

Suzanne McDonald – CV

Dr. Suzanne McDonald
Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI

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Academic Record:

PhD, University of St Andrews, 2006. Title: *Re-Imaging Election: The Holy Spirit and the Dynamic of Election to Representation*.

MA (Theology), University of Cambridge, 2002. (Fitzwilliam College Gibson Prize, College Prize and Reddaway Scholarship, 2001)

M.Phil (English Studies) Oxford University, 1996 (Commonwealth Scholarship).

BA (Hons) (English Literature and French) University of Western Australia, 1993

Faculty positions:

Western Theological Seminary, 2014 – present. Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology.

Calvin College (University), 2007 – 2014. Associate Professor of Theology.

Westminster College, Cambridge, 2006 – 2007. Lecturer in Systematic and Historical Theology.

Teaching at Western Theological Seminary:

2014 – present

TH310 - Systematic Theology 1
TH490 - Credo
TH505 - Creation Calling: Thinking Wisely, Acting Well
TH518 - Eschatology: Christian Hope and the Last Things
MN582 - Ministry, Aging, and Dementia

Young Life Staff Systematic Theology intensive course (January 2019-January 2024)
D. Min: Theology for Mission intensive course (Londrina, Brazil, August 2018)

Publications:

Books:

Love Bade Me Welcome: Drawing Nearer to God with the Poems of George Herbert (Cascade Books, 2026)

Generously Reformed: Rooted Deep, Reaching Wide (Baker Academic, 2026). Co-author with Todd Billings and Alberto LaRosa Rojas; primary author of chapters 3, 4 & 7.

John Knox for Armchair Theologians (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)

Re-Imaging Election: Divine Election as Representing God to Others and Others to God (Eerdmans, 2010)

Articles/Essays:

'From Jacobean "nonconformity" to Restoration Nonconformity: Three Rectors, One Parish, and English Church Turmoil in a Nutshell,' *The Seventeenth Century* 41:2 (2026), 145-62.

'*Meditations and Discourses on the Glory of Christ*' in Crawford Gribben and John Tweeddale, eds., *T&T Clark Handbook of John Owen* (T&T Clark, 2022)

'John Owen's Discourse on the Holy Spirit' in Michael Allen & Scott Swain, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Reformed Theology* (OUP, 2020)

'Waiting with Eager Longing: The Inseparability of Human Flourishing from the Flourishing of All Creation' in Greg Forster and Anthony R. Cross, eds., *Human Flourishing: Economic Wisdom for a Fruitful Vision of the Good Life* (Cascade, 2020)

'The Canons of Dordt for the Church Today: Polemics, Pastoring, and Pulling Up TULIPs,' *Calvin Theological Journal* 52:2 (2019), 407-420.

'The Electing God' in Kent Eilers & Kyle Strobel, eds., *Sanctified By Grace: A Theology of the Christian Life* (T&T Clark, 2014).

'Beholding the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ: John Owen and the "reforming" of the beatific vision,' in Mark Jones & Kelly M. Kapic, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to John Owen's Theology* (Ashgate, 2012).

'Calvin's Theology of Election and its Reception: Modern Reception and Contemporary Possibilities,' in J. Todd Billings and I. John Hesselink, eds., *Calvin's Theology and Its Reception: Disputes, Developments and New Possibilities* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

'Evangelical questioning of election in Barth: a pneumatological perspective from the Reformed heritage,' in Clifford Anderson and Bruce McCormack, eds., *Karl Barth and American Evangelicalism* (Eerdmans, 2011).

'The Pneumatology of the "Lost" Image in John Owen,' *Westminster Theological Journal* 71:2 (2009), 323-35.

Barth's "other" doctrine of election in the *Church Dogmatics*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 9:2 (2007), 134-147.

Sample popular publications:

2024 *Reformed Journal*, 'Co-opting the Confessions,' September 2024 - <https://blog.reformedjournal.com/2024/09/24/co-opting-the-confessions/>

Kirk in the Hills Lenten devotional series, Holy Saturday, March 2024 - <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Lenten-Devotional---March-30.html?soid=1120428141625&aid=wAY28rKTiY4>

Reformed Journal, Review of Eugene Heidemann, *The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice and Persistence* - February 2024 - <https://reformedjournal.com/the-canons-of-dort-gods-freedom-justice-and-persistence/>

2022 *Credo Magazine*, 'Beholding the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ: John Owen's Christological Account of the Beatific Vision' (*Credo Magazine*, Volume 12, Issue 3, 2022). <https://credomag.com/article/beholding-the-glory-of-god-in-the-face-of-jesus-christ/>

2021 *Primer* (a journal for pastors in the UK), 'Contemplating Jesus in John Owen's *Meditations and Discourses on the Glory of Christ*' (*Primer*, Issue 12: Understanding and Celebrating the Person of Christ).

2019 *The Banner* feature article, 'Pulling up TULIPs', October 2019. <https://www.thebanner.org/columns/2019/10/pulling-up-tulips>

2018 *The Banner* feature article, 'Commemorating the Canons' (December 2018) <https://www.thebanner.org/columns/2018/12/commemorating-the-canons>

Psychology for Living feature article, 'Dealing Faithfully With Dementia'

2017 Do Justice (a Christian Reformed Church blog), 'The Canons of Dort. No Line Between Deserving and Undeserving' <http://dojustice.crcna.org/article/canons-dort-no-line-between-deserving-and-undeserving>

Academic Papers/Presentations/Service:

2025 United Reformed Church (UK) History Society Seminar: 'Three Ministers, One Parish, and Seventeenth-Century Church Turmoil in a Nutshell,' September 2025.

2023 Keynote speaker: Theology Matters Conference: 'Spirituality Old and New: Testing the Spirits Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow, Hilton Head Island SC, March 2023 ('John Owen on the Beatific Vision: Historic Reformed "Spirituality" in Action')

2022 Panel Chair: 'The Eloquence of Figures' (George Herbert Society Conference, Cambridge, UK, June 2022)

2021 External Reviewer for Dr Kenneth Woo's promotion and tenure, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

PhD examiner (Aaron Prelock, 'The Pastoral Disposition in the Theology of John Owen', VID University, Stavanger, Norway).

2019 Keynote speaker: Oikonomia Network Theology Colloquium on Being Human in a Broken World, Dallas, TX, January 2019 ('Waiting with eager longing: the inseparability of human flourishing from the flourishing of all creation')

Keynote speaker: The Prodigal Love of God: Re-encountering Dort at 400 and Beyond Conference (Dordt College, April 2019)

- 2018** Keynote speaker: Synod of Dort Commemorative Conference, Calvin Theological Seminary, September 2018 ('The Canons of Dort for the Church Today: Polemics, Pastoring, and Pulling up TULIPs')
- 2017** Christian Educators Association Conference speaker, October 2017 ('Being Roman Catholic Before the Reformation: What Art and a Will Can Teach Us')
- 2016** Keynote speaker: Reformed Institute of Washington DC Annual Convocation, March 2016

Reformation Day lecturer (3 lecture series), Covenant College, October 2016
- 2015** Session chair, Calvin Studies Society Conference
Invited participant: symposium honoring Richard Muller
Fall Colloquium Speaker for the Reformed Institute of Washington DC ('John Knox: Then & Now')
- 2014 - 2025** IVP Academic Studies in Christian Doctrine Advisory Board.
- 2010-2016** Steering Committee, Reformed Theology and History Group, American Academy of Religion

Church service:

An average of 22 adult education classes for churches per year.

Major Church Events:

- 2026** Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, VA, Reformation Sunday lecturer and preacher.
- 2025 & 2026** Keynote speaker: Ashton Parish History Festival, Ashton-under-Lyne, UK.
- 2024** Keynote speaker, Scottish United Reformed Church Synod, Dementia Study Day, November 2024.
- 2023** Kyes Lecturer, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomington Hills, MI
- 2022** Teacher in Residence, Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids MI
- 2018** Keynote speaker: Clergy Day Conference, Wyckhoff, NJ, October 2018 ('Dealing Faithfully With Dementia')

Most frequently requested adult education classes:

Dealing Faithfully With Dementia (2 part series for churches / clergy)
 In the End, What...? Thinking Well About Eschatology (2-4 part series for churches)
 Drawing Nearer to God with the Poems of George Herbert
 Creation Care: Why Should Christians Care?
 Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

Rediscovering the Reformation (1 or 2 part series)
Re-Presenting Election
Who's Afraid of the Canons of Dordt? (1 or 2 lectures on the doctrine of election and the Canons of Dordt)
Holy Saturday: Insights from a Neglected Day in Holy Week
John Knox: Then and Now (for churches and historical societies)

Summary of WTS Service:

In addition to other committee appointments:

2015-18; 2020-23, 2025-26	Theology Field Chair, Western Theological Seminary
2015 - 2025	Six search committees
2016 - present	ThM Advisor to 5 students
2022-2023	ATS Self-Study Steering Committee
2020-2023; 2024-2026	Abbey Group leader
2018	Brazilian D Min Cohort Summer Course: The Mission and Theology of Church Multiplication - co-taught with Chuck Van Engen
2016-2019	Examiner for 3 D. Min theses.
2015-2017	Louisville Institute Early Career Mentor to Dr Han-luen Kantzer-Komline

Other forms of service include leading worship in Chapel; speaking at e.g. Abbey Retreats, orientation, and other WTS events; hosting / chairing sessions for e.g. the Osterhaven lectures, Pastor-Theologian Lunches etc.