

Dr. Joyce Ann Mercer
Virginia Theological Seminary
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PRESENT TEACHING POSITION

Professor of Practical Theology
Virginia Theological Seminary

EDUCATION

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Ph.D., Graduate Division of Religion (1997)

Department of Persons, Communities, and Religious Practices, and

Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies

Dissertation: "Gender, Violence, and Faith: Adolescent Girls and a Theological Anthropology of Difference."

McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL

D. Min., Urban Ministries Program (1991)

Thesis: "Father-Loss Among Adolescent Girls in Chemical Dependency Treatment: Theological and Psychological Perspectives."

University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT

Graduate School of Social Work, M.S.W. (1985)

Group Work Major, Case Work Minor

Yale University School of Divinity, New Haven, CT

M.Div. (1984)

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

B.A. with Distinction (1979), Religious Studies

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

The Fund for Theological Education

"Greenhouses of Hope" Ethnography Project on Calling Congregations and the Vocations of Youth 2008-2009

The Louisville Institute

Religious Institutions Grants, "Against Our Own Kind: Congregations in Conflict with their Own Denominations," August 2008-June 2009.

General Grants Program, “Congregational Practices with Children: Sharing Our Research,” April-June 2003.

General Grants Program, “Children in Congregations: A Congregational Studies Research Project,” January 2002-August 2003.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

2004-2005 Wabash Faculty Study Leave (Sabbatical semester) Grant
2001 Workshop/Grant for Theological Faculty
2002 Summer Grant for Theological Faculty

Association of Theological Schools

2004-2005 Awardee, ATS-Lilly Faculty Sabbatical Grant

Youth Theology Initiative, Candler School of Theology

2004-2006 Research Fellow

Who’s Who Among American College and University Students

Awardee, Emory University 1997

American Association of University Women

1995-96 American Fellowship for Final Year of Dissertation Writing

Emory University

Graduate Division of Religion Fellowship, 1991-1995

Emory University Women’s Studies Summer Research Grant, Summer 1992

For Archival Research at the University of Minnesota on Gisela Konopka’s “Project Girl”

National Institute of Mental Health

Training Grant for Work With Under-Served Urban Populations
Hartford, CT, 1985-85

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Virginia Theological Seminary

Alexandria, VA

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, 2006-2008

Professor of Practical Theology, 2008-

San Francisco Theological Seminary and The Graduate Theological Union

San Anselmo and Berkeley, CA, 2000-2006

Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Christian Education, and

GTU Core Doctoral Faculty Member in Interdisciplinary Studies,

Affiliated Faculty, University of California Berkeley Women’s Studies

Faculty Liaison, SFTS International Feminist D. Min. Program

Faculty Director for the David Ng Resource Center in Christian Education

Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines

Dasmariñas and Manila. 1997-2000

Faculty member in Practical Theology; Faculty for M. Theol. program of Southeast Asia Graduate School of Theology (SEAGAST)

Teen Age Medical Service and Children's Health Care, Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN, 1994-1996

Clinical Social Work with adolescents; family therapy

Therapeutic group work with bereaved parents and parents of SIDS babies

Egleston Children's Hospital at Emory University

Atlanta, GA., 1991-1994

Part-time Medical Social Worker with hospitalized children and families; emergency room and in-patient child abuse assessment

Youth Theology Institute, Candler School of Theology

Research Coordinator, 1992-1995

Designing and implementing multi-modal research project to study faith development and theological imagination of adolescents; in-depth interviewing

Mayflower Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1989-1991

Minister for Pastoral Care and New Member Nurture

Fairview Deaconess Hospital

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1985-1989

Chaplain, Adolescent Chemical Dependency Program

Pastoral, educational and psychotherapeutic work with individuals, groups, and families.

Third World Church Leaders Center, Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Korea

Seoul, Korea, 1982-83

Volunteer in Mission Program, Presbyterian Church US

Teaching Internship

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion**

Faculty, 2007-2009 Workshop for Pre-Tenure Theology Faculty

Knox College, Toronto School of Theology

Summer Intensive course, "Theologies of Childhood," May 28-June 8, 2007

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Summer Faculty, On-Line Course "Theologies of Childhood." June 2006.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Adjunct faculty, 1995-1997. Courses in "Ministries with Youth," and "Feminism, Postmodernism, and Christian Education."

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Guest Lecturer, Women and Religion in undergraduate courses on Modern Christian Thought, 1994-1997

PUBLICATIONS**Books**

GirlTalk, God Talk: Why Faith Matters to Adolescent Girls—and their Parents, San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2008.

Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests, co-authored with Dori Baker. (Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press), 2007.

Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press), 2005.

Behind the Mask of Adolescent Satanism (Minneapolis: Deaconess Press), 1991. Forward by Dr. Roland D. Martinson, Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary.

Book Chapters

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Fatherless Child,” Ch. 5, pp. 78-91 in Mary Elizabeth Moore and Almeda M. Wright, eds., *Children, Youth, and Spirituality in a Troubling World* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press), 2008.

“Children in the Gospel of Mark,” Ch. 5, pp. 44-61 in Jan Grajczonek and Maurice Ryan, eds., *Religious Education in Early Childhood* (Brisbane, Australia: Lumino Press), 2007.

“Capitalizing on Children’s Spirituality: Parental Anxiety, Children as Consumers, and the Marketing of Spirituality,” Chapter 3 in *Perspectives on Children’s Spirituality*, Cathy Ota and Mark Chater, eds. (New York: Routledge), 2006

“Spiritual Economies of Childhood: Christian Perspectives on Global Market Forces and Young People’s Spirituality,” Chapter 36, pp. 458-471 in *Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World’s Religions on Spirituality in Childhood and Adolescence* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), Karen-Marie Yust, Aostre N. Johnson, Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, general editors.

“Children in Congregations: Congregations as Contexts for Children’s Spiritual Growth,” co-authored with Deborah L. Matthews and Scott Walz. Chapter 16 in *Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research, and Applications*, Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2004. 249-265.

“Iris Cully: Imparting the Word”, Chapter 5 in Faith of Our Foremothers: Women Changing Religious Education. Ed. By Barbara Anne Keely (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press), 1997.

“Liberation” and “Faith”, in Dictionary of Feminist Theologies ed. by Letty M. Russell and

J. Shannon Clarkson (Westminster/John Knox: Louisville: 1996), pp. 96-97 & 168.

“Lucy Rider Meyer, Educator”; “Seattle, Chief of the Duwamish Confederacy”; and “Jennie Fowler Willing, Suffrage Worker,” For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations for United Methodists (Order of St. Luke Publications: Akron, Ohio), 1995.

Journal Articles

“Children, Church, and the Problem of Boredom,” forthcoming in *Interface: A Forum for Theology in the World* (Australian publication).

“Europe: Just Do It! Recent Developments in European Religious Education Research,” in *Religious Education*, co-authored with Bert Roebben, forthcoming.

“A Universally Particular Psychology? A Feminist Practical Theological Exploration of *Cultural and Indigenous Psychology*,” in *Pastoral Psychology* 56:1, September 2007: 81-94.

"Transformational Adult Learning in Congregations." *Journal of Adult Theological Education* 3 (2006): 163-178

“Capitalizing on Children’s Spirituality: Parental Anxiety, Children as Consumers, and the Marketing of Spirituality,” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality*, Vol. 11, No. 1: Spring 2006, pp. 23-33.

“Children as Mystics, Activists, Sages, and Holy Fools: Understanding the Spirituality of Children and Its Significance for Clinical Work,” *Pastoral Psychology* 54:5 May 2006, pp. 497-515.

"A Madness to Our Method: Congregational Studies as a Cross-Disciplinary Approach to Contextualizing Teaching and Learning in Theological Education," in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 9:3, July 2006, pp. 148-155.

“A Sense of Call: How Parents Support the Vocational Quests of Adolescent Girls,” in *Journal of Youth and Theology*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Nov. 2005), pp. 32-51.

“Who Do You Say That I Am? Children’s Identities, ‘Spiritual Capital,’ and Congregational Life,” *Family Ministry*, 19:4 Winter 2005, 11-27.

“Teaching the Bible in Congregation: A Congregational Studies Pedagogy for Contextual Education,” in *Religious Education*, Vol. 100, No. 3, Summer 2005: 280-295.

“The Child as Consumer: A North American Problem of Ambivalence Concerning the Spirituality of Childhood in Late Capitalist Consumer Culture,” in *Sewanee Theological Review*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Children and the Kingdom: Theology and Childhood. Christmas 2004 pp. 65-86.

“The Protestant Child, Adolescent, and Family,” in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinics of North America, Allan M. Josephson and Mary Lynn Dell, Guest Editors. Saunders: Philadelphia. January 2004, Vol. 13, No. 1: 161-181.

“Liturgical Practices with Children in Congregations,” co-authored with Deborah L. Matthews in Liturgy: Journal of the Liturgical Conference, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2004: 27-33.

“Children in the Worshiping Community: Some New (And Not So New) Resources for Congregations,” co-authored with Larry A. Golemon, Liturgy: Journal of the Liturgical Conference, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2004: 11-19.

“Iris V. Cully,” in Christian Educators of the Twentieth Century, peer reviewed web publication supported by the Lilly Endowment: <http://www.talbot.edu/ceacademic>.

“David Ng,” in Christian Educators of the Twentieth Century, peer reviewed web publication supported by the Lilly Endowment: <http://www.talbot.edu/ceacademic>.

“The Idea of the Child in Freud and Jung: Psychological Sources for Divergent Spiritualities of Childhood,” International Journal of Children’s Spirituality, Vol. 8, No. 2: 115-132, August 2003.

“Children and Religious Education in an Age of Globalization: Learning from David Ng,” Religious Education, Vol. 97, No. 3: 208-225, Summer 2002.

“Call Forwarding: Putting Vocation in the Present Tense with Youth,” (pp. 29-44) and “Are We Going on a Vocation Now? Ministry with Youth as a Lifelong Vocation,” (pp. 45-56) in Compass Points: Navigating Vocation. The 2002 Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture, Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary: 2002.

“Psychoanalysis, Parents and God: Julia Kristeva on the Imaginary Father and Subjectivity,” Pastoral Psychology Vol. 50, Number 4: 243-258, March 2002.

“Red Light Means Stop! Teaching Theology Through Exposure Learning in Manila’s Red Light District,” Teaching Theology and Religion Vol. 5, Number 2: 90-100, April 2002.

“How Clearly Must I See? Art and Ethics in Pedagogical Practice,” coauthored with Charles R. Foster, Teaching Theology and Religion Vol. 4 No. 3: 124-132, October 2001.

“Practical Theology and the Red Light District,” Journal of Case Teaching Number 11, Fall 2000: 51-59.

“Education For Subordination: Adolescent Girls, Gender Identity, and School Violence,” in Journal of Religion and Abuse, Vol. I (3) 1999: 19-48.

“Youth and Suicide,” in Alert: A Magazine for Leaders and Planners of the Church’s Education Program, (Presbyterian Publishing Corporation: Louisville) August 1996, Vol. 26, No. 2: 7-9.

“What Works with Youth Today,” in The Clergy Journal, March 1996:4-8.

“The Devil Made Me Do It,” Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Problems Volume 2, Number 3: Fall 1993. Special Issue: “Alcohol and Kids.”

“Legal & Theological Justice for Adolescent Female Survivors of Sexual Abuse” The Journal of Law and Religion, Volume IX, Number 2: 1992.

Book Reviews

Book Review, *When Children Became People: The Birth of Childhood in Early Christianity*. By O.M. Bakke. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2005, in *Family Ministry: Empowering People for Faith*, Summer 2006, pp. 46-49.

Book Review, *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*. By Kenda Creasy Dean. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2004, in *The Christian Century*, Vol. 122, No. 14, July 12, 2005: 34-35.

Book Review, *Religious Education in Context of Plurality and Pluralism*, by Hope S. Antone. In *Religious Education* Vol. 100 No. 2, Spring 2005: 224-227.

Book Review, *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*, Andre Resner, Jr., editor. In *Family Ministry*, Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2005: 72-74.

Book Review, “Philosophy of Educational Research,” Teaching Theology and Religion, Vol. 6, No. 2: 119-121, April 2003.

Book Review, “The Feminist Classroom,” Teaching Theology and Religion, Vol. 5, No. 3: 185-187, July 2002.

Book Review, “Let the Children Come: Re-Imagining Childhood from a Christian Perspective,” Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore. In *Religious Education* Vol 99, No. 2, Spring 2004: pp. 203-206.

SELECTED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“The Church Against Itself: Congregations in Conflict with Their Denominations,” International Academy of Practical Theology, Chicago, IL, August 2009

“Contentiously Faithful: Practical Theological Reflections on the Tenacity of Belief,” Inaugural Lecture, Virginia Theological Seminary, December 1, 2008.

“Show a Little Class: Putting Class Analysis into Congregational Studies,” Annual Meeting of the AAR, Practical Theology section, November 2006, Washington, DC.

“Nature as Classroom,” Religious Education Association/APRRE Annual meeting, Toronto, November 4-6, 2005.

“Who Do You Say That I Am? Children’s Identities, ‘Spiritual Capital,’ and Congregational Life,” Childhood Studies and Religion section, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio Texas, November 2004.

“A Madness to Our Method: Congregational Studies as Pedagogical Method for Contextual Theological Education,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio Texas, November 2004.

“Teaching the Bible in Congregations: A Congregational Studies Pedagogy for Contextual Education,” Annual Meeting of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education/ Religious Education Association, November 5, 2004, Denver, CO.

“Parents and the Religious Lives of Adolescent Girls: A Research Report,” Youth Theological Initiative conference, “New Visions of Youth Ministry.” Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. September 16-18, 2004.

“Constructing Children as Consumers: Globalized Capitalism and the Spirituality of Children,” annual meeting of the International Conference on Children’s Spirituality, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, UK, July 19-23, 2004.

“Children as Mystics, Activists, Sages, and Holy Fools: Understanding the Spirituality of Children and Its Significance for Their Care,” Grand Rounds, University of California Los Angeles Medical Center, Neuro-psychiatric Institute, December 10, 2003.

“Call Forwarding: Putting Vocation in the Present Tense with Youth,” and
 “Are We Going on a Vocation Now? Ministry with Youth as a Lifelong Vocation,”
 Keynote Presentations, 2002 Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, St. Simons Island, GA,
 January 7-10, 2002.

“Children as Innocents or Devils: Getting Beyond Theology’s Reproduction of Cultural Ambivalence Toward Children with a Critical-Practical Theology of Childhood,”
 forthcoming, AAR Annual Meeting, November 2001, Denver, CO.

“Children and Religious Education in an Age of Globalization: Learning from David Ng,” for
 closing plenary session, Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education
 Annual Meeting, November 2-4, 2001, Minneapolis, MN.

“Material Girls, Constructed Bodies: A Feminist Religious Analysis of Bodily Practice Using
 the Cultural Theory of Pierre Bourdieu” presented in the Feminist Theory and Religious
 Reflection Section of the American Academy of Religion, November 1996 Annual meeting,
 New Orleans, LA.

“Becoming Female: The Place of Violence in Adolescent Girls’ Constructions of Gender
 Identity,” 1995, American Academy of Religion: Religion and the Social Sciences Section, in
 Philadelphia, November 18, 1995.

“Psychoanalysis, Parents, and God: Julia Kristeva and the Imaginary Father’s Role in
 Subjectivity,” Women and Religion Section of Upper Midwest Regional American Academy
 of Religion, St. Paul, MN, April 21, 1995.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, AND SERMONS

Virginia Theological Seminary

Convocation Workshop Leader, "Welcoming Children in Worship," Oct. 7, 2008

Preacher, Mid-Day Eucharist 10/7/08

Celebrant, 11/13/08, 12/16/08

Fridays at the Seminary "Evoking the Practical in Theology: Desire and Our Turn to God," May 4, 2007.

Summer Collegium , Virginia Theological Seminary

Lecturer on Congregational Studies and small group leader, June 2007 & 2008.

Local Christian Education Teaching

Immanuel Church on the Hill, Adult Forum, "The Seven Deadly Sins" Feb. 11, 2008

Adult Forum Leader, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Washington DC, Dec. 2, 2007

Adult Forum Leader, April 20, 2008, St. John's Episcopal Church McLean, VA

Consultant, Children's Ministry Vision Group, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, April 28, 2008.

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Keynote speaker, Children's Summit, April 4-5, 2008.

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators/ National Association of Episcopal Christian Education Directors/ Association of United Church Educators

Keynote speaker, Western Christian Educators' Conference, Zephyr Point Conference Center, South Lake Tahoe, NV, Oct. 13-17, 2007

Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, VA

"Practicing Our Faith," a six week adult education series, October-November 2007.

"Hope in the Desert," a four week Lenten series for adult education, March 2007.

First Congregational Church, Guilford, CT

The Wilcox Lectures, "Welcoming Children: A Weekend of Workshops on Children and Faith." Friday, Oct. 27-Sunday Oct. 29, 2006.

Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, South Lake Tahoe, NV

Co-leader, Family Winter Holiday, "Christmas in the Movies: Theology and/or Hollywood" with Larry A. Golemon, Dec. 26-31, 2005.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Hartford Seminary

Leadership group, "A Conversation on Theology in Congregational Life," October 11 & 12, 2005, Hartford, CT

Presbyterian Church, Western National Leadership Training Event

Workshop leader, "Adult Education as Transformation," October 5-8, 2005, Jackson Hole, WY.

Emory University, Candler School of Theology

Guest speaker, daylong educational event for supervisors of contextual education, "Skills and Practice of Supervising Theology Students," Atlanta, GA, Tuesday August 29, 2005.

Youth Theological Initiative, Staff Training Leader, "Youth and Vocation," Jan. 18-20, 2008.

Presbyterian Interim Ministry Education Network

Keynote speaker and leader, Annual Continuing Education Event for Teachers of Interim Ministry Education, Seattle, WA, January 28-30, 2005.

Invited educational consultant, March 2006 new curriculum trial.

First Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR

Leader, "The Art and Heart of Teaching" event for teachers in the churches in Cascades Presbytery, Portland, OR, January 7-8, 2005.

Keynote, "Welcoming Children: Children, Consumerism, and the Church" Jan. 20-21, 2006

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators

Presenter, "Children in Congregations," Annual Meeting, Western Region APCE/AUCCE, Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe, NV, October 8-12, 2003

Presbytery of the Redwoods

Speaker, September 21, 2001 meeting of the Presbytery, "Resourcing Christian Education Ministries in the Local Church."

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Annual Continuing Education Event for Christian Educators, September 29, 2001

Speaker, "Strategies and Practical Ideas for Educating Families for Faith"

TV Moore Lectures, Workshop Leader, "Toward a Theology of Childhood" April 17-20, 2001

Keynote Speaker, "What's New in Christian Education?" Continuing Education Event for Christian Educators, September 30, 2000

Princeton Theological Seminary

Keynote lecturer, 2002 Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture, January 7-10, 2002.

Institute for Youth Ministry, Faculty

April 1997 "Girl Talk and Faith: Or, What Would Happen If the Church Listened to Teen Girls Talk About Gender and Faith"

Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines

Keynote speaker, Conference on Women Church Leaders, September 2, 1998; "Why, Women Leaders? Why, *We Are Women Leaders!*"

Convocation Speaker, 90th Anniversary Celebration and Church Worker's Convention November 1997 "Equipping the Ministry for the Twenty-First Century: Practical Theological Reflections."

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Plaza Resolana, Bible Study Leader, Worldwide Ministries Division Mission Personnel Orientation, January 21-26, 2001, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, Keynote speaker, November 1996 meeting, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area; "Understanding Feminist Theologies."

Lilly Youth Programs

Invited consultant to Lilly Endowment's Youth Program Directors, Vocation and Gender, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, Feb. 15-17, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ACCREDITATION

International Academy of Practical Theology, elected to membership 2007

Ordained Minister, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) since 1985 and Minister Member, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (transitioning to National Capital Presbytery, 1/08)

The Association of Practical Theology

Religious Education Association/Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education (REA/APRRE), Board member and Chair, Call for Papers Committee/Publications Committee 2006-2008

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Commonwealth of Virginia # 0904006820

National Association of Social Workers

The American Academy of Religion

International Conference on Children's Spirituality

RELATED CONSULTATION, PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Volunteer, Douglas MacArthur Elementary School Tutoring Program
The Carpenter's Shelter

Wabash Center Faculty, 2008-09 Workshop for Pre-tenure Theological Faculty, with Tat-siong Liew, Dwight Hopkins, Daisy Machado.

Wabash Consultant, 2006 to present

Louisville Institute, Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee 2005-2006

Board member, Religious Education Association, and Chair of Papers/Proposals Committee and Publications, 2006-2009

Editorial Board, Religious Education Journal and Theological Education (ATS journal)

Reviewer for Teaching Theology and Religion

Advisory Board, *Lifelong Faith Journal*

Church and Presbytery

Member, Crisis Team of Committee on Ministry, National Capital Presbytery, July 2008-present (work and consultation with conflicted congregations)

Consultant, San Francisco Presbytery's Committee on Lay Commissioned Pastors, Fall 2004-2006

Member, Presbytery Committee on Ministry, & COM Conflict Response Team, 1994-1997

Member, Presbytery Council on Congregational Life, Minneapolis, 1986-1991

Board of Readers, PCUSA Educator Certification Exam 2007-present

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Married with three children; hobbies include hiking, playing Irish fiddle music, beachcombing, camping, listening to blue grass and old time music, cooking with friends, big dogs.