# Robert E. Van Voorst
# Curriculum Vitae

Western Theological Seminary

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## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, 1974, Hope College, Holland, MI

Master of Divinity, 1977, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI

Master of Sacred Theology, 1979, Union Theological Seminary (New York)

Master of Philosophy, 1985, Union Theological Seminary (New York)

Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament, 1988, Union Theological Seminary (New York)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1977-1989: Pastor, Rochester Reformed Church (RCA), Accord, N.Y.

1989-1997: Assistant Professor of Religion, Lycoming College

1997: Visiting Researcher, University of Oxford, U.K.; lecturer, Westminster College, Oxford

1997-1999: Associate Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department, Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA

1999-present: Professor of New Testament, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI

## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

*The Ascents of James: History and Theology of a Jewish-Christian Community*. Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series 112. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.

*Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990. Second edition, Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999. (Resources for Biblical Study Series, Number 43); third edition, 2001.

*Anthology of World Scriptures*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1993. Second edition, 1996; third edition, 1999; fourth edition, 2002; fifth edition, 2005; sixth edition, 2007; seventh edition, 2010.

*The Death of Jesus in Early Christianity*, with Joel B. Green et al. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1995.

*Readings in Christianity*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1996. Second edition, 2000.

*Anthology of Asian Scriptures.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1999.

*Jesus Outside the New Testament*. Studying the Historical Jesus Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. Italian edition, *Gesù Nelle Fonti Extrabibliche*. Studi Sulla Bibbia e il Suo Ambiente 9. Milan: Edizioni San Paolo, 2004.

*Reading the New Testament Today*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2004. Chinese edition, Shanghai: VI Horae Press, 2011.

*Anthology of World Scriptures: Eastern Religions.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006.

*Anthology of World Scriptures: Western Religions.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006.

*RELG: World.* Boston: Wadsworth-Cengage/4LTR Press, 2012.

**PUBLISHED ACADEMIC ARTICLES AND REVIEWS**

"The Dynamic Word: A Survey and Critique of Recent Literature on Preaching and the Bible." *Reformed Review* 37 (1983), pp. 1-12.

"Reforming our Pastoral Ministry: An Essay on Role Conflict in the Ministerial Office." *Reformed Review* 46 (1993), pp. 189-203.

"The Relevance of Apocalyptic for Theology and Ministry." *Reformed Review* 47 (1994), pp. 188-196.

Review of F. Stanley Jones, *An Ancient Jewish Christian Source on the History of Christianity: Pseudo-Clementine Recognitions 1.27-71* (Scholars Press, 1995), in *Review of Biblical Literature* (online) February, 1999.

Articles in the *Eerdmans Dictionary Of The Bible*, ed. David N. Freedman: "Eternal Life," "James," "James, Ascents of," "Judaizers," "Life," "Peter, Gospel of." Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000.

"The Biblical Concept of Remembering and Ministry to People with Alzheimer's Disease," *Reformed Review* 54 (2001), pp. 99-107.

Articles in *Jesus in History, Culture and Thought: An Encyclopedia*, ed. J. L. Houlden: "Josephus"; "Non-Existence Hypothesis"; "Rabbis"; "Thomas, Gospel of." Oxford and Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

"The New Testament Apocrypha," an article in J. D.G. Dunn and J. Rogerson, eds., *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003, pp. 1573-1576.

"The Gospel of Luke," in D. A. Farmer, ed., *Pastor's Bible Study*, Volume 3. New Interpreter's Bible Resources Series. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006, pp. 1-85.

Articles in the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, vol. 1, 2006; volume 2, 2007; volume 3, 2008; volume 4, 2009; volume 5, 2009): "Acts of Peter," "Acts of Peter and Paul," "Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles," "Apocalypse of James," "Apocalypse of Peter," "Apocalypse of Thomas," "Apocryphal Letters," "Apocryphon of James," "Captain of the Temple," "Confirmation," "Custodian," "Docetism," "Gospel of Peter," "James" (one article on all the NT figures bearing this name), "Montanus, Montanism," "Martyrdom of Peter," "Martyrdom of Peter and Paul," "Pigeon," "Secret," "Slavonic Acts of Peter."

Review of Thomas A. Robinson, *Mastering New Testament Greek: Essential Tools for Students* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007). *Review of Biblical Literature*, online, April, 2007.

"Sources [on Jesus], Extra-New Testamental," *Encyclopedia of the Historical Jesus*, edited by Craig Evans (New York and London: Routledge, 2008), pp. 602-606.

Review of K. K. Yeo, *Musing with Confucius and Paul* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008). *Sino-Christian Studies* 6 (December 2008), pp. 185-188.

"Jesus Tradition in Classical and Jewish Writings," in T. Holmén and S. Porter, eds., *Handbook of the Study of the Historical Jesus*. (Leiden: Brill, 2010), pp. 2149-2180.

"Why is there No Thanksgiving Period in Galatians? An Assessment of an Exegetical Commonplace," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 129.1 (Spring, 2010).

**ACADEMIC PAPERS PRESENTED**

"The Passion Narrative of the Ascents of James," read at the annual national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion, November, 1988.

"The Relevance of Apocalyptic for Theology and Ministry," read to the 1994 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, March, 1994.

"The Pursuit of Excellence in Small Colleges and Universities," read to the August, 1994 mid-triennial meeting, Northeastern Region, Phi Kappa Phi.

"Extra-canonical Passion Narratives," read to the 1994 annual national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion.

"Silly Talk in Early Christianity: A Reexamination of Ephesians 5:4," read to the 1995 Tri-Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion.

"Using the Hollywood Film as a Supplemental Resource in Religious Studies Classes," read to the 1996 annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region, American Academy of Religion.

"Research into Jesus Outside the New Testament: Problems and Possibilities," read in October 2000 to the New Testament Seminar in the Theology Faculty, University of Oxford, England, and to all Oxford University undergraduate theology students, hosted by The Queen's College.

"Trends in Recent Jesus Research," paper read in January 2002 to the faculty and Th.M. students in Taiwan Theological Seminary, Taipei, Taiwan.

"Why Is There No Thanksgiving Section in Galatians? Toward a Re-examination of an Exegetical Commonplace," read at the SBL International Meeting, New College, University of Edinburgh, 2006.

"The Hospitality of Understanding," paper presented at the October 2011 conference on inter-religious dialogue, Holland, Michigan.

## PEER REVIEW OF SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND BOOKS FOR PUBLICATION

Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007

Westminster John Knox Press, 2008 (2 titles)

Baylor University Press, 2009

*Journal of Early Christian Studies*, 2011

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Eta Sigma Phi [Classical Languages Honor Society] (1973)

Member, Phi Beta Kappa (1974)

Member, Society of Biblical Literature (1974-present)

Recipient, Osterhaven Graduate Fellowship (1977-78)

Recipient, Union Theological Seminary (N.Y.) Doctoral Fellowship (1979-85)

Member, Phi Kappa Phi [National Collegiate Honor Society] (1990)

Member, Phi Sigma Iota [European Languages Honor Society] (1991)

Recipient, Excellence in Teaching Award, Lycoming College, 1995

Featured in *Who's Who in America*, 53rd ed. to the present 65th ed. (New York: Marquis, 1997-2010)

Featured in *Who's Who in the World*, 15th ed., 1998, to the present (New York: Marquis)

Featured in *Contemporary Authors* (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale, 2001)

Featured in *Contemporary Authors New Revision Series* (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Thomson Gale, 2006 and 2007)

Elected to membership in Tyndale Fellowship (Cambridge, England), 2007

**PUBLISHED POPULAR ESSAYS AND ARTICLES [a selection]**

"Traveling with the Twelve," *Church Herald*, 3/7/86, pp. 6-7.

"Believing without Seeing" *Church Herald*, 4/21/86, pp. 6-7.

"The Reformed Church in America Has an Excellent Name," *Church Herald*, 6/6/86, pp. 9-10.

"Serenity, Courage, Wisdom" [The R. Niebuhr prayer], *Church Herald*, 4/17/87, p. 13.

"Windows on our World," *Church Herald*, 11/4/88, pp. 6-11.

"Even the Deaf Hear," *Church Herald*, 2/90, pp. 8-10.

"Class and Sass," *Church Herald*, 2/91, pp. 30-32. Excerpts reprinted in *Media Studies*, March 1991, pp. 1-2.

"Movie Ghosts and the Spirit of Our Times," *Church Herald*, 3/92, pp. 29-31.

"Let's Keep to the Biblical Trinitarian Formula," *Church Herald*, 1995, p. 5.

**SERVICE TO LYCOMING COLLEGE**

1990-98: Member, Theological Professions Advisory Committee

1990-98: Faculty Parliamentarian

1990-94: Member, Faculty Personnel Committee (chair 1992-94)

1990-93: Chair, Academic Committee, Advance for Ministry (a clergy and lay pastor vocational program in conjunction with the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church)

1993-99: Advisor, Lycoming College chapter, Alpha Sigma Tau national sorority

1993: Delegate of Lycoming College to the Institute of Higher Education, United Methodist Church

1997-99: Chair, Religion Department

1997-99: Chair, General Committee on Academic Affairs; Member of the Faculty Council

**SERVICE TO WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

1999-2001: Associate editor, *Reformed Review*

2000-2007: Member, Theological Publications Committee

2000-2008: Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee

2001-2007: Editor, *Reformed Review*

2003-2011: Faculty Marshal

2003-2011: Chair of the Commencement Committee

Since 2007: WTS representative, with George Brown, to the ATS Consultation on Faculty Identity and Governance

**SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

1990-98: Conducted approximately 250 divine services in Presbyterian and United Methodist churches in the Williamsport, PA area; served as long-term supply pastor at four PC(USA) congregations in the Northumberland Presbytery.

1992: Speaker at both the spring and fall Lecture Series of the Pine Street Methodist Church, Williamsport, on the topics of the Sermon on the Mount and New Testament eschatology.

1992, 1995: Keynote speaker, Lycoming—Central PA Conference (UMC) Pastor's Conference

1999 – present: Member, Holland Classis, RCA; member of Overtures and Judicial Business Committee, 2000-2009. Delegate to Regional Synod of the Great Lakes, 2000-2002; delegate to

General Synod, 2002, 2008.

1999- present: Conducted approximately 110 divine services in RCA, CRC, PC(USA), UCC and UMC churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and California.

1999-present: Taught approximately 50 mini-courses (three weeks each on average) in various churches in Michigan: RCA, CRC, PC(USA), UCC, and Episcopal. Topics most often taught are: the Sermon on the Mount; Islam; Mormonism; Christianity and other Faiths; The Gospel of Luke; The Book of Revelation; Homosexuality.

2002: NT lecturer at the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation School for Pastors, held at Hastings College, Nebraska, six lectures on the Sermon on the Mount.

2002: Preached in the Ellsworth, Kansas, ecumenical Holy Week series of lectures and sermons.

2003: "Jewish-Christians: Bridging the Growing Divide," speech to the West Shore Conference of Christians and Jews, held at Hope College, Holland Michigan.

2004: Interviewed on Asian religions for Words of Hope (RCA) radio broadcast.

2004: Lecturer on Romans at the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation School for Pastors.

2006: Interviewed on Gnostic gospels for Words of Hope (RCA) radio program.

2006: Teacher in the week-long Alma College Christian Education Seminar on biblical interpretation for PC(USA) certified lay pastors and certified Christian educators.

2007 – Director of a tour of Italy, "Christianity and Culture in Italy," for Witte Travel company.

2007—2009: Member, Editorial Council (board of trustees) of the *Church Herald*; 2008-2009, member of its Executive Committee

2008—2009: Mentor in Hope College's Center for Faithful Leadership.

2009 – Chaplain to the American Legion Band in its tour of France and the Netherlands in the official commemorations of the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

2009—present: Member, Holland Symphony Orchestra League