope College)
Chip Andrus (Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, AK; formerly Associate for Liturgy & Music, PC(USA))
Jorge Lockward (Program Coordinator, Global Praise Program, GBGM, United Methodist Church)
Lester Ruth (Professor of Worship, Asbury Theological Seminary)
Kevin Twit (Pastor at Reformed University Fellowship, Producer/Musician for Indelible Grace project)

Students and Mentees: Aaron Genzink, Peter Armstrong, Matthew Ackerman, Rachel Klompmaker, Annie Carr, Nap Chou, Jenny Cairns, Ruth Fitzgerald, Robert Abel, Brion Brooks, Noah Livingston, Peter

VanKempen, Nancy Claus, Jeffrey Hough
Contact information available upon request.