

Curriculum Vitae

David Russell Komline

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EDUCATION

PhD. History. University of Notre Dame. August 2015.

MA. History. University of Notre Dame. May 2012.

MDiv. Princeton Theological Seminary. May 2008.

BA. History. Minors in Bible/Theology and Economics. Wheaton College. May 2004.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor of Church History. Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. June 2023-present.

Associate Professor of Church History. Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. July 2020-June 2023.

Assistant Professor of Church History. Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. July 2016-June 2020.

Visiting Assistant Professor. Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. July 2015-June 2016.

English Instructor. Yantai University, Yantai, China. September 2004-June 2005.

BOOKS

The Common School Awakening: Religion and the Transatlantic Roots of American Public Education (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020).

Reviews appeared in: *Choice*, *Church History*, *History of Education*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Church and State*, *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, *Ohio History*

I was invited to discuss this book on the following podcasts: *SHCY Featured Books*, *The Way of Improvement Leads Home*, *New Books Network*

Mark A. Noll, David Komline, and Han-luen Kantzer Komline, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*, 4th ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022).

Editor, *The Church Speaks, Volume 3: Papers of the Commission on Theology, Reformed Church in America, 2001-2020*, Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2024).

ESSAYS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Catholic, Evangelical, and Reformed: The Theological Vision of I. John Hesselink,” in *Calvin Theological Journal* 58, no. 1 (April 2023): 53-87.
- “‘The Blundering Reports of Careless or Obtuse Men’: August Tholuck and American Universalism,” in *Transatlantic Religion: Europe, America, and the Making of Modern Christianity*, ed. Annette G. Aubert and Zachary Purvis (Boston: Brill, 2021).
- “Schleiermacher, Sabellius, and Inter-Trinitarian Equality,” in *Studia Patristica*, ed. Markus Vinzent (Leuven: Peeters Publishers, 2021).
- “Harriet Beecher Stowe: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Politics of Sentimentalism,” in *Handbook of American Romanticism*, ed. Philipp Löffler, Clemens Spahr, Jan Stievermann (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021).
- “Stephen Tyng Jr., Millenarian Reformer,” *Anglican and Episcopal History* 88, no. 1 (March 2019): 30-47.
- “‘If There Were One People’: Francis Weninger and the Segregation of American Catholicism,” *Religion and American Culture* 27, vol. 2 (Summer 2017).
- “An American Sonderzeit? Reconsidering Antebellum Atlantic Crossings,” in *Transatlantic Social Politics: 1800-Present*, ed. Daniel Scroop and Andrew Heath (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).
- “The Controversy of the Present Time: Arianism, William Whiston, and the Development of Mather’s Late Eschatology,” in *Cotton Mather and Biblia Americana: America’s First Bible Commentary*, ed. Reiner Smolinski and Jan Stievermann (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010).

REVIEWS AND OTHER WRITINGS

- “Reformed Church in America,” in *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. URL: <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/> (forthcoming 2027).
- “Inaugural Founders’ Day Lecture,” *The Commons* (Summer 2022): 21-22.
- “Distinguished Alumni: Wes Granberg-Michaelson,” *The Commons* (Summer 2022): 12-14.
- “The Auburn Declaration of 1837,” in *Reformierte Bekenntnisschriften: Bd. 4/1 1814-1890*, vol. 4 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2022).
- Review: Daniel Parker, *The Autobiography of Daniel Parker, Frontier Universalist*, ed. David Torbett (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2020). *Journal of the Early Republic* 42, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 132-135.
- Review: Donald Fairbairn and Ryan M. Reeves, *The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019). *Fides et Historia* 52, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2021): 90-92.
- Review: Johann M. Neem, *Democracy’s Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017). *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 117, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 108-110.
- Review: Jonathan M. Yeager, *Jonathan Edwards and Transatlantic Print Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). *Journal of Religion* 98, no. 3 (July 2018): 433–34.
- “Serenio Edwards Dwight,” in *A Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).
- “The Religious Roots of American Public Education: New Research and a New Perspective,”

- The Bulletin of the Congregational Library* 9, no. 2 (Spring 2013): 6-7.
- Review: Steven J. Keillor, *God's Judgments: Interpreting History and the Christian Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007). *Princeton Theological Review* 14, no. 1 (2008): 138-140.
- Church review: "A Sacramental Life." *Anglican and Episcopal History* 76, no. 1 (2007): 155-160.
- Church review: "In Christ There Is No East or West." *Anglican and Episcopal History* 75, no. 3 (2006): 463-467.
- "Stanley Grenz, Women in Ministry, and the Trinity: A Model in Practical Theology." *Princeton Theological Review* 12, no. 1 (2006): 29-30.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- Virtual Q&A Session. January 21, 2027. For students in the course "Lessons from the History of Christianity in the United States" offered by the Timothy Training Institute.
- "Thank You, Billy Graham: Introducing Postwar Evangelicalism." October 30, 2026. Virtual guest lecture to students in the course "Lessons from the History of Christianity in the United States" offered by the Timothy Training Institute.
- "Thank You, Billy Graham: Evangelical Thought in the Analog Age." February 20, 2026. At the Hope College-WTS Theology Seminar, Holland, MI.
- "The Puritan Teaching Office: Overlooked Evidence on the Salem-Plymouth Relation." November 10, 2023. At the Hope College-WTS Theology Seminar, Holland, MI.
- "The Puritan Teaching Office: Overlooked Evidence on the Salem-Plymouth Relation." July 20, 2023. Heidelberg Center for American Studies.
- "Introducing American Church History." June 22, 2023. Guest lecture at the Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen, Germany, in the course "Kirchen- und Theologiegeschichte II: Reformation und Neuzeit," taught by Jonathan Reinert.
- "Mainstream Protestants and New Revelations in 19th-Century America." May 27, 2023. At the "'By the Mouth of His Holy Prophets': Sacred Discourse in Nineteenth-Century America" conference at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg, Germany.
- "On Being Reformed: The Theological Vision of I. John Hesselink," Inaugural Founders' Day Lecture. Western Theological Seminary. April 21, 2022.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNCBkB0f3yc>
- "The Blundering Reports of Careless or Obtuse Men': German Theology and American Universalism. January 4, 2020. At the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, in New York, NY.
- "Confessional Kin: An Introduction." November 8, 2019. At the Hope College-WTS Theology Seminar, Holland, MI.
- "Schleiermacher, Sabellius, and Inter-Trinitarian Equality." August 2019. At the Oxford Patristics Conference, Oxford, England.
- "The Canons of Dort in America." April 5, 2019. At the "Prodigal Love of God" conference sponsored by Dort College, Sioux Center, IA.
- "Translating Prussian Schools: The Cousin Report in France, England, and America." May 24-26, 2018. At the "Transatlantic Histories of Schooling and Education -- Travelling Knowledge, Concepts, and Materials" conference sponsored by the Center for German-

- American Educational History at the University of Münster, Germany.
- “‘The Blundering Reports of Careless or Obtuse Men’: August Tholuck and American Universalism.” November 10, 2017. At the Hope College-WTS Theology Seminar, Holland, MI.
- “Schools in Nineteenth-Century America: A Reformed History.” February 9, 2016. A public lecture at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI.
- “The Prussian Road to Common Schools? German Influences in Ohio.” April 25, 2015. At “Humanities and Divinity: Reckoning with Intellectual and Religious History,” a conference in honor of James Turner, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.
- “‘Let Our Popular Schools Then Be Christian’: Religion and Transatlantic Educational Reform in the 1830s.” January 2-5, 2015. At the Annual meeting of the American Society of Church History, in New York, NY.
- “The Common School Awakening in America, 1800-1848.” November 4, 2014. At the history department colloquium of Hope College, Holland, MI.
- Histories of Education Summer School Conference for Postgraduate Students. June 12-15, 2014. At Umeå University, Sweden. Sponsored by the European Educational Research Association.
- “An Introduction to: *The Common School Awakening*.” February 6, 2014. Invited talk at the doctoral colloquium for the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.
- “The Common School Awakening in Virginia.” May 15, 2013. Invited talk at the Virginia Historical Society, in conjunction with my research fellowship there.
- “The Common School Awakening.” December 17, 2012. Invited talk at the Boston Athenaeum, in conjunction with my research fellowship there.
- “Translating Prussian Schools: The Cousin Report in France, England, and America.” October 5-6, 2012. At the annual meeting of the Organization of Educational Historians, in Chicago, IL.
- “An American *Sonderzeit*? Reconsidering Rodgers in Light of Antebellum Atlantic Crossings.” September 16, 2011. At the *New Directions in Transatlantic Social Politics* workshop, sponsored by the Centre for Democratic Culture at the University of Sheffield.
- “Germans, Blacks, Catholic Missions and the Soul of American Segregation.” April 9, 2011. At the *Christianity and Migrations* conference, the Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, in Grand Rapids, MI.
- “From Colenso to Minns: Missionary Bishops, the Lambeth Conference, and the Global Anglican Communion.” March 24, 2011. At the *Saving the World? The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions* conference, sponsored by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, at Duke University.
- “Germans, Blacks, and Nineteenth Century Catholic Missions.” October 22, 2010. At the 3rd Annual History Graduate Student Conference at Northern Illinois University.
- “From Colenso to Minns: Missionary Bishops, the Lambeth Conference, and the Global Anglican Communion.” September 17, 2010. At the *Saving the World? The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions* mini-conference, sponsored by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals, at New York Theological Seminary.
- “The Controversy of the Present Time: Cotton Mather and Arianism.” October 25, 2008. At the *Cotton Mather’s Biblia Americana, the Early Enlightenment and the Rise of Pietism in America: Historical and Intellectual Contexts in Transatlantic Perspective* conference in Tübingen, Germany.

“Deconstructing Fundamentalism: Reconsidering the Canonical Texts.” March 28, 2008. At the *American Academy of Religion* Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting in New Brunswick, NJ.
“An Episcopal Presence in a Presbyterian Town: A History of Episcopalians in Princeton.” June 16, 2007. At the *Legacies and Promise: 400 Years of Episcopal History* conference in Williamsburg, VA.

HONORS AND AWARDS

International Awards

Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship. Heidelberg University, Germany. 2022-2023.
Fulbright Fellowship. Heidelberg University, Germany. 2013-2014.
DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Study Scholarship. Tübingen University, Germany. October 2008-July 2009.

National Awards

Mellon Research Fellowship at the Virginia Historical Society. 2013.
American Congregational Association-Boston Athenæum Fellowship. 2012-2013.
Graduate Student Fellowship. Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute. Theme: “Class, Church, Community – The Historical Origins of Current European Social Policy.” At the Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota. June 10-22, 2012.
Research Grant. Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals. For my paper presented at the *Saving the World? The Changing Terrain of American Protestant Missions* conference. 2009-2010.

University Awards

Graduate Student Research Award. Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. University of Notre Dame. Spring 2014.
The Kate Murphy McMahon Grant for Russian and East-Central European Studies. Nanovic Institute for European Studies. University of Notre Dame. Spring 2013.
Kellogg Institute Professionalization Grant. Kellogg Institute for International Studies. University of Notre Dame. Fall 2012.
DeSantis Prize for Best Unpublished Graduate Paper in History. University of Notre Dame. 2012.
American Dream Grant. Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. University of Notre Dame. Summer 2012.
Notebaert Professional Development Award. The Graduate School of the University of Notre Dame. Summer 2012.
Striving for Excellence in College and University Teaching Certificate. Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning. University of Notre Dame. Spring 2012.
Graduate Student Professional Development Award. Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. University of Notre Dame. Fall 2011.
Conference Travel Support Fund. Kellogg Institute for International Studies. University of Notre Dame. Fall 2011.

Language Grant. Intensive Foreign Language Training Program. University of Notre Dame Graduate School. Fully funded six weeks of French study in Paris at the *Alliance Française*. Summer 2011.

Senior Fellowship in History. Princeton Theological Seminary. Awarded to the author of the best master's thesis in history: "Masculinity in the Mainline: A Cultural History of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew," supervised by Dr. James Moorhead. May 2008.

Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society), lifetime membership bestowed 2004.

Presidential Scholarship. Wheaton College. 2000-2004.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

State of the Field. Fall 2023, 2024 (In residence).

RCA Standards and Polity. Fall 2023 (Distance learning).

Church History 2. Spring 2024, 2025 (In residence and distance learning). Spring 2026 (In residence).

American Evangelicalism. Fall 2024 (In residence), Fall 2025 (Synchronous).

Instructor, Hope-Western Prison Education Program, Muskegon Correctional Facility.

Advanced Studies in Religion: Research Seminary. Fall 2024 (In residence).

Associate Professor, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

Church History 1. Fall 2020 (In residence, co-taught).

Church History 2. Spring 2021, Spring 2022 (In residence, Distance learning).

Church Governance and Denominational Standards. Fall 2020 (In residence); Spring 2021 (Distance learning); Fall 2021 (Distance learning).

Independent Study: Barmen, Belhar, & Chicago: Catalyzing the Theopolitical Imagination. Summer 2020.

Independent Study: Theological History of Christian White Nationalism in America. Spring 2021.

Independent Study: Theological German I and II. Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

Independent Study: Christianity in China. Spring 2022.

Assistant Professor, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

Church History 1. Fall 2016, 2017, 2019 (Distance learning); Fall 2017, 2018, 2019 (In residence).

Church History 2. Spring 2017 (In residence); Spring 2018, 2020 (Distance learning).

MA Summative Examination. Spring 2017, 2020 (Distance learning).

Credo. Spring 2020 (Distance learning).

Theological German I and II. Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

ThM Orientation Seminar. Fall 2016.

American Evangelicalism. Spring 2018.

Independent Study: The Emergence of the White Christian Woman in 20th Century America. Fall 2019.

Independent Study: The Reformed Tradition in America. Fall 2019.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.
Church and State in America. Fall 2015.
Christianity in China. J-term 2016 (Distance learning).
American Evangelicalism. Spring 2016.
Church History 2. Spring 2016 (Both in-residence and distance-learning).

Instructor, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.
Church History 2. Spring 2015.

Instructor, Hope College, Holland, Michigan.
U.S. History to 1877. Fall 2014.
Modern European History. Fall 2014.

Instructor, Heidelberg University, Germany.
The Beechers: Revival, Reform, and Literature in 19th Century America. Summer 2014.

Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.
World History of 20th Century Christianity. Professor Mark Noll. Spring 2012.
U.S. History to 1877. Professor Patrick Griffin. Fall 2011.
Modern America. Dean John McGreevy. Spring 2011.
Church vs. State: The Impact of Religion on Politics in Modern Europe. Professor Lauren Faulkner. Fall 2010.

English Teacher, Yantai University, Yantai, China.
Introduction to English-language Newspapers (for juniors). Fall 2004.
Oral English III (for sophomores; two sections). Fall 2004.
Writing (for seniors). Fall 2004.
Business English I (for business school students). Fall 2004.
Oral English IV (for sophomores; two sections). Spring 2004.
English-language Film II (for juniors). Spring 2004.
Introduction to Western Culture (for sophomores). Spring 2004.
Business English II (for business school students). Spring 2004.

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Book Review Editor, *Fides et Historia*. January 2022-present.
Peer Reviewer, *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (2020), *Journal of Religious History* (2021), *Scottish Journal of Theology* (2023).
Associate Academic Dean at Western Theological Seminary (summer 2025-present).
Interim Associate Academic Dean at Western Theological Seminary (fall 2018, fall 2021).
Director of the ThM program at Western Theological Seminary (July 2023-present).
Finance Committee, American Society of Church History. 2022-present. Chair, 2023-present.
Coordinator for Strategic International Initiatives at Western Theological Seminary (July 2023-June 2025).
Interim Director of the ThM program at Western Theological Seminary (2016-2017, spring 2022).

Director of the Graduate Program in Christian Education at Western Theological Seminary (2017-2019).

Membership Committee, American Society of Church History. 2013-2017.

Committees at Western Theological Seminary: ThM Committee (2015-2017, 2020-2022, 2023-2026); chair 2016-2017, spring 2022, 2023-2026), Program Cabinet (2016-2019, 2021-2022, 2023-2026), Handbook Committee (chair, 2024-2025), Diversity Committee (2016-2020, chair 2019-2020), MA/MDiv Committee (2023-2026, chair 2025-2026); MA Committee (2015-2016, chair fall 2018); Admissions Committee (Spring 2016, 2017-2018), MDiv Committee (fall 2018, chair fall 2018), M.Div./MA Committee (2020-2022, chair fall 2021), Graduate Certificate Program in Pastoral Ministry (fall 2018, 2019-2021), Graduate Certificate for Christian Educators (chair 2018-2019), Administrative Cabinet (fall 2018), Vision 2020 Impact Study Team (Winter 2019-2020)

Participant, “Duke Innovation Grant: Leading Change around Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Two Theological Schools,” Spring 2016-Fall 2017.

Coordinator, Colloquium on Religion and History, University of Notre Dame. Academic Years 2010-2013.

Executive Editor, *Princeton Theological Review*. Academic Year 2007-2008.

Student Representative, Library Departmental Committee, Princeton Theological Seminary. Academic Year 2007-2008.

Member, Theological Students Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary. 2006-2008.

Associate Editor, *Princeton Theological Review*. Academic Year 2006-2007.

LANGUAGES (proficiency level based on ACTFL guidelines)

German (superior listening, speaking, reading, and writing)

French (advanced listening, speaking, reading, and writing)

Koine Greek (intermediate reading)

Hebrew (novice reading)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. Ordained December 2017.

Member, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. Spring 2015 to the present.

Reformed Church in America Pastoral Formation Oversight Board. July 1, 2024 to the present.

“American Evangelicalism.” Adult Education Class. Third Christian Reformed Church, Kalamazoo, MI. November 9, 2025.

“The Heidelberg Catechism.” Adult Education Class. Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI. September 22 and 29.

“The Theology of I. John Hesselink.” Adult Education Class. Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI. October 22, 2023.

Reformed Church in America Commission on Theology. July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022.

Secondary author on the following papers:

The Nature of Office and Assembly (2018)

Of Catechisms and Teaching Tools: The Response of the Commission on Theology to the “Great Lakes Catechism on Marriage and Sexuality” (2019)

Blesst Be the Tie that Binds (2022)

Commission on Theology Corresponding Delegate to General Synod. October 2021.

Interviewed by Religion News Service regarding RCA Restructuring. June 2024.

Interviewed by popular news outlets regarding Vision 2020 (Religion News Service; Fox News Grand Rapids). October and November 2021.

Pulpit Supply, Second Reformed Church of Kalamazoo. July 21, 2024; March 29, 2026.

Occasional Pulpit Supply, Freedom Village, Holland, MI.

“The Church and Education.” Adult Education Class. Thornapple Community Church, Grand Rapids, MI. February 13, 20, 28, 2022.

“Introducing Reformed Theology.” November 9, 2021. Presentation to the Ratio Christi Chapter at the University of Kentucky (via Zoom).

“Being Reformed and Being Formed by Sacraments at Pillar.” Presentation to incoming consistory members of Pillar Church, Holland, MI. February 28, 2021; March 27, 2022; March 5, 2023; March 24, 2024; April 19, 2026.

“Human Sexuality and the RCA: A History.” Evening presentation to the consistory of Pillar Church, Holland, MI. March 16, 2020.

Co-leader, Young Children and Worship, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. Fall 2019, Fall 2023.

Parent Advisory Committee, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. Fall 2017-Summer 2018.

Member of Search Committees for a Children’s Ministries Director, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. Summer 2017, Fall 2018.

Adult Education Class (“Christ in the City”), Pillar Church, Holland, MI. June 29, 2016. Co-led with Steven McMullen and Olivia Husbands.

“Christianity in China.” Adult Education Class, Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI. February 14 and 21, 2016.

“The Church and Education.” Adult Education Class, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. April 12, 19, and 26, 2015.

“Global Anglicanism.” Adult Education Class, Pillar Church, Holland, MI. January 11, 2015.

Member, South Bend Christian Reformed Church. Spring 2010 to Spring 2015.

Deacon, South Bend Christian Reformed Church, South Bend, IN. January 2012-December 2013.

Middle-School Sunday School Teacher, South Bend Christian Reformed Church, South Bend, IN. Spring 2011.

Active Participant, Internationale Christliche Gemeinde (International Christian Church), Tübingen, Germany. August 2008-July 2009.

Assistant Youth Group Leader, St. George’s Church, Helmetta, NJ. Academic Year 2007-2008.

Seminary Intern, Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, PA. Summer 2007.

Seminary Intern, St. George’s Church, Helmetta, NJ. Academic Year 2006-2007.

Hosted a weekly theology study group for interested students of Yantai University. Fall and winter 2004.

Volunteer English Teacher, Chi-Shan Three-Self Church of Yantai, China. Fall 2004 to Summer 2005.

Staff, Shelter City Youth Hostel, Amsterdam, Holland. Summer 2003.

Camp Counselor, Deerfoot Lodge, Speculator, NY. Summer 2000, 2002.

Counselor-in-training (Guide), Deerfoot Lodge, Speculator, NY. Summer 1999.

REFERENCES

Available upon request