

## THE REV. DR. DONNA GIVER-JOHNSTON

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### EDUCATION

#### Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

- Doctor of Philosophy, 2014
- Master of Arts, 2011
- Field of Study: Religion; Homiletics and Liturgics
- Dissertation: *Call the Question: Recovering a Rhetorical Witness of Women's Claims to Preach in Nineteenth-Century America for Contemporary Homiletics*

#### Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

- Master of Divinity, 1996
- Concentration: Preaching and Worship, Practical Theology, Feminist Scholarship, Theological Education
- Presidential Scholar

#### Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania

- Bachelor of Arts, 1990
- Major: Industrial Relations (Psychology, Business, Mathematics); Concentration: Humanities
- Graduated *magna cum laude* with honors
- Senior Thesis: *Gender Pay Differentials: A Study of Women's Progress in Narrowing the Pay Gap*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Homiletics

##### **Instructor**, "Preaching and Speech Communications," Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, January-May 2021

- Co-instructed a Preaching course for Master of Divinity students
- Taught lessons on "Preacher as Interpreter," "Preaching and Context," "Preaching from the Old Testament," and "Weddings, Funerals, and Difficult Situations"
- Led preaching feedback group and graded sermons with constructive comments

##### **Instructor**, "Preaching a Relevant Word to a Restless People," Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, January-April, 2020.

- Designed and instructed a Continuing Education course for pastors
- Discussed preachers' reluctance to and reasons for addressing current issues from the pulpit
- Taught a process of writing and a practice of preaching sermons that are pastorally sensitive, prophetically challenging, and particularly relevant in our world today

##### **Instructor**, "Preaching," Commissioned Pastor Preparation Program, Presbytery of West Virginia, March, September 2020

- Designed curriculum and taught weekend preaching course for commissioned lay pastors online
- Read student writing assignments and evaluated preaching

##### **Teaching Assistant**, "Fundamentals of Preaching," Vanderbilt Divinity School, Spring 2010 and 2012

- Attended to the formation of a community of learners and preachers, facilitating weekly discussions
- Observed student preaching and facilitated constructive group feedback
- Developed assessment rubrics that effectively improved student sermons

**Instructor**, “Preaching,” Commissioned Lay Pastor Program, Maumee Valley Presbytery, Part I (Adrian, Michigan, November 2010) and Part II (Fremont, Ohio, July 2011)

- Designed syllabus, taught sessions, listened to student preaching, facilitated group feedback, and graded sermons

## **Liturgics**

**Instructor**, “Worship,” Pathways to Learning and Leadership Program, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Spring 2022

- Design syllabus, teach sessions, facilitate discussion, and provide feedback on assignments

**Teaching Assistant**, “History of Christian Liturgy,” Vanderbilt Divinity School, Spring 2010 and 2011

- Helped professor design the syllabus to engage the history, theology, and practice of worship
- Led class discussions and taught plenary session on *The Christian Wedding*
- Consulted with individuals on writing projects and graded mid-term and final papers
- Organized church site visits for students to experience different types of worship services

## **Interdisciplinary**

**Instructor**, “Field Education,” Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, August 2021-May 2022

- Designed syllabus to support seminary curriculum for theological field education
- Instruct course content and facilitate discussion through online synchronous platform
- Provide constructive feedback and assessment on assignments

**Guest Teacher**, “Pastoral Care,” Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, November 2018

- Crafted lesson and led discussion of “Preaching as Pastoral Care”

**Writing Consultant**, The Writing Studio, Vanderbilt University, 2012-2013

- Consulted with individual students from all disciplines on various writing projects

**Graduate Teaching Affiliate**, The Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, August 2011-2012

- Designed and led Teaching Assistant Orientation for the Graduate Department of Religion

## **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS**

**Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament**, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 1996

**John T. Galloway Preaching Award**, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1996

**Field Education Supervisor of the Year**, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 2013

**Certificate of Teaching**, Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, 2013

## **MINISTERIAL FORMATION EXPERIENCE**

**Field Education Student Supervisor**, Vanderbilt Divinity School, August 2012-May 2013

- Met weekly with students to reflect on field education experience in church
- Attended supervisory meetings to discuss theological field education

**Supervisor**, Candidate for Ministry, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, Summer 2012

- Met weekly with candidate for ministry to reflect on experience of church internship
- Instructed on reformed theology and practice of sacraments

**Preaching Coach**, Academy of Young Preachers, Kentucky, June 2010

- Evaluated student sermons based on rubric created
- Cultivated a community of listeners and mentored young preachers

## PUBLICATIONS

- Donna Giver-Johnston, *Claiming the Call to Preach: Four Female Pioneers of Preaching in Nineteenth Century America*, Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Donna Giver-Johnston, *Writing for the Ear, Preaching from the Heart*, Fortress Press, 2021.
- Donna Giver-Johnston and Beverly Zink-Sawyer, *For Such a Time as This: Preaching for Special Occasions*, Fortress Press, forthcoming in 2022.
- Donna Giver-Johnston, Book Review of *Her Preaching Body: Conversations About Identity, Agency, and Embodiment Among Contemporary Female Preachers* by Amy P. McCullough, 2018. *Homiletic*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (2019). [www.homiletic.net/](http://www.homiletic.net/)
- Donna Giver-Johnston, The Psalms in Worship and Preaching, *Connections Commentary*, Westminster John Knox, Years A, B, and C (2018-2019).
- Donna Giver-Johnston, Book Review of *A Nation with the Soul of a Church: How Christian Proclamation Has Shaped American History* by O.C. Edwards Jr. with James Dunkly, *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (January 2016). [www.int.sagepub.com/](http://www.int.sagepub.com/)
- Donna Giver-Johnston, "The Stones Would Burst into Cheers: Easter Worship for All the Senses," *Journal for Preachers* (Easter 2015).
- Donna Giver Johnston, "Breaking the Silence: A Protestant Portrayal of Mary," *Glossolia* (Fall 2012). [www.glossolia.sites.yale.edu/](http://www.glossolia.sites.yale.edu/)
- Donna Giver Johnston, "Touch of Grace: Reclaiming the Reformed Practices of Liturgical Touch," *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts, Presbyterian Church (USA)*, Volume 45.4 (May 2012).
- Donna Giver Johnston, "The Ordination of Antoinette Brown: The transformation of 'decency and order' from barrier to bridge," *Glossolia*, 4, no.1 (Fall 2011). [glossolia.sites.yale.edu/](http://glossolia.sites.yale.edu/)
- Donna Giver Johnston, "Sing, Touch, Remember: From an Individual Pilgrimage to Communal Practices of Healing," *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts, Presbyterian Church (USA)*, 43.2 (2009-2010).
- Donna Giver Johnston, Book Review of *Healing Relationships: A Preaching Model* by Dan Moseley, *Homiletic*, 2009. [www.homiletic.net/index.php/homiletic/article/view/3357/1578](http://www.homiletic.net/index.php/homiletic/article/view/3357/1578)

## PRESENTATIONS

- Donna Giver-Johnston, "Claiming the Power of the Pulpit: Florence Spearing Randolph Preaches on the Taboo of Antipathy to Women Preachers," conference paper presentation in the History of Preaching section, Academy of Homiletics, San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.
- Donna Giver-Johnston, "Narrating the Call to Preach," conference paper presentation in the Narrative and Imagination section, Academy of Homiletics, San Diego, California, November 2014.
- Donna Giver Johnston, "Learning to Preach: Assessing the Pedagogical Value of Collaborative Preaching," conference paper presentation in the Pedagogy section, Academy of Homiletics, Chicago, November 2012.
- Donna Giver Johnston, "The Ordination of Antoinette Brown" conference paper presentation in the History of Preaching section, Academy of Homiletics, Austin, Texas, December 2011.

## CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Pastoral Ministry

**Pastor and Head of Staff**, Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2013-present

- Craft innovative liturgy, lead weekly in-person and live-streamed worship, and preach imaginative sermons
- Officiate at the Lord's Table, baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- Teach Bible studies and adult education courses and provide pastoral and spiritual care
- Supervise, evaluate, and work collaboratively with a staff of seven people and seminary field education student
- Moderate session of elders to inspire leadership of the church committees
- Reflect on the past and vision for the future in newsletter articles and other forums

- Collaborate on stewardship program, financial and investment policies of the church
- Led a discernment process, strategic planning, and capital campaign for church transformation

**Associate Pastor**, First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, Ohio, 2002-2008

- Designed and led weekly worship services and preached sermons
- Interpreted theology and inspired faith through the written and spoken word
- Developed community mission projects and taught Christian education classes
- Provided pastoral and spiritual care and managed pastoral leadership transition as the acting head of staff
- Supported a capital campaign that doubled the size of the church building

**Pastor**, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Retreat, New Jersey, 1999-2001

- Led preaching, teaching, worship and pastoral ministries of the church

**Associate Pastor**, Brick Presbyterian Church, Brick, New Jersey, 1996-1998

- Led youth ministry, supported worship and pastoral ministries for all ages

### **Service to the Larger Church**

**Executive Committee**, Pittsburgh Presbytery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, December 2014-present

- Support the mission and strategy of Pittsburgh Presbytery

**Teacher and Liturgist**, Music and Worship Conference, Montreat, North Carolina, June 2012

- Crafted and led creative liturgy for large multi-generational congregation and taught course on liturgical symbols

**Sunday School Teacher**, Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2011

- Created and taught course entitled, "Presbyterian Worship: History, Theology and Practice"

**Supply Preacher**, 2008-2012

- Preached and led worship in local Presbyterian churches, Presbytery of Middle TN

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Library Assistant**, Divinity Library, Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 2009-2011

- Assisted library patrons with research questions; checked out and located books

**Personnel Management Specialist**, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., 1990-1993

- Managed a national training and orientation conference; served on Presidential Transition Team

### **ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

**Columbia Theological Seminary**, Decatur, Georgia, 2008

- Journey of Faith Project, Holy Land Pilgrimage

**Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2000-2003

- Certificate of Spiritual Formation; Pilgrimages to Taizé, France and Iona, Scotland

**Abington Memorial Hospital**, Abington, Pennsylvania, 1995

- Clinical Pastoral Education Training

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Academy of Homiletics, Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion
- North American Academy of Liturgy (Visitor)
- International Association of Women Ministers

## **REFERENCES**

**John S. McClure**, Professor of Homiletics, Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, 411 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240-1121. (615)343-3989. john.s.mcclure@vanderbilt.edu

**Leanna K. Fuller**, Interim Dean of Faculty & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. (412) 924-1459. lfuller@pts.edu

**L. Roger Owens**, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and Ministry, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. (412)924-1458. lowens@pts.edu

**Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Professor of Preaching Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2129 Boardman Lane, Henrico, VA 23238. (804)514-6403. sunsawyer11@gmail.com

**Robin M. Jensen**, Professor of Theology and Liturgy, University of Notre Dame, Department of Theology 240 Malloy Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (574)631-0382. rjensen3@nd.edu

**Cathy C. Hoop**, Previous Student at Vanderbilt, Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, 113 Hargrove Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205)758-1193. cathyhoop@gmail.com

**Jay Nutley**, Student of preaching course, Lay Pastor, Gilbert Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 276, Logan, WV 25601. (304)664-3818. jaynunley@gmail.com