

John W. Vest

Curriculum Vitae

Fourth Presbyterian Church
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Chicago, Illinois 60615
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Education

MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Chicago, Illinois
DMin in progress

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIVINITY SCHOOL, Chicago, Illinois
PhD coursework Biblical Studies (Hebrew Bible)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIVINITY SCHOOL, Chicago, Illinois
MDiv, March 2003

RICE UNIVERSITY, Houston, Texas
BA, May 1999, *Cum Laude*
Majors: Religious Studies and Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Jerusalem, Israel
Rothberg School for Overseas Students
One Year Program, Academic Year of 1997-98
Summer Program, 1998

Ordination

MINISTER OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT, Presbyterian Church (USA)
October 15, 2006
Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Ministry Positions

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
July 2006-present
Youth Ministry

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, Community Presbyterian Church, Clarendon Hills, IL
September 2001-June 2006
Acting Head of Staff, July 16-September 5, 2005
Adult Education Coordinator and Teacher, Youth Confirmation, Worship

PASTORAL INTERN, Community Presbyterian Church, Clarendon Hills, IL
September 2000-August 2001

Denominational Service

General Assembly Commission on Middle Governing Bodies, 2010-present
Commissioner to the 219th General Assembly, 2010
Presbytery of Chicago

- Co-Moderator of Camping Ministry Concept Development Team, 2011
- Vice Moderator of Camp Oversight and Development Work Group, 2008-2011

- Camp Oversight and Development Work Group Programming Sub-Committee, 2007-2011
- Youth Ministry Team, 2007-present
- Communications Work Group, 2010-present

Academic Positions

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois

Department of Theology and Religion

“Biblical Studies and Contemporary Relevance”, Spring 2006-Fall 2007

TEACHING ASSISTANT, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL

“Introduction to the Hebrew Bible”, Spring 2006

TEACHING ASSISTANT, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL

“Advanced Preaching Seminar: The Word Before the Powers”, Spring 2005

TEACHING ASSISTANT, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

“Introduction to Biblical Hebrew”, Summer 2001-Winter 2002

Academic Honors

Wabash Fellowship in Pedagogy and the Study of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School (2006)

John Gray Rhind Award, University of Chicago Divinity School (2002)

Jerald Brauer Seminar Fellowship, University of Chicago Divinity School (2002): “Constructive Biblical Theology: The Bible and Contemporary Theology”; Tikva Frymer-Kensky, David Tracy, Stephen Geller

University of Chicago Divinity School Scholarship (1999-2002; 2003-2011)

Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program, Rice University (1998-99)

Publications

Book Review. Martin Hengel and C. K. Barrett, *Conflicts and Challenges in Early Christianity*. Donald A. Hagner, ed. (Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 1999). In *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 2 (2000).

Book Review. Nahum M. Sarna, *Studies in Biblical Interpretation* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2000). In *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 4 (2002).

Book Review. David R. Bauer, *An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2003). In *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 4 (2003).

Book Review. I. Howard Marshall, *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004). In *Review of Biblical Literature* (June 25, 2005).

Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine: Exploring Phased Selective Divestment. A Study Document Prepared by the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Work Group of the Presbytery of Chicago. Chicago: Presbytery of Chicago, 2005.

“The Prophetic Pathos of *Crash*,” *Sightings* (March 23, 2006).

Film Review. Werner Herzog, *Grizzly Man*. In *Journal of Religion and Film* 10.1 (April 2006).

“When a Hero Dies.” *Sightings* (June 7, 2007).

“Partners in Providence”—seven devotions for *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, 38.2 (Louisville: Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, April/May/June 2008).

Three exegetical essays on Psalm texts in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, Volume 3* (ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor; Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).

- Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (p. 299-303)
- Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 (p. 323-27)
- Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 (p. 347-51)

Ministry Presentations

“Facebook (etc.) for Dummies.” L.E.A.D. 2010: Educating the Diverse Church, March 6, 2010

“Embracing Technology for Ministry: Social Networking and Outreach.” L.E.A.D. 2010: Educating the Diverse Church, March 6, 2010

“Questioning the Answer: What Does It Mean to Say that Jesus Is Your Lord and Savior?” Keynote presentations at Presbytery of Chicago Confirmation Retreat, March 12-14, 2010.

“Theology of Christian Leadership.” Youth track keynote presentation at Pathways Youth Ministry Leader Seminar, October 16, 2010.

“Experiencing God in the Wilderness: Camping Ministry for Chicago Presbytery.” LEAD 2011: A Firm Foundation in the Midst of Chaos, March 5, 2011.

Academic Presentations

“Rethinking Canon: Toward a Biblical Theology for the Church.” MDiv Thesis Presentation, University of Chicago Divinity School, May 30, 2002.

“A Hidden God in the Book of Ruth? The Coordination of Divine Providence and Human Agency.” Midwest Society of Biblical Literature, February 21, 2004.

“Bridging the Gap: Toward a Biblical Theology for the Church and Academy.” Midwest American Academy of Religion, April 3, 2004.

“On the Partnership of Church and Academy.” Spring Meeting of the Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago Divinity School, May 10, 2005.

“Gateways to Biblical Scholarship: Review of Patricia K. Tull, *Esther and Ruth* (Interpretation Bible Study Series).” Panel presentation, “I Know It When I See It: Examining Examples of Congregation-based Biblical Scholarship,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 21, 2005.

“Wrestling With Nonviolence: Jacob the Trickster and a Mythic Exploration of Nonviolence in the Hebrew Bible.” Midwest American Academy of Religion, April 1, 2006.

“Ambiguous Sovereignty: The Intersection of Divine Providence and Human Agency in the Book of Ruth.” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 20, 2006.

Memberships

Society of Biblical Literature (1998 to present)
American Academy of Religion (1998 to present)

Archaeological Experience

W. F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Internship, Spring 1998
Tel Rehov, Summer 1998 (Volunteer and Field School)