

**ADAM PLOYD**  
**DEAN | DAVENPORT COLLEGE AT YALE UNIVERSITY**

**Curriculum Vitae**

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**EDUCATION**

2013 PhD Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
2006 MDiv Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
2003 BA Religion, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

**ECCLESIAL CREDENTIALS**

2017–present Ordained Deacon, West Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church  
2018–21 UMC Representative, Faith and Order, National Council of Churches  
2014–17 Provisional Deacon, West Virginia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2024– Lecturer  
Religious Studies  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

2023– Dean  
Davenport College  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

2021–23 Vice Principal  
Wesley House  
Cambridge Theological Federation, Cambridge, UK

2021– 23 Affiliated Lecturer  
Faculty of Divinity  
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

2013–21 Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology  
Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- Contract     *Preachers of Grace: Augustine and Wesley in Conversation*. Eerdmans.  
                  Manuscript due 2027.
- 2024            (co-edited with Rafał Toczko) *Augustine and Rhetoric: Argumentative Techniques  
                  in Early Christianity*. Brill, 2024
- 2023            *Augustine, Martyrdom, and Classical Rhetoric*. New York: Oxford University  
                  Press, 2023.
- 2015            *Augustine, the Trinity, and the Church: A Reading of the Anti-Donatist  
                  Sermons*. Oxford Studies in Historical Theology. New York: Oxford  
                  University Press, 2015.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024     "Wholeness and Holiness: Reading Wesley through Oduyoye," *Holiness*  
                  (2024).
- 2023            "The Broken Body of Christ: Augustine's *Totus Christus* and Intra-Christian  
                  Ecumenism," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 58 (2023): 86–98.
- 2023            "The Place of *De magistro* in Augustine's Theology of Words and the Word,"  
                  *Augustinian Studies* 54 (2023): 43–56.
- 2021            "Augustine's Martyrs as Ideal Christian Rhetors," *Augustiniana* 71 (2021): 27–43.
- 2021            "Sir 34:30 and Forensic Rhetoric in Augustine's Conflict with the Donatists,"  
                  *Vigiliae Christianae* 75 (2021): 1–16.
- 2020            "Augustine, Martyrdom, and the Exemplary Rhetoric of History," *Journal of  
                  Early Christian Studies* 28, no. 3 (2020): 423–41.
- 2020            "What Makes a Martyr? The Movement for Black Lives and the Power of  
                  Rhetoric Old and New," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 55 (2020): 33–45.
- 2019            "Inseparable Virtue and the *Imago Dei* in Augustine: A Speculative Interpretation  
                  of *De Trinitate* 6.4," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 72, no. 2 (2019): 146–65.
- 2019            "'As the Catholic Faith Believes' (c. Sec. 5): *Unigenitus* as Pro-Nicene and Anti-  
                  Manichean in Augustine," *Journal of Theological Studies* 70, no. 1  
                  (2019): 251–70.
- 2018            "*Non poena sed causa*: Augustine's Anti-Donatist Rhetoric of Martyrdom,"  
                  *Augustinian Studies* 49, no. 1 (2018): 25–44.
- 2017            "Participation and Polemics: Angels from Origen to Augustine," *Harvard  
                  Theological Review* 110, no. 3 (2017): 421–39.
- 2014            "The Power of Baptism: Augustine's Pro-Nicene Response to the Donatists,"  
                  *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 22, no. 4 (2014): 519–40.
- 2014            "Pro-Nicene Prosopology and the Church in Augustine's Preaching on John  
                  3:13," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 67, no. 3 (2014): 253–64.
- 2013            "*Tres Unum Sunt*: The Johannine Comma in Cyprian," *Studia Patristica* 65  
                  (2013): 451–58.

- 2011 "The Unity of the Dove: The Sixth Homily on the Gospel of John and Augustine's Trinitarian Solution to the Donatist Schism," *Augustinian Studies* 42, no. 1 (2011): 57–77.

### Book Chapters

- Submitted (co-authored with Brendan Harris) "The Fall, Grace, and Salvation," in the *Cambridge History of Early Christian Theology*, edited by Lewis O. Ayres. Cambridge University Press.
- 2023 "Biblical Interpretation in Augustine's Anti-Donatist Treatises (400–411)," in *The Bible in Christian North Africa*, vol. 2, edited by Jonathan Yates and Anthony Dupont. DeGruyter, 2023. 193–218.
- 2019 "For Their Own Good: Augustine and the Rhetoric of Beneficial Persecution," in *Heirs of Roman Persecution: Studies on a Christian and Para-Christian Discourse in Late Antiquity*, edited by Eric Fournier. Routledge, 2019. 95–111.
- 2018 "Attending to the Word: A Concluding Look at Latin Patristic Preaching and A Vision for the Way Forward," in *Preaching in the Patristic Era: Sermons, Preachers, and Audiences in the Latin West*, edited by Anthony Dupont, et alia. Brill, 2018. 479–97.
- 2015 "Thinking Historically," in *Thinking Theologically*, edited by Eric Barreto. Fortress, 2015. 63–78.

### Book Reviews

- 2022 *Rhetoric and Scripture in Augustine's Homiletic Strategy: Tracing the Narrative of Christian Maturation*, by Michael Glowasky, *Scottish Journal of Theology* 75 (2022) 72–73.
- 2021 *The Church in the Latin Fathers: Unity in Charity*, by James K. Lee, *Church History* 90 (2021): 914.
- 2021 *Augustine of Hippo: His Life and Impact*, by Bradley G. Green, *Augustinian Studies* 52 (2021): 215–17.
- 2021 *Crimen Obicere: Forensic Rhetoric and Augustine's Anti-Donatist Correspondence*, by Rafał Toczko, *Augustinian Studies* 52 (2021): 226–27.
- 2020 *Augustine on the Will: A Theological Account*, by Han-luen Kantzer Komline, *Scottish Journal of Theology* 73 (2020): 359–61.
- 2020 *The Fathers of the Church in Christian Theology*, by Michel Fédou, *Augustinian Studies* 51 (2020): 231–33.
- 2020 *Aristotle and Early Christian Thought*, by Mark Edwards, *Review of Biblical Literature*.
- 2019 *Ambrosiaster's Commentary on the Pauline Epistles: Romans*, trans. Theodore S. de Bruyn with an introduction by Theodore S. de Bruyn, Stephen A. Cooper, and David G. Hunter, *Review of Biblical Literature*.
- 2019 *Augustine's Theology of Angels*, by Elizabeth Klein, *Augustinian Studies* 50, no. 23 (2019): 248–50

- 2019 *Prayer after Augustine: A Study in the Development of the Latin Tradition*, by Jonathan D. Teubner, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 27, no. 1 (2019): 152–54.
- 2019 *Augustine and the Mystery of the Church*, by James K. Lee, *Augustinian Studies* 50, no. 1 (2019): 122–24.
- 2019 *Saint Augustine on the Resurrection of Christ: Teaching, Rhetoric, and Reception*, by Gerald O’Collins, SJ, *Scottish Journal of Theology* 72, no. 1 (2019): 102–04.
- 2018 *The Donatist Schism: Controversies and Contexts*, ed. Richard Miles, *Augustinian Studies* 49, no. 2 (2018): 309–12.
- 2018 *The Quest for the Trinity: The Doctrine of God in Scripture, History, and Modernity*, by Stephen R. Holmes, *Augustinian Studies* 49, no. 1 (2018): 136–39.
- 2017 *The Vision of Didymus the Blind: A Fourth-Century Virtue-Origenism*, by Grant D. Bayliss, *Scottish Journal of Theology* 70, no. 2 (2017): 232–34.
- 2016 *The Birth of the Trinity: Jesus, God, and Spirit in New Testament and Early Christian Interpretations of the Old Testament*, by Matthew W. Bates, *Augustinian Studies* 47, no. 2 (2016): 229–33.
- 2015 *Augustine’s Confessions: Philosophy in Autobiography*, ed. William E. Mann, *Augustinian Studies* 46, no. 2 (2015): 276–78.
- 2015 *Romans: Interpreted by Early Christian Commentators*, ed. J. Patout Burns Jr., *Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>].
- 2015 *The Mind of Christ: Humility and the Intellect in Early Christian Theology*, by Stephen T. Pardue, *Interpretation* 69, no. 2 (2015): 239–40.
- 2014 *Trinitarian Theology beyond Participation: Augustine’s De Trinitate and Contemporary Theology*, by Maarten Wisse, *Augustinian Studies* 45, no. 2 (2014): 364–68.
- 2014 *The Theology of Augustine: An Introductory Guide to His Most Important Works*, by Matthew Levering, *Interpretation* 68, no. 3 (2014): 335.
- 2013 *The Influence of Origen on the Young Augustine: A Chapter in the History of Origenism*, by Georgy Heidl, *Augustinian Studies* 44, no. 2 (2013): 297–300.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Wholeness and Holiness: Reading Wesley through Oduyoye,” Wesleyan Studies Seminar, December 2022
- 2022 “The Place of *De magistro* in Augustine’s Theology of Words and the Word,” North American Patristics Society, May 2022
- 2019 “The Rhetorical Ordering of Knowledge in Augustine’s Martyrs,” XVIII. International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford), August 2019
- 2018 “Augustine and the Antithetical Beauty of Martyrdom,” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, October 2018
- 2018 “What Makes a Martyr? The Movement for Black Lives and the Power of Rhetoric Old and New,” Faith and Order Convening Table, National Council of Churches, October 2018

- 2018 "Tempora Martyrum: The Rhetoric of the Past in Augustine's Preaching on Martyrdom," North American Patristics Society, May 2018
- 2017 "'As the Catholic Faith Believes' (c. Sec. 5): *Unigenitus* as pro-Nicene and anti-Manichean in Augustine," Society of Biblical Literature, Development of Early Christian Theology, November 2017
- 2017 "The Virtue of Inseparable Operations in Augustine," North American Patristics Society, May 2017
- 2017 "The Virtue of Inseparable Operations," St. Louis Christianity in Antiquity Workshop, March 2017
- 2016 "For Their Own Good: Augustine and the Rhetoric of Beneficial Persecution," North American Patristics Society, May 2016
- 2015 "For Righteousness' Sake: Augustine's Anti-Donatist Rhetoric of Martyrdom," XVII. International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford), August 2015
- 2015 "Polemics and Participation: Angels from Origen to Augustine," St. Louis Christianity and the Ancient World Colloquy, February 2015
- 2014 "Augustine and the Polemics of Angelic Participation," North American Patristics Society, May 2014
- 2012 "Pro-Nicene Prosopology and the Church in Augustine's Reading of John 3:13," North American Patristics Society, May 2012
- 2011 "*Tres Unum Sunt*: The Johannine Comma in Cyprian," XVI. International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford), August 2011
- 2010 "The God Who Could Have Done Otherwise: Divine Contingency in Nemesius of Emesa," North American Patristics Society, May 2010
- 2009 "Rethinking the Origins of the Will: *autexousia* and Romans 9.13–18 in Origen of Alexandria," North American Patristics Society, May 2009
- 2008 "The Unity of the Dove: *Io. Ev. Tr.* 6 and Augustine's Trinitarian Solution to the Donatist Conflict," North American Patristics Society, May 2008

## TEACHING

### Select Courses taught:

United Methodist History  
 United Methodist Doctrine  
 Church History: Christian Thought in Historical Context  
 Church History and Doctrine I: Origins to 1400  
 Church History and Doctrine II: Reformations and Modernity  
 Belief and Practice in the Early Church  
 Augustine and Christian Identity  
 Ecclesiology: The Church in Early Christian Thought  
 Christology: Jesus in Early Christian Thought  
 Early Christian Encounters with Islam  
 Violence and Theology in Christian History

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2023–	Residential College Seminar Committee, Yale College
2023	Divinity Faculty Board, University of Cambridge
2023	Christian Theology Subject Committee, Divinity Faculty, University of Cambridge
2022–23	Director, Centre for Global Wesleyan Theology, Wesley House
2022–23	Program Coordinator, Bachelor of Theology for Ministry, Cambridge Theological Federation
2021–23	Director, Centre for Leadership and Ministry Development, Wesley House
2021–23	Director of Studies, Wesley House
2021–23	Program Leader, MA in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, Cambridge Theological Federation
2021–23	Cambridge Awards Oversight Group, Cambridge Theological Federation
2021–23	Anglia Ruskin University Awards Oversight Group, Cambridge Theological Federation
2020–21	Co-Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, Eden Theological Seminary
2020–21	Chair, Degree Programs Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2020–21	Admissions Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2019–20	Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2018–19	Technology Taskforce, Eden Theological Seminary
2017–19	Doctor of Ministry Taskforce, Eden Theological Seminary
2017–19	Non-Degree Programs Taskforce, Eden Theological Seminary
2017	Academic Dean Search Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2017	Faculty Search Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2015–16	Assessment, Accreditation, and Coordination Committee, Eden Seminary
2015–16	Chair, Continuing Education Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2014–16	Faculty Co-Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2014–16	Masters Committee, Eden Theological Seminary
2013–16	Faculty Representative, Student Cabinet, Eden Theological Seminary
2015	Strategic Planning Committee, Eden Theological Seminary

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2023–28	Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire Methodist Church District Grant, £25,000
2018–19	Grant, "Ancient Texts and Modern Tech: Using Online Tools to Facilitate Reading Comprehension of Historical Sources," \$5,000, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
2018	Regional Meeting and Study Group Initiative Grant, \$750 North American Patristics Society
2017–18	Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Theological School Faculty, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
2013–15	Vocation of the Theological Educator Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Louisville Institute

2011–13 Dempster Graduate Student Fellowship,  
United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry  
2003–06 Woodruff Fellowship, Candler School of Theology

#### **GUILD SERVICE**

Peer Reviewer Brill, Baylor University Press, Routledge, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, *Augustinian Studies*, *Modern Theology*, *Scottish Journal of Theology*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*  
2017-21 Convener, Christianity in Antiquity Workshop (St. Louis)  
2016-21 Advisory Board, Christianity in Antiquity Workshop (St. Louis)

#### **LANGUAGES**

Reading Knowledge: Latin, Greek, French, German

#### **MEMBERSHIPS IN LEARNED SOCIETIES**

International Association of Patristic Studies  
North American Patristics Society  
Society of Biblical Literature  
American Academy of Religion

#### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.