

Virginia Wiles

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EDUCATION

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing, 2014
Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky. Genre: Fiction, with a year emphasis in Playwriting. Thesis: "Zora's Fortunes: Selections from a Novel."
- Ph.D. 1993
The Divinity School, The University of Chicago. Awarded distinction for dissertation: "From Apostolic Presence to Self-government in Christ: Paul's Preparing of the Philippian Church for Life in His Absence."
- M.A. 1982
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, IL. Summa cum laude. Emphasis: New Testament Studies. Prize Essay and Academic Excellence Awards, 1982.
- B.S. 1977
Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth, TX. Magna cum laude. Major: History and Sociology. Outstanding Social Science Student Award, 1977.

EXPERIENCE

Professor of New Testament, 2005-Present; New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ. Associate Professor, 1999-2005
Dean of the Seminary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ. 2006-2008 [Interim Dean, 2005-06]
Assistant Professor of Religion, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. 1993-99; Instructor, 1990-93
Lecturer in Theology, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA. 1989-90
Adjunct Professor, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. 1989-90
Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary, Rochester, NY. 1988-89
Instructor in New Testament Studies, Bethany Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, IL. 1987-1988
Adjunct Instructor of New Testament, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. 1986-1988
Adjunct Faculty, Bethany Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, IL. 1983-1987
Adjunct Instructor in Greek, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, IL. 1982-1988

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Books: (Currently developing a series of print and ebook publications: "Playdates with Scripture.")
Romans: Church at the Crossroads. Covenant Bible Studies. *faithQuest*. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 2005.
Partners in Peace: A Study of Romans. Good Ground Bible Studies 4:2. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press and Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 2001. (Adult curriculum)
Making Sense of Paul: A Basic Introduction to Pauline Theology. Peabody, MS: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000.
Inside Out: God's Radical Love in Jonah and Ruth. Good Ground Bible Studies 2:2. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press and Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1999. (Adult curriculum)
The Gospel of John. Guide for Biblical Study. Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1999. (Adult Curriculum)
No Small Wonder: Stories of Hope from the Nativity. Good Ground Bible Studies 1:3. Newton, KS: Faith & Life Press and Elgin, IL: Brethren Press, 1998. (Adult Curriculum)
Putting Body and Soul Together: Essays in Honor of Robin Scroggs. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997. Editor (with A. Brown and G. F. Snyder).

Articles and Papers:

Note – Since my entry into the MFA program in 2008, my writing has been focused on the creative writing necessary for that degree. I will have works forthcoming out of the substantial writings for that degree.

- “Restoring Herr Freytag’s Midlife Crisis,” Spalding University, May, 2014.
- “A Habit of Surprise: Comedy as a Strategy for Interpreting Scripture,” SARTS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.
- “Scripture as Creative Nonfiction,” Preaching Excellence Program, Episcopal Preaching Foundation, June 2006.
- “Just—A Mother,” *Voices of Women Preaching God’s Word. Brethren Life and Thought* 50:1-2 (Winter and Spring, 2005) 90-94.
- “Writing Fiction, Teaching the New Testament,” Image Conference: *A Narratable World*, Seattle Pacific University, November, 2003. Revised and presented for NBTS Faculty Colloquy, April 2004.
- “Community and the Spiritual Disciplines,” NBTS Faculty Retreat, August 2003. A paper on the relationship between solitude and community.
- “Peace: God’s Infinite Justice,” Brethren Press, 2002. A biblical response to the events of September 11, 2001.
- “And the Word Became *Virtual*?” Theology and Pedagogy in Cyberspace, April 2001, Evanston, IL.
- “Teaching Pauline Theology,” Regional SBL Meeting, March 2001, New Brunswick, NJ.
- “Analogies for Our Common Life” in *Common Life in the Early Church: Essays in Honor of Graydon F. Snyder*. Ed. Julian Hills, with Virginia Wiles *et al.*, 26-38. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.
- “The Push and Pull of Love, Or Can a Patriarch Preach Mutuality?” Paper delivered at the 8th Annual Conference on Love, co-sponsored by the Brock Philosophical Society and the Women’s Studies Program of Brock University, February 12-14, 1998, St. Catherines, Ontario.
- “The Personal Essay as a Mode for Biblical Theology,” Paper for the Feminist Theological Hermeneutics of the Bible Section of Society of Biblical Literature, 1997 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- “On Transforming New Testament Theology: (Re)Claiming Subjectivity” in *Putting Body and Soul Together: Essays in Honor of Robin Scroggs*, edited by Virginia Wiles, Alexandra Brown, and Graydon F. Snyder, 311–35. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1997.
- “Entrusting Our Future to God,” *GroupGuide for Youth*, Faith and Life Press, 1997.
- “Paul As Cross-Cultural Thinker,” Pauline Epistles Section of the Mid-Atlantic Society for Biblical Literature, March, 1996.
- “Where the Spirit Leads: Either Particularity or Inclusion or Maybe Both/And, A (Bibfeldtian) Response to Steven Breck Reid, ‘Theological Culture Wars and Ethnic Diversity,’” *The Cultural Transformation of the Brethren: Understanding the 20th Century*, Elizabethtown, PA, June, 1995.
- “Gentle Strength: Contemporary Prospects for an Understanding of Salvation” in *Anabaptist Currents: History in Conversation with the Present*, edited by Carl F. Bowman and Stephen L. Longenecker, 41-48. Forum for Religious Studies. Bridgewater, VA: Penobscot Press, 1995.
- “Living Thoughtfully: The Function of the Intellect in Paul’s Ethics,” Pauline Epistles Section, Tri-Regional AAR/SBL Meeting, March, 1995.
- Translation and litany arrangement of Romans 8:28-39 for the Mennonite/Church of the Brethren Hymnal, Worship Resource, 1991.
- “Philippians 2:5-11: A Paean to Submission or a Call for Confidence?” in *Women’s Report*, Mennonite Church Publication, 1990.
- “The Community as Oral Performers,” paper delivered to “The Bible in Ancient and Modern Media” group of the Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, 1990.

“The Elder Sister: The Search for a Personal History of Redemption.” *Daughters of Sarah*. March-April (1986) 20-24.

Response article in *Women, Authority and the Bible*, edited by A. Mickelsen. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1986.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Speaking Engagements:

Numerous Adult Forums and Retreats for local congregations – Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian.

Faculty and Lecturer, Preaching Excellence Program, Episcopal Preaching Foundation, 2006-2009

“He Said/She Said—Making Sense of Paul,” Church of the Brethren, Annual Conference, 2006 [with Graydon F. Snyder]

“Paul and Spirituality,” Lenten Series, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA, 2006

“The Bible and Homosexuality,” Christ Church (Episcopal), New Brunswick, NJ, 2006

“The Eight Thoughts,” Lenten Series, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA, 2005

“The Messiah in Scripture,” Christ Church [Episcopal], New Brunswick, NJ, 2005

Workshops on the Lectionary and Liturgical Year, Worship Renewal Workshops for African-American churches, Macedonia Baptist Church, Lakewood, NJ. October 2003 and January 2004

“Desert Spirituality,” Women’s Retreat, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, PA. April 2003

Faculty for Diaconate School, New Jersey Diocese (Episcopal), Trenton, NJ, 2001-2007

Bible Study Leader for Association of Brethren Caregivers, LaVerne, CA. August 2001. 3 sessions

Theological Reflection on "Vocation" for Brethren College Lilly Grant program on Mentoring in Colleges. Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. June 2001

Speaker, "Making Sense of Paul for Anabaptists," Brethren Press Breakfast, Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO. July 2000

Visiting Instructor, "Feminist Perspectives on Contemporary Expressions of Faith," Pendle Hill, PA. May 2000

Speaker, Campus Ministry Weekend, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA. September, 1998. 5 sessions

Guest Lecturer: “Introduction to Theological Reflection,” Bethany Theological Seminary, Susquehanna Valley Satellite Extension, Elizabethtown, PA, September-November, 1997. 3 weekends

Theological Reflection Speaker, Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Policy Workshops, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA, March 1995-May 1998 6 sessions

President, “Reshaping Mennonite Theology in the Twentieth Century: Christology and Soteriology,” Anabaptists in Conversation: Mennonite and Brethren Interactions with Twentieth-Century Theologies, a conference at the Young Center Anabaptist Conference, June, 1997

Panelist, “Hermeneutical Considerations in Writing for the Believers Church Bible Commentary Series,” Mennonite Scholars Group, SBL/AAR Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November, 1996

Respondent, “The New Jesus: A Symposium for Religious Leaders,” Sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA and Muhlenberg College, October 27, 1996

Speaker, “The Parting of the Ways: Judaism and Christianity in the First Century,” The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, Allentown, PA, October-November, 1995. 4 sessions

Panelist, “Religion and Art,” New Arts Program, weekly television broadcast, Reading, PA, June, 1995
Advent Series, Church of the Mediator, Allentown, PA, 1995

Respondent and Workshop Leader, “A Jewish View of Jesus,” The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, Allentown, PA, May, 1994

Speaker, Peace Seminar, Bethany Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, IL, November, 1993

“A Gentle Strength: Contemporary Applications and Prospects for an Anabaptist Experience of Salvation,” for Anabaptism: A Heritage and its 21st Century Prospects, Bridgewater, VA. October, 1993

Speaker and Workshop Leader, "Faith and Sexuality: Christian Views," Ecumenical Conversations sponsored by Episcopalians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and United Churches of Christ, in cooperation with Muhlenberg College. October, 1992

Bible Study Leader, Pastoral Seminar, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Elkhart, IN, January, 1991. Topic: "Paul as Pastor"

Instructor in Bethany Extension School, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, 1989. Course: "Servants of God, Female and Male"

Faculty for the School for the Diaconate, Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia, 1988, 1990. Course: "The Gospels"

Speaker, Women's History Week, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 1986.

Speaker and Panel Member, Feminist Theological Coalition, Chicago Area Theological Schools, 1985

Participant in Women and Ministry Colloquium, Oak Brook, IL, October, 1984

Participant in New Testament Cluster-ACTS Faculty Group, Chicago, IL, 1983-1988

Leadership Responsibilities:

D.Min. Oversight Committee, 1999-2014

Curriculum Committee 2008-2014; chair, 2011-12

Leadership Team, Mid-Career Colloquy, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, 2010-12

Co-chair, Anti-Racism training, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 2005-2008 (with Warren Dennis; Crossroads Ministry, consultants)

Learning Technology Design Consultant, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 2000-2003.

Editorial Board, *Brethren Life and Thought*, 2000-2006

Chair, Biblical Studies Department, NBTS, 1999-2005

Web Site Creation and Maintenance, Religion Department, Muhlenberg College, 1996-1999

Chair, Information Literacy Task Force, Muhlenberg College, 1995-97

Library Committee, Muhlenberg College, 1994-97; Chair, 1994-95.

Chair of Library Self-Study Task Force for Middle States Accreditation, Muhlenberg College, 1995-96.

Presider, Lehigh Valley Area Independent Colleges Ecumenical Association, 1991-93

Steering Committee, Women's Caucus, Church of the Brethren, 1987-1990; Convener, 1988-89

Grants Received

"A Habit of Surprise: Comedy as a Strategy for Interpreting Scripture," SARTS Faculty Grant, 2012-13.

"The Creative Writing Workshop as Pedagogical Practice for Biblical Studies in a Multi-Cultural Environment" – Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Religion and Theology, Small Grants program, 2005.

Writing Culture Summer Institute Grant, Northwest Writing Institute, Summer 2005.

I also developed and wrote a grant for our faculty for the Wabash Center ("Difficult Conversations: How Can You Say That?"), which was accepted in 2007-08. I left the Dean's office shortly after that acceptance, so was not in the position to provide leadership for the period of the grant activities.

Travel

In conjunction with my duties as Dean, I traveled to Cape Town/Stellenbosch, South Africa, and Seoul, Korea, in March of 2007. In addition to numerous meetings with church leaders and seminary professors, I delivered three lectures and one sermon in Korea.

In January of 2006 I represented New Brunswick Theological Seminary in a six-member delegation from the Reformed Church in America, as guests of the Sultan of Oman for a week of Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Muscat, Oman. We were privileged to have a two-hour audience with the Sultan Qaboos bin Said during this visit, as well as substantial time with the Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs and with prominent Muslim scholars.

