

SARAH HEANER LANCASTER

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CURRENT POSITION: Professor of Theology
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio
1997–present

COURSES TAUGHT: Introduction to Theology
Systematic Theology
Doctrine of God
Doctrine of Christ
Doctrine of the Church
Doctrine of Revelation
Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition
Process Theology
The Authority of Scripture
United Methodist Doctrine

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: Authority of Scripture, Wesleyan/Methodist Theology,
Ecclesiology, Theological Anthropology, Soteriology

EDUCATION: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Graduate Program in Religious Studies
Doctor of Philosophy, 1996
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Master of Divinity, highest honors, 1990
School of Theology at Claremont, Claremont, California
Enrolled in Master of Divinity program, 1984–85
Rice University, Houston, Texas
Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, 1978
Majors in English and Spanish

DISSERTATION: “The Authority of Biblical Narrative: Feminist
Reflection on the Work of Hans Frei”
Directed by Charles M. Wood

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

- Romans*, Belief Series, Westminster John Knox, 2015.
- Pursuit of Happiness: Blessing and Fulfillment in Christian Faith*, Wipf & Stock, 2011.
- Women and the Authority of Scripture: A Narrative Approach*, Trinity Press International, 2002.
- “Christology” (modern period, 1600-2000) in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 5, pp. 214-17 ed. by Hans-Josef Klauck, et al., Walter de Gruyter, 2012.
- “Issues Facing Ecumenism: A Perspective From the World Council of Churches,” in *Theology in the U.S. Today: Churches on the Journey*, ed. by Antonios Kireopoulos, Paulist Press (forthcoming)
- “What Makes Theology Wesleyan,” with Catherine Keller, Donald A. Thorsen, Dennis C. Dickerson, and Charles M. Wood, *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*, vol. 1 (2009), pp. 7-26, <http://www.methodistreview.org>.
- “Scripture and Revelation,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*, ed. by William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 489-504.
- “Current Debates Over Wesley’s Legacy Among His Progeny,” in *The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley*, ed. by Randy L. Maddox and Jason E. Vickers (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 286-303.
- “Baptism and Justification: A Methodist Understanding,” in *Ecclesiology*, 4:3 (2008).
- “Ecclesiology and Ministry in the Methodist Church (1939-1968),” in *Methodist History* 46:3 (April 2008).
- “Authority and Narrative,” in *Engaging Biblical Authority: Perspectives on the Bible as Scripture*, ed. William P. Brown, Westminster John Knox, 2007.
- “Scriptural Criticism and Religious Perception,” in *Gender, Tradition, and Romans: Shared Ground, Uncertain Borders*, Romans Through History and Culture Series, eds. Christina Grenholm and Daniel Patte, T&T Clark International, 2005.
- “Happiness: A Word for Our Time,” in *Journal of Theology* 109 (Summer 2005).
- “Capable of God: Evolution and Salvation,” in *Theology and Science* 3:2 (July 2005).
- “Experience and Education: Culture Clash in a School of Theology,” in *Lexington Theological Quarterly* 38:4 (Winter 2003).
- “Women, Wesley, and Original Sin,” in *Quarterly Review* 23:4 (Winter 2003).
- “Our Mission Reconsidered: Do We Really ‘Make Disciples’?” in *Quarterly Review* 23:2 (Summer 2003).
- “God and the Socially Located Subject: A Process Framework for Poststructural Feminism,” in *Faith and Philosophy* 19:2 (April 2002). A shorter version of this paper was presented at the *Silver Anniversary Whitehead Conference*, sponsored by the Center for Process Studies, in August 1998.

“What does the authority of the Bible mean for United Methodists?”, in *Quarterly Review* 21:2 (Summer 2001).

“Divine Relations of the Trinity: Augustine’s Answer to Arianism,” in *Calvin Theological Journal* 34:2 (November 1999). A shorter version of this paper was presented at the spring meeting of the American Society of Church History in 1997.

“Three Personed Substance: The Relational Essence of the Triune God in Augustine’s De Trinitate,” in *The Thomist* 60:1 (January 1996). A shorter version of this paper was presented in the Systematic Theology Group at the annual meeting of AAR/SBL in 1994.

CHURCH PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS:

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God, United Methodist Women, 2015 mission study co-authored with Cynthia A. Bond Hopson.

“Methodist Constructive Theology,” in *Circuit Rider*, 39:1 (Winter 2014/15), pp. 21-22.

“Table Grace: Communion Distinctions in the Lutheran and Methodist Traditions,” with Cheryl Peterson, *Sacramental Life*, 22:1 (Winter 2010), pp. 22-30.

Associate Editor and Contributor for *The Wesley Study Bible*, Abingdon Press, February, 2009.

“Knowledge and Vital Piety,” “Prevenient Grace,” and “Stewardship,” in *A Year with John Wesley and Our Methodist Values*, Discipleship Resources, 2008.

Contributor to *Sourcebook of Worship Resources*, volume 4, Communication Resources, Inc., 2005.

“Jesus Christ: Born in Human Likeness,” in *Worship Arts*, Winter 2003.

“Christian Perfection,” in *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly*, Winter 2003

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of *A Living Tradition: Critical Recovery and Reconstruction of Wesleyan Heritage*, ed. Mary Elizabeth Mulino Moore, in *Wesley and Methodist Studies* 7:1.

Review of *Wesley, Wesleyans, and Reading Bible as Scripture*, for *Modern Believing* 56:1.

Review of *John Wesley’s Teachings*, vol. 1, *God and Providence*, and vol. 2, *Christ and Salvation*, for *Methodist History* 51:3 (April 2013)

Review of *Man of One Book? John Wesley’s Interpretation and Use of the Bible*, by Donald A. Bullen, for *Methodist History* 46:3 (April 2008).

Review essay, “Dramatic Enactment of Christian Faith,” in *Asbury Journal* 62:1 (Spring 2007). Includes reviews of *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*, by Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen; *Theology and the Drama of History*, Cambridge Studies in Christian Doctrine series, by Ben Quash; *The Drama of Doctrine: A*

- Canonical-Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*, by Kevin J. Vanhoozer
- Review of *The Book That Breathes New Life: Scriptural Authority and Biblical Theology*, by Walter Brueggemann, for *Lexington Theological Quarterly* 41:2 (Summer 2006).
- Review of *Before God*, by George W. Stroup, for *Theology Today* 63:1 (April 2006).
- Review of *Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross*, by Deanna A. Thompson, for *Lexington Theological Quarterly* 40:2 (Summer 2005).
- Review of *The Christic Center: Life-Giving and Liberating*, by Harold Wells, for *Theology Today* 62:1 (April 2005).
- Review of *Politics in the Order of Salvation: Transforming Wesleyan Political Ethics*, by Theodore R. Weber, for *Church History* 74:1 (March 2005).
- Review of *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology*, by Kathryn Tanner, for *Theology Today*, 59:2 (July 2002).
- Book note on *The Depth of the Riches: A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends*, for *Theology Today* 58:4 (January 2002).
- Review of *Changing the Subject: Women's Discourses and Feminist Theology*, by Mary McClintock Fulkerson, in *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 8 (1995).

PRESENTATIONS:

- Response to *John Wesley in America*, and moderator for panel discussion on "The Ecclesial Theologian in the Wesleyan Tradition: Retrospect and Prospect," Wesley Theological Society annual meeting, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, Ohio, March 6, 2015.
- "Deaconess: Order and Office," at the Study of Lay Order in Relationship with the Deaconess/Home Missioner Movement in The United Methodist Church, Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, Tennessee, September 26-28, 2014
- Response to papers in "Wesleyan Perspectives on Embodiment" session, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, California, November 22, 2014.
- Presentation to UM Council of Bishops, "Wesley and Ecclesiology," November 11, 2013.
- "Women and Original Sin in the Wesleyan Tradition," The Staley Lecture, Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina, March 30, 2011.
- "The Dangers of Triumphalism: Ecclesiology and Empire," Wesley Theological Society, March 4, 2011.
- Keynote speaker for the Sixth Annual Berlin Seminar for International and Migrant Congregations in the Methodist Tradition in Europe, January 23-27, 2011.
- "Being One in Christ," at conference "Albert Outler and the Wesleyan Spirit," held at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, January 30, 2008.

- Panelist, "Methodist, Lutheran, and Catholic Agreement on Justification," in the Wesleyan Studies Group of the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion 2007.
- "Being Happy in God: Implications for the Nature and Mission of the Church," presented as member of the Systematic Theology working group of the 12th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, August 12-21, 2007.
- Panelist, "The Future of Our Journey: Issues in Ecumenism: A Perspective from the World Council of Churches," at 50th Anniversary Conference "On Being Christian Together: The Faith and Order Experience in the United States," held by the National Council of Churches, Oberlin, Ohio, July 22, 2007.
- Faculty Lecture at MTSO, "One Baptism? A Dialogue about Dialogues," presented with Robin Knowles Wallace, April 13, 2005
- Response to "Overture" in *Reading Israel in Romans*, for Romans Through History and Culture Seminar at the annual meeting of Society of Biblical Literature 2003
- Response to plenary address at 11th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, August 13-22, 2002
- "Capable of God: Evolution and New Creation," presented as member of Systematic Theology working group of the 11th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, August 13-22, 2002.
- Panelist, The 2001 Lourdes College Ecumenical Lecture, "The Vatican Declaration 'The Lord Jesus' and its Ecumenical Impact," February 4, 2001.
- "Surviving and Thriving: Human Nature According to Evolutionary Psychology and John Wesley's Soteriology." Presented in the Wesleyan Studies Group at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in 2000.
- "John Wesley's Evangelical Catholicism: Discipleship in the Wesleyan Tradition." Presented for the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus, Inc., in April 2000.
- "Christian Commitment to Revelation: Implications for Dialogue." Presented at *Religion and Science: Tension, Accommodation, and Engagement*, an international conference sponsored by The Ohio State University and the John Templeton Foundation, in May 1999.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:

- American Academy of Religion, 1993–present
Co-chair of AAR Wesleyan Studies Group, 2002-2008
Member of AAR standing committee, Status of Women in the Profession 2002-2004
Society of Biblical Literature, 1993–2001, 2003
Wesleyan Theological Society, 2010

Ordained elder and member in full connection of the North Texas Conference, the United Methodist Church, 1999. (Ordained deacon in 1989.)

ACADEMIC AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES (SELECTED):

Positions held at Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Classical Division Chair, 2011-2013. 2015-present

Director of MTS degree, 2015-present

Editor of self-study for reaccreditation by the Association of Theological Schools and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 2006-2008.

Member of Faculty Personnel Committee, 2007-2013

Director of Lexington Seminar project, 2003-2005, funded by the Lilly Endowment

Chair of Academic Affairs Committee, 2004-2006.

Member of Academic Affairs Committee, 2003-2004, 2014-2016

Faculty Trustee, 2003-2005, 2016-present

Co-director of "Cultivating a Teaching and Learning Community," a project funded by a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning. 1999-2001.

Chair, Admissions and Student Aid Committee, 2001-2003.

Chair, Continuing and Lay Education Committee, 1999-2001.

Activities in The United Methodist Church

Organized United Methodist Women's History: Voices Lost and Found, conference on MTSO campus, May 28-30, 2015.

Consultation on Theological Education, GBHEM, San Diego, California, November 19-21, 2014.

WCC US Conference Board member, 2009-2010

Member of drafting group for United Methodist Church-Episcopal Church full communion statement, 2010-2015.

Presentation on "The State of Ecclesiology," for inaugural meeting of the UMC Committee on Faith and Order, Washington, D.C, April, 2009.

Representative of UMC at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly for the vote on full communion between the ELCA and the UMC, Minneapolis, August, 2009.

Workshop leader for instructors of United Methodist Doctrine courses at "The United Methodist Church at 40: Considering Our History, Teaching Our Traditions, Anticipating Our Future," a consultation sponsored by Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, August 15, 2008.

Design team member for "Dialogue on Homosexuality," sponsored by the West Ohio Unity Task Force, October 2007.

Presenter and design team member for "Christology and Ministry to the World: A Wesleyan Approach to Theological Conversation," sponsored by West Ohio Conference, East Ohio Conference, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and Methodist Theological School in Ohio, September 2006

- Member of Faith and Order Standing Commission of the World Council of Churches, 2006-2013. Co-moderator of the Ecclesiology Study Group, 2007-2013.
- Member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, 2006-present.
- Contributor of research for the Commission for the Study of Ministry, established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, to report to General Conference in 2008.
- Keynote speaker at workshop for United Methodist Doctrine teachers, sponsored by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, "Happiness in John Wesley's Theology," June 23, 2005.
- Proxy delegate for Faith and Order Plenary Commission, World Council of Churches, meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 28-August 6, 2004.
- Keynote speaker for symposium on ministry, sponsored by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, "Sacramental Authority in The United Methodist Church," January 2004.
- Member of ELCA-UMC bilateral dialogue, 2003-2008.
- Keynote speaker for Clergywomen's Conference, South Central Jurisdiction, "Looking Back to Look Ahead," January 2003.
- "Unity in Faith: The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in a Wider Ecumenical Context," panel member and participant in dialogue as World Methodist Council representative, November 26-December 1, 2001 in Columbus, Ohio.

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT:

- Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.
Instructor for "United Methodist Doctrine, 2000.
Instructor for "Introduction to Theology," Foundational Studies Course, 1998.
Teaching assistant for "The Interpretation of the Christian Message," 1993-94.
- Church Music Summer School, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.
Instructor for course in the Gospel of John, 1996.
- White Rock United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. Intern pastor, 1988-89.