S. Mark Heim

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**EDUCATION**

Boston College-Andover Newton Joint Doctoral Program

Ph.D. in Systematic Theology

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA

M.Div.

Amherst College

B.A. in American Studies, summa cum laude

**AWARDS**

Frederick J. Streng Award Best Book in Buddhist-Christian Studies 2019

Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology 2009-2010

Association of Theological Bookseller’s *Theologos* Award for Best Academic Book of 2001

Evangelical Scholar’s Research Fellowship 1997-98

Quality and Excellence in Teaching Award, Center for Theology and Natural Sciences

Association of Theological Schools Award for Theological Scholarship and Research

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship 1972

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE/Employment**

Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School

 Samuel Abbot Professor of Christian Theology

 Secondary Appointment, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University

Andover Newton Theological School

 Samuel Abbot Professor of Christian Theology

 Professor of Christian Theology

 Associate Professor of Christian Theology

 Assistant Professor of Christian Theology

Visiting Professor, United Theological College, Bangalore, India

Pastor, The Baptist Church, Franklin, NH

**PUBLICATIONS**

Books

[under contract] HOW THE HEALING HAPPENS: THEOLOGY AND MEDICINE IN CONVERSATION with Benjamin Doolittle (London: Bloomsbury Academic, expected 2025)

MONOTHEISM AND FORGIVENESS (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022) *Elements* Monotheism Series, Chad Meister and Paul K. Moser eds.

CRUCIFIED WISDOM: CHRIST AND THE BODHISATTVA IN THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION (New York: Fordham University Press, 2019)

SAVED FROM SACRIFICE: A THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006)

THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES: A TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS ENDS (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001)

SALVATIONS: TRUTH AND DIFFERENCE IN RELIGION (Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995)

IS CHRIST THE ONLY WAY? (Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1985)

Edited Books

GROUNDS FOR UNDERSTANDING: ECUMENICAL RESOURCES FOR RESPONSES TO RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY, editor (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)

FAITH TO CREED: ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE AFFIRMATION OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH IN THE FOURTH CENTURY, editor (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991)

SPIRIT OF TRUTH: ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT, editor with Fr. Theodore Stylianopolos (Brookline: Holy Cross Press, 1986)

Selected Parts of Books or Special Issues

“Vicarious Voyage: What Difference Does Comparative Theology Make for Theology?” in Axel M. Oaks Takacs and Joseph L. Kimmel eds., THE WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANION TO COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY: A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOR OF FRANCIS X. CLOONEY, SJ (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2024).

“Religious Pluralism, Religious Freedom, and Christianity,” in Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan and Carla M. Zoethout eds., RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM (Leiden: Brill, 2023)

“Matchless on Their Way: Comparative Reflections on Christ and the Bodhisattva,” in Thomas Cattoi and Carol Anderson eds., ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK ON BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES (London and New York: Routledge, 2022)

“Religious Pluralism, Religious Freedom, and Christianity,” in Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan and Carla M. Zoethout eds., RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM (Leiden :Brill, 2022)

“How Empty is the Cross?: Realization and Novelty in Atonement,” in Catherine Cornille ed., ATONEMENT AND COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY: THE CROSS IN DIALOGUE WITH OTHER RELIGIONS (New York: Fordham University Press, 2021)

S. Mark Heim and Gary Strichartz,  Chapter 38 “Christian Beliefs and Practices about Pain, Suffering and Death,” Part Five, “Cancer Pain and Palliative Care,” in Edgar Ross ed., COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PAIN MEDICINE. Oakstone Publishing/CME*info*, 2020. An electronic continuing medical education course.

“More Window Than Wall: The Comparative Expansion of Confessional Theology,” in Jerry Martin ed., THEOLOGY WITHOUT WALLS: THE TRANSRELIGIOUS IMPERATIVE (London: Routledge, 2019)

“Barth’s Dreams: Religions as Scandal and Parable,” concluding chapter in Martha Moore-Keish and Christian Winn eds., KARL BARTH IN DIALOGUE WITH OTHER RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS: BARTH AND COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY (New York: Fordham University Press, 2019)

“Approaches to Atonement: How Girard Changes the Debate,” in James Alison and Wolfgang Palaver eds., HANDBOOK OF MIMETIC THEORY AND RELIGION (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2017)

“In What Way is Christ’s Death a Sacrifice?: Theories of Sacrifice and Theologies of the Cross,” in Carrie Murray ed., DIVERSITY OF SACRIFICE: FORM AND FUNCTION OF SACRIFICIAL PRACTICES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD AND BEYOND, The Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology Distinguished Monograph Series, (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2016)

“Where Ways Meet: Theological Reflections on Multiple Religious Participation,” in Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar and Joseph Prabakhar Dayam eds., MANY YET ONE?: MULTIPLE RELIGIOUS BELONGING---EXPLORING HYBRIDITY, EMBRACING HOSPITALITY (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2016)

“On Doing What Others Do: Intentions and Intuitions in Multiple Religious Practice,” in Marianne Moyaert ed., RITUAL PARTICIPATION AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: BOUNDARIES, TRANSGRESSIONS AND INNOVATIONS (London/New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015)

 “Wounded Communion: Prophetic Dialogue and Salvation in Trinitarian Perspective,” in Stephen Bevans and Cathy Ross eds., MISSION AS PROPHETIC DIALOGUE (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books and SCM Press, 2015)

“The Shifting Significance of Theologies of Religious Pluralism,” in Peter C. Phan and Jonathan S. Ray eds., UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS PLURALISM: PERSPECTIVES FROM RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEOLOGY (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2014) pp. 242-259.

“No Other Name: The Gospel and True Religions,” in Robert B. Stewart ed., CAN ONLY ONE RELIGION BE TRUE? (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013)

“The Aim of Communion and the End of Suffering: Christian Faith and the Dialogue of Human Need,” in Terrence Merrigan and Frederik Glorieux eds., “GODHEAD HERE IN HIDING:” INCARNATION AND THE HISTORY OF HUMAN SUFFERING (Leuven: Uitgeverij Peeters, 2012)

“Otherness and Wonder: A Christian Experiences *Moksha*,” in Jennifer Howe Peace, Or N. Rose and Gergory Mobley eds., MY NEIGHBOR’S FAITH: STORIES OF INTERRELIGIOUS ENCOUNTER, GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2012)

“Differential Pluralism and Trinitarian Theologies of Religion,” in Christopher Boesel ed., TRINITIES AND DIVERSITIES (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012)

“Interfaith Relations and the Dialogue of Human Need,” in Scott Paeth and Deidre Hainsworth eds., PUBLIC THEOLOGY FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF MAX STACKHOUSE (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010)

“Baptism and Christian Initiation in Ecclesiological Perspective,” in Thomas Best and Tamara Grdzelidze eds., BEM AT 25: CRITICAL INSIGHTS INTO A CONTINUING LEGACY (Geneva: WCC, 2007)

“Witness to Difference: Mission and the Religions in Post-Pluralist Perspective,” in Max Stackhouse and Lalsangkima Pachuau eds., NEWS OF BOUNDLESS RICHES: INTERROGATING, COMPARING AND RECONSTRUCTING MISSION IN A GLOBAL ERA, Volume One (Delhi: ISPCK/UTC/CTI, 2007)

“The Trinity and Buddhism: A Perspective on Christian Mission and Buddhist Mission,” in Max Stackhouse and Lalsangkima Pachuau eds., NEWS OF BOUNDLESS RICHES: INTERROGATING, COMPARING AND RECONSTRUCTING MISSION IN A GLOBAL ERA, Volume One (Delhi: ISPCK/UTC/CTI, 2007)

“Saved by What Shouldn’t Happen: The Anti-Sacrificial Meaning of the Cross,” in Marit Trelstad ed., CROSS-EXAMINATION: INTERROGATING THE CROSS FOR ITS MEANING TODAY (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006)

“Faith in Particulars: Religious Experience and Multiple Religious Practice,” in Joseph George, ed., THE GOD OF ALL GRACE: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF ORIGEN VASANTHA JATHANNA (Bangalore: Asian Trading Company, 2005)

“Sharing Our Differences: Koinonia and the Theology of Religious Plurality,” Plenary Address from the World Conference on Faith and Order, in Thomas F. Best ed., FAITH AND ORDER AT THE CROSSROADS: Kuala Lumpur 2004. (Faith and Order Paper 196) Report of the Plenary meeting of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005).

“The Future of the Cross: Symbolic Engagement with the Atonement,” in Amos Yong and Peter Heltzel eds., THEOLOGY IN GLOBAL CONTEXT: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF ROBERT NEVILLE, (New York: T&T Clark, 2004).

“Belonging to the Laity: A Baptist Perspective,” in Stephen Pope ed., COMMON CALLING: THE LAITY AND THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH, (Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2004)

“A Cross-section of Sin: The Mimetic Character of Human Nature in Biological and Theological Perspective,” in Philip Clayton and Jeffrey Schloss eds., EVOLUTION AND ETHICS: HUMAN MORALITY IN BIOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004)

“The Depth of the Riches: Trinity and Religious Ends,” in Viggo Mortensen ed., CHRISTIANITY AND THE RELIGIONS: A DIALOGUE (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003)

“Revelation by Translation: Mission and Religious Pluralism,” in Israel Selvanayagam ed., MOVING FORMS OF THEOLOGY: FAITH TALK’S CHANGING CONTEXTS (Delhi:ISPCK, 2002)

“The Visible Victim: Christ’s Death to End Sacrifice,” Skye Fackre Gibson ed., STORY LINES: CHAPTERS ON THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED (Essays in Honor of Gabriel Fackre) (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)

Co-editor of special edition of the AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Massachusetts Baptist Missionary Society. AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, March, 2002 (XXI, 1)

“A Protestant Reflection on Ecumenism and Interfaith Issues in *Dominus Iesus*,” in Charles Hefling and Stephen Pope eds., SIC ET NON: ENCOUNTERING DOMINUS IESUS (New York: Crossroad, 2002)

“Renewing Ways of Life: The Shape of Theological Education,” in Rodney Petersen ed., THEOLOGICAL LITERACY FOR THE 21st CENTURY (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)

“Baptismal Recognition and the Baptist Churches” in Michael Root and Risto Saarinen eds., BAPTISM AND THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)

"The Pilgrim Christ: Some Reflections on Theocentric Christology and Inculturation," in Somen Das ed., CHRISTIAN FAITH AND MULTIFORM CULTURE IN INDIA (Bangalore: United Theological College, 1987).

Selected Articles

“Comparing Nothing: A Comparative Theological Response to Brian Robinette’s *The Difference Nothing Makes*,” SYNDICATE online symposium. March, 2023

“Cancer, Immortality, and Christology: The Theological Resonance of Henrietta Lacks,” with Benjamin Doolittle, CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS: A JOURNAL FOR THE THEOLOGY OF CULTURE 18, no 1. (2023). 5-21.

 “Their Cross Problem and Ours: Thoughts on the Aesthetic of Crucifixion.”INTERPRETATION76, no. 1 (January 2022): 27–38. https://doi.org/10.1177/00209643211051128*.*

"Jealous of Myself: Liberative Uses of the Self in Santideva's *Bodhicayravatāra*." BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES41 (2021): 177+.

“Paths to Wholeness: Comparative Theology and the Ecumenical Project,” JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES 55 (2), 2020

*“*Comparative Theology at Twenty-Five: The End of the Beginning,” MODERN THEOLOGY 35 (1), 2019, pp. 163-180.

*“*Response to Grant Kaplan’s book RENÉ GIRARD: UNLIKELY APOLOGIST, in the online symposium SYNDICATE, July 11-25, 2018 https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/rene-girard-unlikely-apologist/

Response to Joseph O’Leary’s book . BUDDHIST NONDUALITY, PASCHAL PARADOX: A CHRISTIAN COMMENTARY ON *THE TEACHING OF VIMALAKIRTI,* part of a symposium in *HORIZONS: JOURNAL OF THE COLLEGE THEOLOGY SOCIETY* 44 (2), December, 2017. 429-434.

“The Scriptural Basis for Interfaith Relations,” in REVIEW AND EXPOSITOR (February 2017), Special Issue “Interfaith Relations and the Christian Disciple: Living With Others in the Way of Jesus,” pp. 63-70.

“Diverse Religious Experiences and First Order Religious Beliefs: A Response to Branden Thornhill-Miller, Peter Millican and Janusz Salamon,” in EUROPEAN JOURNAL FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, 8 (3), 2016, pp. 237-255.

“In Two Minds About a Theology Without Walls,” *JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES, 51 (4),* Special issue on Theology Without Walls project*, 2016, PP. 479-486.*

“The End of Scapegoating: Violence and the Pattern of the Gospel,” CHRISTIAN REFLECTION (April, 2016) “Patterns of Violence” issue.

“Saved by Islam? Michel Houellebecq’s Francophobia,” CHRISTIAN CENTURY (October 28, 2015), pp. 33-36.

“Religion in the Perspective of ‘Big History’,” (review article on Robert Bellah, RELIGION IN HUMAN EVOLUTION: FROM THE PALEOLITHIC TO THE AXIAL AGE), in HARVARD THEOLOGICAL REVIEW 107:1, January, 2014 , pp. 114-126.

“The Next Thing to Dialogue,” with Edith Howe, JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES 43 (2), 2008, pp. 47-60.

“Christianity and Islam: Two Kinds of Difference,” REVIEW AND EXPOSITOR 105 (1), 2008, pp. 27-38.

“Missing the Cross: Types of the Passion in Early Christian Art,” CONTAGION 12-13, 2006, PP. 183-194.

“Witness to Communion: A Trinitarian Perspective on Mission and Religious Pluralism,” MISSIOLOGY, XXXIII (April, 2005), pp. 192-199.

“Salvation as Communion,” THEOLOGY TODAY, 61 (2004), pp. 322-333.

“Many True Religions, And Each An Only Way: The Diversity of Religious Ends,” ARS DISPUTANDI, The Online Journal of Philosophy and Religion. [http://www.ArsDisputandi.org] 3 (2003).

“The Depth of the Riches: Trinity and Religious Ends,” MODERN THEOLOGY (17) 2001, pp. 21-55.

“Saving the Particulars: Religious Experience and Religious Ends,” RELIGIOUS STUDIES, 36 (2000), pp.. 435-453.

“Dialogue and Community: Teaching the Bible and Christian Classics in Relation to Western Tradition,” JOURNAL OF THE HUMANITIES, EAST/WEST, 18 (December 1998) pp. 19-44.

“Old Paths, New Pilgrims: Spirituality and Interreligious Dialogue,” AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY 16 (1997), pp. 28-36.

"Orientational Pluralism in Religion," FAITH AND PHILOSOPHY Volume 13 Number 2 (April 1997), p. 201-215.

"Improving Our Gifts: Ordination in Baptist Perspective," AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, September, 1995

"Salvations: A More Pluralistic Hypothesis," MODERN THEOLOGY, (10) 1994, pp. 341-360

"Pluralism and the Otherness of World Religions," FIRST THINGS, August/September, 1992, pp. 29-35.

"The Pluralistic Hypothesis, Realism and Post-Eschatology," RELIGIOUS STUDIES, (28) 1992, pp. 207-219.

"Mapping Globalization For Theological Education," THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION XXVI, Supplement 1 (Spring, 1990), pp. 7-34.

"Choosing Roots: The Contexts for Christian Theology in India," THIS WORLD, 21 (1988), pp. 88-101.

"Thinking About Theocentric Christology," JOURNAL OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES, 24 (1), 1987, pp. 1-16. With responses following from John Cobb, Carl Braaten, Elouise Fraser, Kosuke Koyama, Thomas Dean and Paul Knitter. Reprinted in Melville Y. Stewart ed., PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY VIEWS (Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 1996) pp. 713-726. Editions in Chinese (edited by Zang Zhi-Gang, Don Alexander and Melville Stewart) and Russian (edited by Yuri Kimilev and Melville Stewart). Also reprinted in William R. Barr ed., CONSTRUCTIVE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997) pp. 302-317.

"The Meaning of Doctrine and the Development of Asian Theology," BANGALORE THEOLOGICAL FORUM, Volume 19 #1, January-April, 1987, pp. 14-32.

AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, editor of special edition on BAPTISM, EUCHARIST AND MINISTRY, 1987

"Challenged to Confess: Can Baptists Cope with Ecumenical Progress?" AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, 4 (1986), pp. 327-339.

"Modes and Levels of Confession: A Protestant Perspective on `Basic Differences'," MID-STREAM, 25 (1986), pp. 287-298. Reprinted in Charles L. Holland Jr. ed., CHRISTIANITY FOR TOMORROW (np: Biblical Studies Association, 1991), pp. 87-100.

"The Sermon on the Mount: Ethic and Ethos," BANGALORE THEOLOGICAL FORUM, Volume 17 #1, January-March 1985, pp. 65-82.

"Prodigal Sons: D.C. Macintosh and the Brothers Niebuhr," JOURNAL OF RELIGION, 65 (1985), pp. 336-358.

"The Path of a Liberal Pilgrim: A Theological Biography of D.C. Macintosh," Part One, AMERICAN BAPTIST QUARTERLY, 2 (1983), pp. 236-255; Part Two, 4 (1985), pp. 300-320.

"Recruiting the Radical Middle," THEOLOGY TODAY, 39 (1983), pp. 412-417.

"The Powers of God: Calvin and Late Medieval Thought," ANDOVER NEWTON QUARTERLY, 19 (1979), pp. 156-166. Reprinted in Richard C. Gamble ed., ARTICLES ON CALVIN AND CALVINISM, (New York: Garland Publishing, 1991).

"American Baptist--Roman Catholic Dialog: A Prospective Review," FOUNDATIONS, 21 (1978), pp.50-70.

Other Articles and Book Reviews

 Entries in works such as CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY OF CHRISTIANITY, CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY, HANDBOOK OF RELIGION, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHRISTIANITY, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES;

 numerous short articles and book reviews in CHRISTIAN CENTURY (for example, “Malaysian Model: A Different Kind of Islamic State,” CHRISTIAN CENTURY (October 5, 2004), pp. 30-33 and “The Next Ecumenical Movement,” CHRISTIAN CENTURY (113) 1996, pp. 780-783).

 numerous book reviews in MODERN THEOLOGY, JOURNAL OF RELIGION, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION, INTERPRETATION, CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR'S REVIEW, RELIGIOUS STUDIES REVIEW, PRO ECCLESIA, FIRST THINGS, INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF MISSIONARY RESEARCH, THEOLOGY TODAY, HARVARD THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

**RELATED EXPERIENCE**

American Academy for the Advancement of Science “Science in the Seminaries” Grant, Bethany Theological Seminary

**Consultant**  2018-2019

Consultant and academic advisor in implementation of this grant

Follow up grant, American Academy for the Advancement of Science “Science in the Seminaries”

**Co-investigator**  2016-2017

Developed and co-led development of new continuing education program to share science with religious leaders through a non-degree cohort in the new YDS course “Theology and Medicine”

‘American Academy for the Advancement of Science “Science in the Seminaries” Grant

Primary Investigator 2015- – 2016

Developed and served as co-administrator for this grant at Andover Newton, one of ten awarded schools in North America

World Council of Churches, Unit on Interfaith Dialogue

Consultant and writer 1990- – 2014

Served as member of small international theological groups that drafted several statements on interfaith relations, including the Bossey statement (1990), the statement adopted by the WCC world assembly at Busan, Korea (2013) and most recently the document on Christian self-understanding in light of religious pluralism, adopted by the Central Committee of the WCC (2015)

Comparative Theology Study Group, American Academy of Religion

**Co-Chair of Steering Committee** 2011-2013

Led program planning, reviewed paper submissions, moderated presentation sessions

American Academy of Religion Summer Seminars on Comparative Theology and Theologies of Religious Pluralism

Member of Core Teaching Faculty 2009- – 2013

Leadership in a Luce Foundation funded summer program run by the American Academy of Religion for college, university and seminary faculty members to develop competency in these areas in addition to their existing academic specialties. Served on planning team and then as one of the original five core faculty throughout the program.

Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey

Invited Member of Consultation on Mission 2002 – 2004

One of four North American scholars in cycle of conferences at Princeton and in India

Pilot course on world religions

**Developer and teacher** January, 2002

Conceived and led a two week pilot course on world religions for seminary students, sponsored by the Auburn Seminary Foundation at Union Theological Seminary, funded by Lilly Endowment

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Grant and event organizer**  2001

Andover Newton Theological School and Hebrew College organized a two day conference “Honoring Faith, Respecting Each Other: Jewish and Christian Educational Tasks After the Holocaust”

Summer seminar on “Altruism, Purpose and Biology” at Calvin College

**Selected member** 2001--2002

Intensive month-long seminar led by Phillip Clayton and Jeffrey Schloss on morality and evolutionary biology

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Grant and event organizer** 1997

Received grant through Andover Newton Theological School to organize a two day conference “No Cause to Boast: Representations of Judaism Before and After the Holocaust”

The Wabash Center Consultation on Teaching World Religions

**Member** 1997--1999

Selected to take part in three year consultation led by Dr. Frank Clooney and Dr. Judith Berling on teaching world religions in theological schools

The Plenitude Group

**Invited Member** 1994--1996

A grant-funded research group on religious pluralism led by Peter Berger

**World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission**

Member of the Plenary Commission 1986 – 2012

National Council of Churches in the USA Faith and Order Commission

Member of the Plenary Commission 1982 – 2013

**Member of the Executive Committee**  1986—1998

National Council of Churches in the USA Committee on Christian-Muslim Relations

**Member** 1988--1992

Committee on Christian Unity, American Baptist Churches in the USA

**Chairperson** 1982--1987

**MEMBERSHIPS**

 Current: American Theological Society, American Academy of Religion, Society for Comparative Theology , AAR Comparative Theology Group, Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, New Haven Theological Society

 Past: Christian Scholars Group on Jewish-Christian Relations, Boston Theological Society (moderator), Christian Theological Research Fellowship, *Sacra Doctrina* editorial board, AAR Comparative Theology Group (steering committee)

**Ordination/standing**

 Ordained in the American Baptist Churches in the USA in 1979. Standing recorded in the YEARBOOK of the American Baptist Churches in the USA

**Major presentations**

 Keynote presentations: Inaugural lecture for Study Group on Christian Self-Understanding , Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium; Conference on Theology and Multi-religiosity at University of Aarhus, Denmark; Study Day for the graduate programs in religion and theology in the Netherlands, NOSTER; Swander Lecture, Lancaster Theological Seminary; Spring lectures, Central Baptist Theological Seminary; National Theology Conference of the Presbyterian Church USA; Kulenkamp Lectures, Eden Theological Seminary; Burgess Lecture, Luther Theological Seminary; Theology and Peace conference; Nonviolent Atonement seminars (various cities); joint session of the Comparative Theology and Systematic Theology groups in the AAR; Georgetown University conference on religious pluralism; WCC World Conference on Faith and Order (Kuala Lumpur, 2004); North American Academy of Ecumenists; Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, France; Rochester College, Rochester, MI; 2019 Charles Townes Lecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Conferences or special sessions on my work: University of Birmingham, UK; Asbury Theological Seminary; Catholic Theological Society of America; Study groups of the American Academy of Religion

**MOST RECENT PRESENTATIONS**

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February 27, 2024 Duke University, Lecture for the Spirituality, Theology and Health, “Forgiveness as a Vital Sign: An Evolutionary and Theological Perspective.”

May 24, 2023 University of Münster, invited lecture to Catholic and Protestant theological faculties, “What Are Religious Differences Good For? Theology and the Bio-Cultural Evolution of Religion.”

May 26, 2023, invited presentation at Conference Santideva and the Dynamics of Tradition, May 24-26, 2023 at Münster University, “Learning to Be Empty: Śānditdeva’s Wisdom on Creaturely No Self.”

April 22, 2023, invited presentation at the conference: Forgiveness: Interdisciplinary Perspectives sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health Human Flourishing Program

April 1, 2022. American Theological Society, keynote presentation “Salvations Revisited: Religious Difference as Fractal and Genetic”

 November 30, 2020 American Academy of Religion, Sacred Texts, Theory and Theological Construction Unit. One of four invited speakers reviewing John J. Thatamanil’s *Circling the Elephant: A Comparative Theology of Religious Diversity* (with Catherine Keller, Anant Rambachan, and Michelle Voss Roberts)

April 9, 2019 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Faiths Other Faces: Two Natural Lives of Religion,” The Charles H. Townes lecture on religion and science Sponsored by the MIT Office of Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life and the International Interfaith and Science Exchange

 September 29, 2019 Key note speaker North American Academy of Ecumenics annual meeting, Montreal, Quebec. “Comparative Theology and Ecumenical Theology”

 November 2019 American Academy of Religion meeting, “Santideva for Christians” panel co-sponsored by Comparative Theology Unit and Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit Papers presented by Mark Heim, John Makransky, John Thatamanil, Judith Simmer-Brown, Karren Enriquez

 November 2019 American Academy of Religion meeting, Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies, Acceptance speech upon presentation of the Frederick J Streng Book award for excellence in Buddhist-Christian studies

**research and teaching interests**

 Primary: Theologies of religious pluralism, comparative theology, passion and atonement

 Secondary: Baptist theology and polity, ecumenical theology, theology and science