
Ronald A. Rienstra

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EDUCATION

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. September 2004- December 2015

- Ph.D. in Theology, December 2015. Concentration in Christian Worship; minor in Homiletics.
Dissertation: *Church at Church: Jean-Jacques von Allmen's Liturgical Ecclesiology*.
Advisor: Todd E. Johnson, William K. and Dolores S. Brehm Associate Professor of Worship, Theology and the Arts.
- M.A. in Theology, February 2009.

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 (now Calvin University), Grand Rapids, MI. September 1983 - May 1985

- Completed rigorous course of multi-disciplinary core classes.

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.

Professor of Preaching & Worship Arts, 2016–Present

Visiting Assistant Professor 2008–2010; Assistant Professor 2010–2013; Associate Professor 2013–2016;

I teach a range of courses in the performative disciplines of practical theology (preaching and worship) in both In-Residence and Distance-Learning formats.

- Foundational courses taught each year in both liturgy and homiletics
 - Recently taught electives/advanced classes have included:
 - MN545: “Post-Modern Preaching: In Search of the NuHomiletic”
 - MN592: “Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry”
 - MN535: “The Church’s Common Chord: Worship Music in a Fragmented Age”
 - MN562: “Liturgical Shenanigans: Ritual Theory and Christian Formation”
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- Classes under construction include MNXXX: “Identity and Practice: The Church of Refugia and the Church of Empire”
 - Lead D.Min. cohort (2021-2024; 2027-present) with Dr. Debra Rienstra & Dr. Ben Lowe. Area of exploration: “Refugia Faith: Preparing the Church for Sustainability and Crisis Resilience.”
 - MFCA Summer Intensive course in RCA worship (July 2021, July 2022, July 2023)

Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI. Spring 2008

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

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC. June 2007

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

Calvin College (now Calvin University), Grand Rapids, MI. 1999–2007

- 1999-2002. I regularly taught CPOL 101: “Christian Perspectives on Learning.”
- May/June 2003: “Worship Renewal Past and Future,” a 3-week off-campus course in the U.K.
- Adjunct instructor in Religion. Spring 2007, Rel. 237: “Introduction to Christian Worship.”

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. September 2004–June 2006

- Theological Educator. WS511: “The Theology & Praxis of Leading Worship.” A course taught in conjunction with development and supervision of a chapel intern program.
- Adjunct Instructor, Spring 2006. WS5512: “Crafting Words for Worship” (w/ Debra Rienstra).
- Adjunct Instructor of Preaching. Winter 2005-Spring 2006. Regular instructor (multiple quarters, multiple sections) of PR511, a preaching practicum.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

A Rocha USA, Wheaton, IL, July 2025-present

- *Director of Church Partnerships.* Supervise the Churches of Restoration program and other initiatives designed to equip congregations to integrate creation-care into their discipleship efforts. This work is a collaborative effort with my other employer, Western Theological Seminary. Events and resources developed for the ARUSA Church Partnership program will be co-branded and offered by WTS in micro-courses and other curricular and continuing education offerings as part of a certificate in eco-justice and creation-care.

Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. September 2008- Present

- *Director of Worship Life (2009-2025)* For most of my career at WTS I had administrative responsibilities overseeing worship at daily chapel. This included:
 - Providing vision and oversight for daily worship (M-F), including developing multiple templates for a variety of worship service styles. Leadership for special services (commencement, etc.)
 - Offering assistance and reflective feedback to those who lead worship each day.
 - Composing music for our use in worship, and encourage others to contribute words, music, and visual art into what has become over the years a vibrant indigenous liturgical economy.
 - Mentoring a small “by-invitation” cohort of Chapel Stewards, students who hope to be congregational worship leaders upon graduation.
 - Navigating the tension between the community’s devotional and pedagogical concerns.
 - Other responsibilities have included:
 - Oversight of the renovation of the Mulder Chapel at WTS in 2011-2012;
 - Leading Continuing Education Theme Groups on Worship & the Arts;
 - Past chair of the Ministry field
 - Led D.Min. cohorts on theme: “Refugia Pathways” (2022-2025; 2027-2030)

Bast Center for Christian Proclamation, Holland, MI. 2023-present

- *Academic Director.* Oversight of seminary portion of a Lilly grant awarded to WTS along with partner institutions Hope College and Pillar Church.
- Leadership of Bast Preaching Festival, Co-curricular cohort of preaching students (Preach, Pray, or Die caucus), Master class videos, other related initiatives.
- Leadership team for the Great Lakes Theology & Preaching Conference (November 2025, 2026).

CHAPLAINCY

Calvin College (now Calvin University), Grand Rapids, MI. Sept. 1998–January 2004

- *Associate for Student Worship, Chaplain’s office.* I coached a team of students who prepared and led a Sunday night worship service (the LOFT) for the campus community. I also introduced and led a Jazz Vespers service each week—a mix of poetry, prayer, and live jazz. I initiated the Worship Apprentice Program to mentor the student musicians, poets, prayers, artists, dramatists, and technicians who raised the sails each week to the Spirit’s wind.

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

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

OTHER PASTORAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liturgical consultant (selected)

Consultation with congregations and other communities seeking revitalization of their worship lives:

- **Church of the Servant**, Grand Rapids, MI. 2010-present. Regular continuing/adult education experiences (approximately 2/year) on various worship topics.
- **Fifth Reformed Church**, Grand Rapids, MI. May 30, 2023. Pied Beauty—Eclectic Worship Music.
- **Commission on Christian Worship**. March 25, 2021. Interpreting the RCA Worship Survey in light of pandemic worship restrictions.
- **Seminari Alkitab Asia Tenggara**, Malang, Indonesia. January 22, 2020. Topic: Chapel program.
- **Commission on Christian Worship**. Feb 14-16, 2019. Report on RCA Worship Survey.
- **GSC Worship, Commission on Christian Worship**. Oct. 13-14, 2017. Topic: Development of Survey of Worship Practices; consultant on the future of worship in the RCA.
- **Beckwith Hills CRC**. July 24, 2017. Topic: Building renovation.
- **Harrington Park Community Church (RCA)**, Harrington Park, NJ. July 13, 2017. Topic: Third Way Music/Liturgy.
- **West Glenville Reformed Church**, May 18, 2017. Topic: Building renovation.
- **Third Reformed Church**, Holland, MI. September 2015-August 2016. Topic: Liturgy/Music
- **PCUSA Office of Theology & Worship**, McCormick Theological Seminary, Sept. 18, 2015. Topic: BCW Revisions.
- **Calvin Theological Seminary**, Grand Rapids, MI. May 12, 2015. Topic: Chapel Program.
- **Camp Geneva**, Holland, MI. March 30, 2015. Topic: Liturgy/Music.
- **Second Reformed Church**, Pella, IA. Aug. 10-11, 2014. Topic: Missional Worship
- **National Evangelical Church in Bahrain**, Bahrain. Regular Skype consultations June 2013-January 2014. Topic: Intercultural Worship.
- **Pillar Church**, Holland, MI. Weekly, June 2012-January 2013; Monthly, January 2013-June 2013. Topic: Liturgy/Music.
- **First Presbyterian Church**, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Oct. 7-8, 2011. Topic: Intercultural Worship.
- **Libertyville Presbyterian**, Libertyville, IL. July 6-7, 2006. Topic: Liturgy/Music.
- **Wheaton Presbyterian Church**, Wheaton, IL. Sept. 21-22, 2002. Topic: Liturgy/Music.

Pulpit supply, various churches, July 1996 – present.

- Preach and/or lead worship at area congregations on average one week/month during the school

year, two weeks/month during the summer. Video/Audio available upon request.

Miscellaneous

Christian Climate Observers program at COP30, Belem, Brazil, Nov. 14-22, 2025.

- WTS and ARocha USA representative at UNFCCC conference on climate change.

CRC Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. February 2000-2019

- Associate/Contributing Editor, Reformed Worship.

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

- Director of Residence Life. Mentored a dozen mostly Hispanic students for academic success, whole-life skills, and Christ-likeness at an emerging collegiate bridge program.

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.

DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

- Elected Elder at Church of the Servant, August 2026.
- Appointed as RCA General Synod Professor of Theology, June 15, 2026
- Delegate, RCA General Synod, Holland, MI. June 8-11, 2017
- Moderator, RCA Commission on Worship, 2014 – 2016; Member 2009-2016; 2021-2025
- Member, RCA Worship Renewal Task Force; Project Coordinator, 2009-2012
- Member, Classis Holland, 2011-present
- Member, Classis North Grand Rapids Student Care Committee, 1996-2011

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Refugia Church* – a sequel to Debra Rienstra's *Refugia Faith* (Fortress 2022). We

collaborated extensively on the production of the book, although my only official credit is for the afterword. This book offers a robust ecclesiology for churches wrestling with mission and identity in the anthropocene. Sprinkled with inspirational examples of gospel communities exploring various pathways for hopeful action. Anticipated publication in February 2027 (Fortress Press).

- *Gifts of Grace for Pattern-Loving People: Forty-Four Forms Worship Leaders Need to Know*—ongoing negotiations with various publishers (Fortress, Wipf&Stock). Anticipated publication mid 2027.
- *Church at Church: Jean-Jacques von Allmen's Liturgical Ecclesiology* (Pickwick, March 2019). Based on my dissertation, a monograph on the 20th century Swiss Reformed theologian and how his work speaks to present ecclesiological, homiletical, and liturgical issues.
- *Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry* (Baker Academic, January 2009). Co-written with Debra Rienstra. This book argues for the importance of the careful use of words in worship both to express and form our devotional life together.
- *Worship*. (Faith Alive Resources, April 2008). Revised and re-published as an e-book in 2017. A basic treatment of the meaning and purpose of corporate worship.
- *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.

Chapters

- Introduction to Creation-Care booklet published by Rabbit Room in the *Every Moment Holy* series (September 2026).
- "You Belong: A Homily" in *Like a Watered Garden: Essays in Honor of Carol Bechtel*, ed. James Hart Brumm (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2025).
- "Methodology and Liturgical Ecclesiology" in *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Liturgical Theology*, ed. Porter Taylor and Khalia Williams (Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2025).
- Forward to reprint of Jean-Jacques Von Allmen's *Worship: Its Theology and Practice*, James Clark & Co., 2023.
- Commentary on Propers 17, 18, & 19, Year A; in *Connections: A Lectionary Preaching and Worship Resource*, eds. Joel Green, Thomas Long, Luke Powery, Cynthia Rigby. (March 2020).
- "What We Craft." Essay published in materials for Bast Preaching Peer Groups. (Sept, 2015).
- "Table Teaching: Practicing the Lord's Supper at Seminary" in *Common Worship in Theological Education*, ed. Todd Johnson & Siobhán Garrigan (Pickwick

Publications, January 2010). 133-158.

Reviews (selected)

- Kevin J. Adams, “Living Under Water: Baptism as a Way of Life. In *Interpretation* (January, 2024).
- Dennis Okholm, Learning Theology through the Church’s Worship: An Introduction to Christian Belief. In *Interpretation*, (July 2020).
- Andy Park, et. al., Worshipping with the Anaheim Vineyard: The Emergence of Contemporary Worship. In *Interpretation*, (January 2019).
- Bill Dyrness, A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go. In *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)

- “You Belong: How Wendell Kimbrough’s Song Brought Psalm 87 to Life in my Seminary Class.” *Worship Leader online*, (Aug. 11, 2023 -- <https://bit.ly/3qtlw6B>).
- “Slightly Sloshed Spiritual Singing: The Beer & Hymns Movement in North America” in *Liturgy*, 34.4 (November 4, 2019).
- Three Reformed Worship articles translated into Portuguese by Daniel Diver and re-published online at Lecionario.com (April 9-26, 2018).
- “O Culto Como História da Salvação: Revisitando a Sabedoria Litúrgica de J. J. von Allmen para a Igreja de hoje;”
- “O Culto Como Manifestação de Igreja;”
- “O Culto Como Ameaça e Promessa.”
 - “Stretching your Style: The Enneagram as a Pedagogical Tool for Teaching Homiletical Form.” *Proceedings of the Academy of Homiletics*, (Nov. 2017 / March 2018).
 - “Ron Rienstra on the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving”—interview published in the CICW Resource Library, (July 21, 2017 - <http://bit.ly/2xu9R9F>).
 - “Call it What You Will.” *ConciliarPost.com* (Aug. 10, 2015).
 - “Good Worship: Articulating Standards of Excellence in Worship without Becoming the Liturgy Police.” *Liturgy*, 29.2 (April 2014).
 - “Audio Technology in Worship” *CrossAccent* Vol. 21, No. 3 (November 2013).
 - “Juggling Jesus.” *Homily Service* 43.3 (Fall 2010).

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- “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).
 - “Music & Technology in Worship” *Theology, News, & Notes*, (Spring, 2006).
 - “How (Not) to Create the Perfect Youth Sunday Service.” *ACPE Advocate*, 2002.
 - “A Good Funeral.” *Liturgy & Music* (April 2002).
 - “A Service Celebrating the Educational Ministries of the Church” *Learning for Life: Worship*, RCA publications, 2001.
 - “Call Waiting” (with Debra Rienstra). *Perspectives* (Oct. 2001).
 - “Thanksgiving Litany.” *Reformed Review* (Winter 1996).
 - “Were You There?” *Arts Ministry* 2.1. (Winter 1996).
 - “Caught in the Middle: A Character Study of an Accidental Secessionist.” *Historical Highlights* #41. (June 1994).

Reformed Worship Articles (selected). Over 75 articles published between June 2000-present:

- “Grounded and Growing: Liturgical Resources for the Season of Advent” – Ten worship services from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, making use of materials developed at WTS. January 2026.
- “Singing Creation: A Worshipful Tasting Session with Climate Vigil Songs” w/ Deb Rienstra, June 2023.
- Three related articles published on the RW blog, April 3-12, 2018. “Revisiting Jean-Jacques von Allmen’s Liturgical Wisdom for Today’s Church”
 - “Worship as Salvation History.”
 - “Worship as Manifestation of the Church.”
 - “Worship as Promise and Threat.”
- “Norm and Exception: The Value of Ruts and Breaking Out of Them” RW blog,

Nov. 30, 2017.

- “Signs of the Kingdom: Changing Hearts” – RW blog, July 27, 2017.
 - “Keeping Pulpits out of the Closet” — RW blog, April 25, 2017.
 - “Liturgical Worship” – RW blog, Jan. 30, 2017.
 - “Temple Transitions” - RW blog, Nov. 23, 2016.
 - “What to do with Him Texts?” RW blog, May 18, 2016.
 - “Sanctuary Architecture and Theophanic Expectation.” RW blog, Feb 11, 2016.
 - “First Things First: Centering our Praise in God” RW 100 (June 2011)
 - “The Wetter the Better: Remembering Our Baptisms Every Week.” RW 95 (March 2010).
 - “A Pastoral Pastoral Prayer.” RW 87 (March 2008).
 - “Complexifying the Liturgy: An Alternative Order for Campus Worship.” RW 81 (Sept. 2006).
 - “Table Graces: Connecting Sung Prayers in Church with Meal Prayers at Home.” RW 76 (June 2005).
 - “Jazz Vespers: A Contemporary Riff on an Ancient Prayer Service.” RW 70 (Dec. 2003).
 - “God’s Words, Whose Voice?: Divine Discourse and Lay Leadership.” RW 69 (Sept. 2003).
 - “Thanksgiving Day Resources: Tried and True, Fresh and New.” RW 69 (Sept. 2003).
 - “If I Speak in Tongues of Men, What about the Women?” RW 68 (June 2003).
 - “Flowing or Floating: Arranging Music for the Lord’s Supper.” RW 66 (January 2003).
 - “Principles & Practicals: Cue Cards for a Crash Course in Leading Worship.” RW 63 (March 2002).
 - “Not Yet – Making the Most of Anticipation & Celebration in Easter.” RW 62 (Dec. 2001).
 - “A Time to Be Silent: Wordless before the Word.” RW 61 (September 2001).
 - “Singing, Saying, Preaching, Praying—Psalms in Contemporary Worship.” RW 60 (June 2001).
 - “A Spirit-Led Testimony Service: Spontaneous or Structured?” RW 59 (March 2001).

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- “Into and Out of the Depths: Letting the Text Shape the Service.” RW 58 (Dec. 2000).

Pedagogical Materials (selected)

- *Worship: A Bible Study for Small Groups*. A Five-Week Discussion/Study Guide for Churches and Worship Committees. (epub available, November 2017).
- “Church at School and School in Church: Studying Worship on Seminary Campuses.” A web-based report on a nationwide consultation. Nov. 2007-Dec. 2015.
- “Fresh Winds in Worship: Reform through the Ages,” a web-based report on 2003 U.K. interim course on worship. October 2004-Dec. 2015.
- “A Service Celebrating the Educational Ministries of the Church,” *Learning for Life: Worship*. RCA publications, 2001.

Music Resources

- “The Lord Be with You/Great Prayer of Thanksgiving Service Music”—song in *Lift Up Your Hearts* (combined RCA/CRC hymnal), Faith Alive, 2013. Published also *Community of Christ Sings* (Independence, MO: Herald, 2013).
- *Jazz Psalms: Music from Jazz Vespers at Calvin College*. (CD & Music Transcriptions), May, 2003.
- *Sing! A New Creation—Leader’s Edition*. (Hymnal, Co-Editor). CRC Publications, April 2002.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Green Lectionary Podcast, Regular guest, 2026.

Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI, Adult Education, July 14, 2026.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, MI. Adult Education, April 24, 2026.

Nazarene Creation Care Virtual Summit, Online, March 21, 2026.

- “The Refugia Way: Small, Local, Faithful, Transformative.” Virtual presentation.

Creation Justice Ministries Coaches retreat, Cassopolis, MI, March 9-12, 2026.

- Prepared and led worship/retreat experiences for churches committed to creation care.

A Rocha Churches of Restoration Kick-off Events, Nashville, TN, Aug 15, 2025; Holland, MI

Sept. 13, 2025; Chicago, IL Sept. 20, 2025, New York City Oct. 3, 2026.

- Led kick-off events including worship & presentations on eco-theology.

Creation Justice Ministries, *Witness for Creation Justice*, Grand Rapids, MI. Sept. 15, 2025.

- Planned and helped to lead advocacy event with A Rocha USA partners.

Symposium on Worship, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI, Feb. 10, 2023.

- Supervised team of WTS Chapel Stewards (past and present) in planning and leading concluding communion worship service as the featured seminary.
 - Plenary worship service: “A Chosen and Thankful People—Colossians 3:12-17.”

AuSable Institute of Environmental Studies, Mancelona, MI. July 25, 2022; July 24, 2023.

- “A Theology of Creation Care.” Guest lecture with Dr. Debra Rienstra.

Thornapple Reformed Church, Ada, MI, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, 2021

- “Lament with Integrity & Hope: Congregational song during Advent.” Adult Education sessions.

Intensive course, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Reformed Indonesia, Jakarta, January 13-17, 2020.

- “Gifts of Grace for Pattern-Loving People: Forty-Four Forms Worship Leaders Need to Know”—a week-long worship course for pastors and seminarians, exploring the submerged structures to be found in worship ordos as well as scripture, sermon, prayer, and song.

Enrichment Lecture, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Amanat Agung, Jakarta, January 18, 2020.

- “Renewing Reformed Worship: Lessons from Jean-Jacques von Allmen.”

Intensive course, Seminari Alkitab Asia Tenggara, Malang, Indonesia, January 20-24, 2020.

- “Gifts of Grace for Pattern-Loving People.”

Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Jan. 24-26, 2019.

Supervised a team of more than 30 faculty, staff, and students from WTS in planning and leading worship as the featured seminary at this past year’s Symposium.

- Plenary worship service: “The Joy of God in the Midst of Our Troubles—Habakkuk 3:17-19.”
- Vespers worship service: “Salvation Belongs to the Lord: The Story of Jonah.”
- Panel Discussion Participant: “Multi-lingual Singing for English-Speaking Congregations”

North American Academy of Liturgy, Denver, CO. January 3-5, 2019

- “Beer and Hymns: A Collection of Field Reports from the Church of Refugia.”

Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Jan. 25-27, 2018.

- “Church at Church: Three Theological Themes from Jean-Jacques von Allmen.”
- “Beyond ‘Contemporary’ and ‘Traditional’: Clues to Finding a Third Way.”

Academy of Homiletics, Dallas, TX, December 7-9, 2017

- “Stretching your Style: The Enneagram as a Pedagogical Tool for Teaching Homiletical Form.” (Paper published in proceedings and discussed in panel; I was absent due to family emergency).

Bast Festival of Preaching, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, November 6, 2017

- “Sermonic Styles and Structures: Golfing with a Full Bag of Clubs.”

General Assembly, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Kingston, ON, June 3-4, 2017

- Keynote speaker and workshop leader for conference focusing on revitalizing worship language.

ELCA Ecumenical Partners Worship Conversation, Chicago, IL, Sept. 23, 2016

- RCA representative at gathering of denominational worship leaders.

Central Christian College, McPherson, Kansas, September 20, 2016

- “Complexifying Worship: From Concert to Covenant Renewal” – keynote address
- Guest lectures in multiple classes for worship teams and faculty development event

Association for Reformed & Liturgical Worship, Grand Rapids, MI, July 24-26, 2016

- Panel Participant: “Cultivating a Culture of Worship.”

Trinity CME course, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, June 14-17, 2016

- “Words for Worship” – a five-day workshop for ministers, deacons, and worship leaders in the U.K. Continuing education in preaching, leading congregational prayer, the writing and construction of liturgy, and the writing of hymns and worship songs.

Colloquium on Strengthening Christian Preaching, Calvin College, March 14-16, 2016

- Represent WTS at colloquium of collaborators managing initiatives related to pastoral-excellence.

Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Jan. 28-30, 2016

- “Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue: Principles for Renewing Language in Worship”–Session with Debra Rienstra on *Worship Words*.
- “Improvising New Life”–participant in Jazz Ensemble; Gregory Jones plenary.

Homiletical Peer Learning Group, Prince Conference Center, April 29, 2015

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- On “Sacramental Preaching.”

Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI, March 22, 2015

- “PIED Beauty.” Presentation discussing and demonstrating some of the principles that guide the selection and use of music in the chapel services at Western Theological Seminary.

Strengthening Christian Preaching. Calvin College, March 3-4, 2015

- Represent WTS at meeting of institutional collaborators.

Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI., Jan. 30-31, 2015

- “Praises, Pauses, and Plans: Music as Liturgical Punctuation.” Presentation highlighting music composed for use at WTS, and other incidental worship music.

Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI, Dec. 1, 15, 2013

- “Singing with Advent Anticipation.” Adult Education session.

Pillar Church, Holland, MI, Jan. 6-20, 2013

- “Reformed and Reforming—Worship Changes.” Adult Education sessions.

Come into the House of the Lord Worship Conference, CRTS, Albany, NY March 22-23, 2012

- Keynote speaker and seminar leader for five breakout sessions on worship revitalization.

Symposium on Worship. Grand Rapids, MI, January 2011

- “Philippians 3:12-4:1—Eyes on the Prize.” Prepared and led “Alt” vespers worship service with Doug Gay, Mark Roeda and WTS students.
- Presentation to small group leaders working with Worship Words in year-long learning project.
- Day-long workshop on worship—centerpiece of RCA Worship Task Force Renewal Initiative.

ELCA “Partners in Evangelical Worship” Training Event. Houston, TX, June 2010

- “Point with Power: Using Technology while Keeping the Central Things Central.” Workshop and worship leadership during conference.

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

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

Worship Alive! Conference, United Church, Rogers Park, IL, March 6 & 7, 2010

- “Watch Your Figures: Naming Sin, Salvation, and the Kingdom Imaginatively and Biblically.”

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.

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

- “Watch your Figures: Naming God Imaginatively and Biblically.” Workshop leader.

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

- Prepared and led seven prayer or festival services for annual denominational gathering.

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

- “Media and Spiritual Practices in Postmodern and Emerging Worship,” Panel discussion.
- “Blood and Water: Hebrews 10:19-25.” Prepared and led multi-sensory alternative worship.

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

- Two presentations: “Finding Good Literature in Contemporary Worship Song”; “The Care and Feeding of a Worship Team.”

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

- Three presentations: “With All Your Mind: A Theological View of Worship”; “A Cloud of Witnesses: An Historical View of Worship”; “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.”

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.

Day of Encouragement. Langely, BC., November 8, 2003

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- Keynote Address and workshop for local worship leaders.

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 & 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. January 11-12, 2002

- Planned and led primary plenary, and two presentations introducing *Sing! A New Creation*.

COLAM (Conference on Liturgy and Music), July 11-14, 2001

- Planned and led 7 worship services for ~350 worship leaders.
- Five major presentations, including:
 - “Can We Sing This One on Sunday?: Handling Requests Pastorally.”
 - “Liturgical Improvisation: Playing the Beats of Biblical Worship.”
 - “Let the River Flow: A Sampling from Five Streams of Prayer and Praise.”
 - “Worship Leaders as Spiritual Directors” (with Gregg DeMey).
 - “Theological and Aesthetic Assessment of New Songs for Worship.”
 - “Liturgical Landscaping: Growing Good Worship.”

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

- “Reclaiming Liturgical Function in Contemporary Worship.”

AWARDS, HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Board of New City Kids, July 2025–May 2026
 - Member, Board of A Rocha USA, Nov. 2022-2025; Church Engagement Committee
 - Awarded one of 15 Lilly-funded Teacher-Scholar grants for my 2020 sabbatical project, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, November, 2019.
 - Member, Consultation on Common Texts, April 2017- present.
 - Chair, Worship Committee, Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, MI, Sept. 2016-present.
 - Visiting Scholar, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, June-December, 2015; January-July 2020.
 - President, Calvin Community Orchestra, 2016-2018; Member, 2008-present.
 - Member, Association of Reformed & Liturgical Worship, 2008-present.
 - Member, Academy of Homiletics, 2007-present.
 - Member, North American Academy of Liturgy, 2007-present.
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- Member, Board of Directors, Liturgical Conference. 2007-2024.
 - Member, Advisory Board, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2004-present.
 - Editorial Consultant, *Reformed Worship*, 2004-2018.
 - 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, PTS, June, 1992.

REFERENCES

Leanne VanDyk, President Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary

John Witvliet, Professor of Theology, Worship & the Arts, Belmont University (Former Director, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Professor of Music & Theology, Calvin University & Seminary)

Felix Theonugraha, President, Western Theological Seminary

Jon Brown, Lead Pastor, Pillar Church, Holland, Michigan

Todd Johnson, Senior Pastor, First Covenant Church, Seattle (formerly Professor of Worship, Theology and the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary)

Jeff Chu, Author, free-lance reporter, co-founder of Evolving Faith; Grand Rapids, MI

Maria Stapert, Minister of Worship, Church of the Servant CRC, Grand Rapids, MI

Clay Schmit (formerly Professor of Preaching, Academic Director of the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology, and the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary)

Students and Mentees: Matthew Ackerman, Peter Armstrong, Rachel Klompmaker, Stephen Rodriguez, Jonathan Gabhart, Fred Johnson, Samantha Kadzban, Noah Livingston, Jeffrey Hough, Jordan White, Jeremy Bork, Marcy Ryan, Emily Holehan, Chris Walker, David Celeskey, Wesley Joseph, Rose DeKoster, Hannah Barker-Nickolay, Jennifer Rozema, Jeremy Simpson, Larry Figueroa, Jackson Nickolay, Miranda Craig, Greg Frank, Stephanie Rodriguez, Lex Cummings, Kearsten McCoy, Liv Lowe.

Contact information available upon request.