

The Rev. Dr. Casey Thornburgh Sigmon

Curriculum Vitae

13720 Roe Ave., Building C / Leawood, KS 66224

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2017 Vanderbilt University, Graduate Department of Religion
Major: Homiletics and Liturgics / Minor: Practical Theology

Dissertation: *“Engaging the Gadfly: A Process Homilecclesiology for a Digital Age”*

M.Div. 2010 McCormick Theological Seminary

B.A. 2006 The University of Kansas: Theater and Film

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, Kansas 2016-present
Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, 2019-present
Project Director of the Pause/Play Center for Preachers, 2024-present
Director of Contextual Education, 2019-present
Director of Chapel, 2019-present
Adjunct Professor, 2017-2019
Course of Study Faculty for the United Methodist Church
Visiting Instructor, Vanderbilt Teaching Fellow, 2016-2017

Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, Tennessee 2014-2016
Adjunct Faculty, Worship Arts Program

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 2012-2014
Teaching Fellow, Theology & Practice Program,
Graduate Department of Religion
Research Assistant to Dr. Dale P. Andrews, Distinguished
Professor of Homiletics, Social Justice, and Practical Theology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Technoculture, new media, social media and its impact on preaching and worship; Process theology and preaching and worship; Liturgy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Anti-racist White preaching; Emerging Church Worship; Lament and Preaching/Worship

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Engaging the Gadfly: How to Move from Reactionary to Reflective Hybrid, online, and In Person Preaching in the Digital Age. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock; Cascade Books, forthcoming 2024.

Contributing Editor (General Editor Mary Alice Mulligan). *The Living Pulpit: Sermons that Illustrate Preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement 1968-2018.* St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2018.

Journal Articles

“The Courage to Preach in the Digital Age.” For the special issue of *Religions. Preaching in the Revolutionary Era of Digital Technology and Social Media: Homiletical-Theological Assessment and Strategic Suggestions.* 14 (551) (2023) (by invitation).

“Failure to Discern the Online/Hybrid Body: A Captivity of the Eucharist.” For the special issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission: Eucharist and Online Worship: Toward Extended Theological Reflection,* vol. 50, no. 1 (2023) (by invitation).

“Blessed is the One Whose Bowels Can Move: An Essay in Praise of Lament.” For the special issue of *Religions. Contemporary Christian Worship and Praise: Liturgy, Preaching, and Music in Today’s Church,* 13 (12) (2022) (by invitation).

“Reaching Out for Community in a Digital World: Problems & Possibilities.” *Word & World: Solitude and Community,* Vol. 42, No. 2, Spring 2022 (by invitation).

“Preaching By the Rivers of Babylon: How an Exile from Pulpit and Pew Can Change White Preaching on the Other Side of Pandemic.” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 75, no. 2 (2021): 123-133. (by invitation)

“Homiletical Possibilities and Challenges in Colossians.” *Review & Expositor* 116, no. 4 (2019): 458-465. (by invitation)

“Clara Babcock To Again Occupy the Pulpit: Reclaiming her voice as preacher and pioneer in Disciples of Christ history.” *Restoration Quarterly* 55.3 (2013): 169-179.

Book Chapters

“How to Start Designing Worship from a Process Perspective.” In *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God,* edited by Jeffry Wells, Nichole Torbitzsky, Vikki Randall, and Thomas Jay Oord. Grasmere, ID: SacraSage Press, 2024 (by invitation).

“Liturgical Authority and the Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).” In *Liturgical Authority in Free Church Traditions*, edited by Sarah Johnson and Andrew Wymer, Calvin Worship and Witness Series. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock; Cascade Books, 2023. (by invitation)

“Preaching from the Perspective of Process Theology.” In *Preaching the Manifold Grace of God: Theologies of Preaching in the Early Twenty-First Century Vol. 2*, edited by Ronald J. Allen. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022. (by invitation)

“Introduction to Sermons of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1968-2018” (with Richard Voelz) In *The Living Pulpit: Sermons that Illustrate Preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement 1968-2018*, edited by Mary Alice Mulligan, 194-197. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2018.

Published Sermons

"The Fruit of Self-Control: Sermon on Galatians 5." *Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act*, by Richard Voelz, 72-78. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019. (by invitation)

Web-Based Publications

Lectionary Commentaries on Isaiah 9:2-7, 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Isaiah 61:1-11, Joel 2:12-13, 28-29 at Working Preacher (www.workingpreacher.org), December 2020. (by invitation)

Lectionary Commentaries on Isaiah 63:7-9, Isaiah 35:1-10, Isaiah 11:1-10, Isaiah 2:1-5 at Working Preacher (www.workingpreacher.org), December 2019. (by invitation)

Lectionary Commentaries on Habakkuk 1:1-4, Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 33:12-22, Psalm 66:1-9 at Working Preacher (www.workingpreacher.org), November-July 2019. (by invitation)

Lectionary Commentaries on Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18, Exodus 14:19-31, Exodus 12:1-14, 1 Kings 3:5-12 at Working Preacher (www.workingpreacher.org), October-July 2017. (by invitation)

Book Reviews

Review of *The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going*, by Ryan P. Burge, *Homiletic* 48, no. 1 (2023): 84-85.

Review of *Curating Church: Strategies for Innovative Worship*, by Jacob D. Myers, *Encounter* 81.3 (Fall 2021)

Review of *The Holy No: Worship as a Subversive Act*, by Adam Hearlson, *Review and Expositor* 117, no. 2 (2020): 312-313.

Review of *Will Willimon's Lectionary Sermon Resource: Year B Part 1: Advent through Easter*, by Will Willimon, *Encounter* 78.1 (2018): 119-120.

Review of *Text Messages: Preaching God's Word in a Smartphone World*, by John Tucker, ed. *Homiletic* 43, no. 1 (2018): 24-25.

Review of *Justice Calls: Sermons of Welcome and Affirmation*, by Phil Snider, ed. *Encounter* 77.3 (2017): 79-80.

Review of *Christian Practical Wisdom: What It Is, Why It Matters*, by Dorothy C. Bass, Kathleen A. Cahalan, Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, James R. Nieman, and Christian Scharen. *Review and Expositor* 114, no. 3 (2017): 508-509.

Review of *The Scandal of Having Something to Say* by Lance Pape. *Practical Matters Journal*, Issue 9 (2016): 177-178.

Review of *Distance in Preaching: Room to Speak, Space to Listen* by Michael Brothers. *Homiletic* 40, no. 1 (2015): 72-73.

Review of *Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in a World of Witchcraft and Second Life*, by Robert M. Geraci. *Homiletic* 39, no. 2 (2014): 64-65.

Review of *Annie Dillard and the Word Made Flesh*, by Colleen Warren. *The Other Journal*, no. 23 (2014): 121-125.

VIDEOS, SOCIAL MEDIA, BLOGS and PODCASTS

"Persuade: A Process Vision of Preaching & Liturgy," live podcast with *Homebrewed Christianity*, April 28, 2024. <https://trippfuller.com/2024/04/28/persuade-a-process-vision-of-preaching-liturgy/>

"Burnout," podcast with *Pause/Play Center for Preachers*, Ep. 1, April 11, 2024. <https://podcasts.apple.com/in/podcast/pause-play/id1735572401>

"Why Pastors Need to Play," podcast interview with *boardgame faith*, Ep. 50. March 10, 2024. <https://boardgamefaith.fireside.fm/50>

"I Thirst," Holy Week Facebook Live cast with *The Living Room Christian Fellowship Passion Week Conversations*. April 1, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/704876213/videos/10159334728916214/>

"Process Theology," podcast interview with *Ideas About God*, Ep. 4. November 1, 2020.

“Digital Preaching: Pandemic and Beyond,” Instagram live interview for @h_andco_ *Quarantine Sessions*, May 20, 2020.

“Preaching Across the Pulpit/Pew Divide: Possibilities for Preaching in the Next 500 Years,” guest blog for *Ecclesio.com: the current scene through a Gospel lens*. October 19, 2017. <https://www.ecclesio.com/2017/10/preaching-across-pulpitpew-divide-possibilities-preaching-next-500-years-dr-casey-thornburgh-sigmon/>

“Vote for Jesus! On politics, pulpits, and public theology,” guest blog for *State of Formation: offshoot of the Journal of Interreligious Studies (JIRS)*, program of the Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College and Boston University School of Theology. October 15, 2011. <https://stateofformation.org/2011/10/vote-for-jesus-on-politics-pulpits-and-public-theology/>

“What We Speak Out Against/For,” guest blog for *State of Formation: offshoot of the Journal of Interreligious Studies (JIRS)*, program of the Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College and Boston University School of Theology. October 4, 2011. <https://stateofformation.org/2011/10/what-we-speak-out-againstfor-2/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and PAPERS

“Progressive Modern Worship Music? From Enigma to Establishment in Theological Education,” presentation for the North American Academy of Liturgy, Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar, Seattle, WA, January 2024.

“Worship Design for Easter, Year B” speaker at the Worship Design Studio Planning Retreat. Kansas City, MO, August 2023.

“An Invitation to Dialogical Preaching and Pedagogy in the Digital Age” workshop for Transforming Lives through Theological Education at IAMSCU Conference (International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities). Cambridge, United Kingdom, May 2023.

“Authorized Body By Spirit: The Tradition of Co-Celebrants at the Lord’s Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” presentation for the North American Academy of Liturgy, Free Church Tradition Pre-Meeting. Zoom. January 2021.

“Best Practices for Preaching in the Pandemic and Beyond” presentation for the Academy of Homiletics, Preaching, Media, & Technology Work Group. Zoom. December 2020.

“Can I Take Your Ordo? Reflections on Dinner Church Liturgies,” presentation at the North American Academy of Liturgy- Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar, Denver, Colorado, January 2019.

“The Courage to Preach in a Digital Age,” paper presented at the Academy of Homiletics- Preaching, Media, and Technology Workgroup, Dallas, Texas, November 2017.

"Engaging the Gadfly: Contemporary Technoculture & Contemporary Worship," presentation at the North American Academy of Liturgy- Exploring Contemporary and Alternative Worship Seminar, Washington, D.C., January 2017.

“Pulpit and Pew: Preaching Caught in a Bin(d)nary,” paper presented at the Academy of Homiletics- Preaching, Media, and Technology Workgroup, San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.

“The Gospel According to Her: A Qualitative Study of Christian Woman and Tattoo Culture,” paper presented at Ways of Knowing- Graduate Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2014.

“The Weeping Witness: Preaching as Prophetic Lamentation toward the Ethical Imperative,” paper co-author Yolanda M. Norton, presented at the Academy of Homiletics- Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies Workgroup, Louisville, Kentucky, December 2013.

“The Psalms and God’s Heshed: Reclaiming Mature Proximity to Presence/Absence in Public Space,” paper co-author Yolanda M. Norton, presented at the Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting- Bible and Pastoral Theology Workgroup, Chicago, Illinois, November 2012.

INVITED TALKS & KEYNOTES

“Process, Play, Technology and Preaching,” guest lecture in “Introduction to Preaching” with Dr. Josh Morris, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina, January 2024.

“Engaging the Gadfly: Moving from Reactive to Reflective In-person, Online, and Hybrid Preaching in a Digital Age,” keynote for *Faith in the 21st Century, Church of the Future: Faith in a Network Age*, Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, October 2023.

“Engaging the Gadfly: Moving from Reactive to Reflective In-person, Online, and Hybrid Preaching in a Digital Age,” forum for Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, Kansas, October 2023.

“Minding the Gap to Mend the Gap: Praise & Lament in Necessary Tension,” keynote at Converging 2023, Converging Music Project, Nashville, Tennessee, October 2023.

“Sorrow Breaks Forth into Song: Bob Dylan as Prophet,” lecture for the *Sacred and Secular Benefit Concert*. All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, October 2023.

“Dylan’s Prophetic Lamentation,” lecture for the *Sacred and Secular Benefit Concert*. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, October 2022.

“Medicine for Such a Time as Now,” convocation address for Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Rochester, New York, August 2021.

“Best Practices for Preaching Online and Hybrid,” guest lecturer in “Introduction to Preaching” with Dr. Leah Schade, Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, January 2021.

“Preaching in the Network,” lecture for Greater Kansas City Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) New Church Planters Cohort. April 1, 2020.

“Confronting the Choreography of Complicity in [White] Christian Liturgy,” keynote address for the Wesleyan Liturgical Society, Kansas City, Missouri, March 2020.

“Lovingly and Livingly Bound- A Process Theology Reflection on the Covenantal Language of the Preamble of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” lecture given by invitation to the General Board Meeting of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Indianapolis, Indiana, February 2020.

“Preaching, Technology, and Social Media,” guest lecturer in “Preaching in the 21st Century” with Professor Richard W. Voelz, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, April 2017.

“Teaching Spiritual and Community Formation in the Digital Age,” presentation for Faculty Workday at Saint Paul School of Theology, Overland Park, Kansas, August 2017.

“A Homiletic of Lament: Bringing the God-forsaken Back into the Fold of a Compassionate God,” presentation for the Danish Festival of Homiletics, Humlebaek, Denmark, May 2015.

WORKSHOPS and WEBINARS

“Digital Preaching Workshop,” presented by TheoTechnics for The Bridge for Early Career Preachers Cohort at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. Funded by the Lilly Compelling Preaching Initiative. March 2024 (by invitation).

“Preaching in the Digital Age: Technology, Social Media, AI, & Plagiarism” panel webinar hosted by The Bridge for Early Career Preachers. October 2023.

Digital Preaching Coach, The Bridge for Early Career Preachers Cohort at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. Funded by the Lilly Compelling Preaching Initiative. 2023-2024

“Using Digital Space for Discipleship,” coach of three cohorts for the Missouri United Methodist Foundation, Online. February-May 2023 (by invitation).

“Offering the Word to a Digital World,” keynote speaker for the United Methodist Church Missouri Preaching Academy. Columbia, MO: February 15-16, 2023 (by invitation).

“Using Digital Space for Discipleship,” webinar for the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. Online. January 19, 2023 (by invitation).

“A Movement for Wholeness: Seeking Covenantal Relationships with a Living and Loving God,” session two in *Imagine God’s Limitless Love: A Covenant Conversation for Disciples of Christ*. The Governance Committee of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). May 2021. <https://disciples.org/our-identity/covenant-conversation/>

“e-preaching,” webinar with TheoTechnics (Sam Potter and Dr. Nancy Howell), March 26, 2020.

“Cinematic Savior: A 5 Week Study of Jesus in Film,” for Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville, TN: February-March 2015.

Biblical Preaching Workshop, continuing education for clergy in the Tennessee Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Nashville, Tennessee, September 2012.

LITURGICAL and DEVOTIONAL CREATION

2023 Week of Compassion Special Offering Materials for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). “Theme Scripture Exegesis & Sermon Starter; Worship & Liturgy Resources.” Spring 2023. (by invitation).

“Lent Another Way,” e-course, writer with *The Plural Guild* and *The Many*, Lent 2021. <https://www.themanyarehere.info/lentanotherway>

“Pentecost,” a Pentecost liturgy kit by *Small Batch Worship*, Summer 2018.

“Casting Shadows,” a Lenten liturgy kit by *Small Batch Worship*, Spring 2018.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

“Vicissitude: Navigating Call and Mission as Contextual Educators in 2020,” organizer. United Methodist Theological Field Educators. Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS: January 2020.

“Pedagogical Possibilities: New Paradigms in Teaching for Ministry,” steering committee. Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN: June 2015.

https://www.vanderbilt.edu/theology-and-practice/New_Paradigms.php

“Not On My Watch! Ending Violence Against Women and Children,” a Sophie’s Table, WomanPreach conference, site coordinator, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN: March 2013. <https://www.womanpreach.org/sophies-table>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitating Intercultural Learning, with True North Intercultural, LLC. Spring 2023. (3.2 CEUs)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer Reviewer, *Religions*

Membership Committee, The North American Academy of Liturgy, 2022-2023

Peer Reviewer, *Homiletic*

SERVICE TO SEMINARY

Admissions Committee, 2023-2024

Curriculum Committee, 2023-2024

Student Professional Development Committee, 2023-2024

Search Committee- Faculty History Search, Fall 2022

Search Committee- Faculty Practical Theology Search, Fall 2022

Curriculum Committee, Fall 2022

Faculty Personnel and Steering (elected by peers), Fall 2022

Search Committee- Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, 2021-2022

Commencement Committee, 2021-2022

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2021-2022

Anti-Racism Task Force, 2021-2020

Assessment Committee, 2021-2022

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021

Admissions Committee, 2020-2021

Curriculum Committee, 2019-2020

Admissions Committee, 2019-2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Ordained Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 Commission for Ministry Innovation, Greater Kansas City Region (DOC)
 Member, MORE2 Kansas City
 Member, Academy of Homiletics
 Member, North American Academy of Liturgy
 Member, Association for Theological Field Education
 Member, United Methodists for Theological Field Education
 Voice, Center for Open & Relational Theology

GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS

Lilly Foundation Compelling Preaching Initiative: Pause/Play Center for Preachers (\$1.18 million dollars)	2024-2028
Wabash Center Fellowship: “Resisting the Plagiarized Pulpit: Helping Students (and the professor) Find and Trust Their Voice through Artistic Instructional Design”	2021-2022
Early Career Workgroup Wabash Center for Teaching	2020-2021
Ann E. Dickerson Scholarship, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC)	2015
Ann E. Dickerson Scholarship, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC)	2014
Ann E. Dickerson Scholarship, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC)	2012
Carpenter Center Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University	2012
Program in Theology and Practice Fellow, Vanderbilt University	2011- 2017
George Tressler Scott Fellowship in Applied Christianity, McCormick Theological Seminary	2010
William H. Higgins Scholarship, McCormick Theological Seminary	2009
William H. Higgins Scholarship, McCormick Theological Seminary	2008
Jewish Women's Scholarship of Greater Kansas City	2002

AWARDS and HONORS

Bettye R. Ford Graduate Student Service Award, Vanderbilt University	2010
Arthur A. McKay Prize in Theology, McCormick Theological Seminary	2010
Graduation with Academic Honors, McCormick Theological Seminary	2010
Graduation with Highest Distinction, The University of Kansas	2006

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-founder of TheoTechnics	2020
Chapel Coordinator Kansas Campus-Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS	2018-2019
Senior Pastor-Weston Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Weston, MO	2018-2019
Co-founder of Small Batch Worship	2018

Interim Pastor- Merriam Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Merriam, KS	2017
Regional Board- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City	2017-2019
Interim Pastor- Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Springfield, TN	2014-2015
Worship Intern- Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee	2012-2013
Worship Assistant- McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois	2009-2010
Worship Intern- LaSalle Street Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois	2008-2009
Worship Coordinator- Vintage Church, Lawrence, KS	2006-2007

COURSES TAUGHT

Saint Paul School of Theology	2016-present
PRE 401/402, Introduction to Preaching	
PRE 444, The Ministry of Preaching in a Digital Age	
WOR 410, Introduction to Worship & Liturgy	
WOR 415, Designing and Leading Worship	
CHS 515, Prophetic Ministry	
PCM 312, Dinner Church Movement	
PCM 316, Preaching and Technology	
PCM 357, Technology in Ministry (professor of record)	
Course of Study-Saint Paul School of Theology	2017-present
COS 223, Worship & Sacraments	
COS 321, Bible III: Gospels	
COS 521, Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation	
COS 324, Preaching	
Trevecca Nazarene University	2014-2016
WAS 4020 01, Contextualization of Worship	
Vanderbilt Divinity School	2012-2014
DIV 2801, Fundamentals of Preaching (Teaching Fellow for John S. McClure)	
DIV 3032, Theology and Preaching (Teaching Fellow for John S. McClure)	
DIV 3026, Prophetic Preaching and Social Justice Ethics (Teaching Fellow for Dale P. Andrews)	
DIV 4011, Traversing Our National Wound: Immigration and the US/Mexico Border (Teaching Fellow for Viki Matson)	