

Richard Topping

CURRICULUM VITAE

of

Richard R. TOPPING

Canadian Citizen

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1. EDUCATION

- 2005 **Ph.D., Systematic Theology** (First-Class Standing)
Dissertation: *Revelation, Holy Scripture and Church in the Hermeneutic Thought of James Barr, Paul Ricoeur and Hans Frei*,
Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto
School of Theology, University of Toronto
Dissertation Supervisor: Professor John B. Webster
- 1993 **One Year Diploma Course**, Knox College, Toronto School of
Theology, University of Toronto
- 1988 **M.A., Systematic Theology** (First-Class Standing)
Thesis: '*A Critical Appraisal of Evangelical Foundational Theology*,'
Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto
School of Theology, University of Toronto
Thesis Director: Professor John B. Webster
- 1984 **B.A., Religious Studies** (Dean's Honor List), University of Waterloo,
Waterloo, Ontario

2. AWARDS

- 2012 Church Press Award of Merit for the Theology 101 Department of The Presbyterian Record (Co-Editor)
- 2006 Canadian Church Press Award for '*Delving into the Depths of Theology, An Appreciation of Mere Christianity*,' by C.S. Lewis, in The Presbyterian Record (December, 2005).

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- 1997 Pulpit Digest Preaching Award, First Place, Doctrinal/Theological Category, 'The Ascension.'
- 1993 Anglican Theological Review Essay Contest, First Place, 'Toward a Critical and Relevant Reading of the Bible as Holy Scripture of the Church.'
- 1991 Canadian Theological Society Graduate Student Essay Contest, First Place, 'The Canon and the Truth: Brevard Childs and James Barr on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method.'

3. MINISTRY/LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

(i) Teaching/Administrative Appointments

- 2013-2016 Principal, Vancouver School of Theology
- 2009-present Associate Professor, *The St. Andrew's Hall Chair of Studies in the Reformed Tradition*, St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology, University of British Columbia
- Tenure Granted 2012 - General Assembly Presbyterian Church in Canada
- 2000-2008 Adjunct Faculty, Presbyterian College, McGill University

(ii) Congregational Service

- 2000-2009 Senior Minister, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, Quebec www.standrewstpaul.com
An historic and thriving downtown congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. I was the head-of-staff (10-12 members) and served on multiple search committees for staff members - secretarial, musical, maintenance and ministerial. I was the moderator of a Session of about 50 members in a growing congregation of over 800 members.
- 1997-1999 Assistant Minister, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, Quebec
With responsibility for ministry to teenagers and young adults at nearby Concordia and McGill Universities.
- 1993-1996 Minister, Knox and Zion Presbyterian Churches, Port Carling and Torrance, Ontario
Acknowledged for significant growth in Reginald Stackhouse, Alive Again: Recession and Recovery in the Churches [Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1999], 21-24).

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1993 Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church
in Canada, Brampton, Ontario

(iii) *Denominational/College Appointments*

2016 Research Degrees Committee, Vancouver School of Theology

2013-2016 Minister-in-Association, Richmond Presbyterian Church

2012-2013 Conversation Circle for the Development of A Theological
Framework for Aboriginal Spirituality

2011-2012 Camp Douglas, Chaplain and Counselor Training

2011-2013 Summer School Coordinator, Vancouver School of Theology

2011-2012 Chair of Visiting Distinguished Scholars Committee, VST

2011 Acting Dean of Studies, VST

2011-2013 Convenor, Doctrine Committee, Presbytery of Westminster

2011 Convenor, Search Committee for Presbyterian Director of
Denominational Studies, St. Andrew's Hall and Vancouver School of
Theology

2011 Interim Moderator, Calvin Presbyterian Church, Abbotsford

2010-2013 Coordinator, Extension Site Development and Administration, Vancouver
School of Theology (Calgary and Victoria)

2009-2013 Church Doctrine Committee, Presbyterian Church in Canada

2009-2013 Co-Editor of *Theology 101 Series*, Presbyterian Record

2007-2009 Executive, Academic and D.D. Committees, Presbyterian College,
Montreal School of Theology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.
Helped to secure degree charter amendments through the
National Assembly for the College

2006-2009 Board of Governors, Presbyterian College, Montreal

2005-2009 Mentor, Divinity Students, Presbyterian College

2000-2009 Convener, Ministry/Personnel/Candidates Committee, Presbytery of
Montreal

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- 2008 World Alliance of Reformed Churches Delegate to the 49th International Eucharistic Congress of the Roman Catholic Church, Quebec City, Canada
- 2007 PCC Delegate to World Alliance of Reformed Churches Pastor's Conference, Geneva, 'The Mission of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church Worldwide and You' and 'Preparations for the 500th Anniversary of Calvin's Birth
- 2005-2006 Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, Presbyterian Church
- 2005-2006 Moderator, Special Commission of the 131st General Assembly
- 2005/2008 In Ministry Year Supervisor, Presbyterian College, Montreal
- 2003-2007 Presbytery Representative, Christian-Jewish Dialogue
- 1998-2006 Member of the National Task Force for the Development of Catechisms for Children and Adults, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Convener: The Reverend Dr. William Klempa
- 1993-2003 Member of Task Force on the 'Theology and Practice of Ministry,' The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Convener: The Reverend Dr. James Thomson

(iv) Community Service

- 2013-present Senator, University of British Columbia
- 2011 DOXA Documentary Film Festival: Forum for Justice, Vancouver, Respondent
- 2006-2009 Chaplain, Canadian Armed Forces, The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada
Main work consisted of interviewing soldiers leaving for Afghanistan and interviewing them when they returned to civilian life and being a pastoral presence to the regiment. Sadly, had to organize with the Canadian Forces a service of burial of one of our soldiers
- 2005-2009 Vice-Chair of the Board, Trafalgar School for Girls, Montreal
Private Girl's School where I was involved in strategic planning and fund-raising for student bursaries
- 2000-2009 Governor, Trafalgar School for Girls, Montreal, Convenor of Bursary Committee

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1997-1999 Member of the Board of Directors and Convener of Christian Education Subcommittee, Tyndale-St. Georges' (A Presbyterian-Anglican inner-city educational mission to new immigrants, Montreal)

1997-2005 Associate Chaplain, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

4. PUBLICATIONS

(i) Book

Revelation, Holy Scripture and Church: Theological Hermeneutic Thought of James Barr, Paul Ricoeur and Hans Frei. New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007).

Reviews:

Briggs, Richard. Theological Book Review (2009) 21/1: 87.

Harrower, Scott. Journal of Theological Studies. (April, 2010) 61/1: 456-459

Le Grys, Alan. Journal for the Study of the New Testament (August, 2009) 31/5: 161.

Madueme, Hans. 'Review Article: *Theological Interpretation after Barth*,' in Journal of Theological Interpretation (Spring, 2009) 3/1: 143-156.

McFarland, Ian A. Evangelical Quarterly (October, 2008) 80/4: 364-365.

Merrick, James. Theology Forum (February 9, 2009):

<http://theologyforum.wordpress.com/2009/02/09/review-of-toppings-revelation-scripture-and-church>

Paddison, Angus. International Journal of Systematic Theology (April, 2009) 11/2: 232-235.

Ream, Todd. The Heythrop Journal (January, 2009) 58/1: 129-130.

Roberts, Kyle A. Religious Studies Review (March, 2011) 37/1: 38.

Vissers, John. 'Reading Scripture Rightly,' in Presbyterian Record (June, 2008): 20-21.

(ii) Edited Volumes

Co-editor, Calvin @500: Theology, History and Practice (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2011).

Guest Editor with Profs. John Webster and David Demson, 'Hans Frei and the Future of Theology,' papers from the 1990 meeting of the Karl Barth Society in Modern Theology 8/2 (April, 1992).

(iii) ThM. Supervision/Outside Reviewer/Doctoral Examiner

2015-2016 Roger Revell: 'A Theology of Sabbath: Retrieving an Enhanced Perspective on Its Meaning and Purposes'

2014-2015 Margaret Trim: 'Joy Comes in the Morning: The Eschatological Imagination and Trauma Healing'

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2013-2014 Emma Pavey: *'Finding a Place for Solitude in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology and Christian Practice'*

2011-2016 Routledge, IVP Academic, Pickwick, Palgrave-McMillan, and The Toronto Journal of Theology

2013 Outside Examiner D.Min. Thesis, Mark Ward, 'Hearing and Listening: A Minister's Journey with a Congregation,' Knox College, Toronto School of Theology

2012 Outside Examiner Ph.D. Thesis, Peter D. Oulton, *'In Search of a Responsible Freedom in a Post-Christendom World: A Reconsideration of Karl Barth's Social and Political Thought,'* Wycliffe College, Toronto School of Theology

(iv) *Articles/Chapters*

'Troubling Context: Theological Education in Mainline Protestantism in Canada,' forthcoming Encounter (Summer 2016).

'John Calvin and the Image of God: Creation, Regeneration, Remnants and Rights,' Touchstone 34/1 (February, 2016), 7-14.

'The College and Missional Leadership,' pp. 228-249. Edited by William Klempa, et., al. Still Voices-Still Heard: Sermons, Addresses, Letters and Reports The Presbyterian College, 1865-2015 (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015).

'Creation, Calling and Care for the World,' in The Presbyterian Record (July, 2012).

'Theological Interpretation of Scripture,' in Lexham Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2012).

Theological Commentary on Advent Lessons, pp. 1-20. Edited by Paul Scott Wilson. In Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary: Preaching Year C (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012).

'Scripture Funded: Reforming Reformed Imagination, pp. 23-37.' Edited by Richard R. Topping and John A. Vissers. In Calvin@500: Theology, History and Practice (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2011).

'A Spirited Life: John Calvin on the Holy Spirit,' E-Channels June 2010, January 2011 and November 2011. <http://renewalfellowship.presbyterian.ca/e-channels.html>

'Listening to Many for the Voice,' Presbyterian Record (February, 2011).

'Listening for God: Church Practice and Private Devotion,' Glad Tidings (January, 2011).

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'Can You Imagine? On How the Gospels Can Make You Wonderfully Interesting and Somewhat Weird,' Presbyterian Record (January, 2011).

'God Spoke to Me: The Presence of God by Means of Scripture,' Presbyterian Record (April, 2010).

'John Calvin on the Sacraments,' Presbyterian Record (February, 2009).

'Transcendental Method and Private Language: Bernard Lonergan and Ludwig Wittgenstein on Religious Language and Experience,' ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University 21 (Spring, 1993): 11-26.

'The Canon and the Truth: James Barr and Brevard Childs on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method,' Toronto Journal of Theology 8/2 (Fall, 1992): 239-260.

'The Anti-foundationalist Challenge to Evangelical Apologetics,' The Evangelical Quarterly, 63/1 (January, 1991): 45-60 (Identified as an important criticism of the apologetics of modernity in Timothy Phillips and Dennis Okholm, Editors, Christian Apologetics in the Postmodern World (Downers Grove: IVP, 1995), 231).

'Hans Frei and the Future of Theology,' Canadian Theological Society Newsletter, 9/2 (November, 1990): 1-5.

'Epistemological Problems with Historical Apologetics,' Prolegomena 1/2 (December, 1989): 27-32.

(v) *Church Publications*

Contributing Author: 'Theological Framework for Aboriginal Spirituality,' Acts and Proceedings of the 139th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2013, 508-518.

Principal Author: *'The Necessity, Sufficiency and Clarity of Scripture,'* Acts and Proceedings of the 136th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2010, 287-290.

Contributing author: A Catechism for Today (Montreal: Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2006)

Contributing author: Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Toronto: Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2004).

Principal author: *'The Laity,'* Acts and Proceedings of the 120th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1998, 342-348.

Principal author: *'The Ruling Elder,'* Acts and Proceedings of the 122nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (1996): 350-362.

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'*Sincere Work and Spiritual Improvement: Principal Caven's Emphases in Theological Education,*' Presbyterian History: A Newsletter of the Committee on History, 40/1 (May, 1996): 1-4.

(vi) *Book Reviews*

Eschatology, Liturgy, and Christology: Toward Recovering an Eschatological Imagination by Thomas P Rausch in Anglican Theological Review 95/3 (Summer, 2013): 569-570.

Scripture: A Very Theological Proposal, by Angus Paddison, in The International Journal of Systematic Theology 14/3 (July, 2012): 356-359.

Calvin's Ladder: A Spiritual Theology of Ascent, by Julie Canlis, in Crux (Spring, 2011) and eChannels (January, 2011).

The Neo-Orthodox Theology of W.W. Bryden, by John Vissers, in The Presbyterian Record (October, 2006).

'*Delving into the Depths of Theology, An Appreciation of Mere Christianity,*' by C.S. Lewis, in The Presbyterian Record (December, 2005): 23.

Hans Frei and Karl Barth: Different Ways of Reading Scripture, by David Demson, in the Canadian Theological Society Newsletter (March, 1998).

Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, by Daniel Migliore, in Toronto Journal of Theology 10/1 (Spring, 1994): 107-109.

Insight (University of Toronto Edition, 1992), by Bernard Lonergan, in ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 21 (Spring, 1993): 96-98.

God, Creation, and Providence in the Thought of Jacob Arminius by Richard A. Muller, in The Baptist Review of Theology 2/1 (Spring, 1992): 70-74

Aspects of Christian Integrity, by Alan P.F. Sell, in The Baptist Review of Theology 1/1 (Fall, 1991): 85-86.

Return to Reason, by Kelly James Clark, in Toronto Journal of Theology 7/1 (Spring, 1991): 146-150, and in The Baptist Review of Theology 1/1 (Fall, 1991): 55-57.

The Freedom of a Christian, by Eberhard Jüngel, in Toronto Journal of Theology 6/2 (Fall, 1990): 316-319.

(vii) *Sermons*

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 77/7 (May/June, 2001): 73-80.

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 76/7 (May/June, 2000): 47-54.

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Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 75/7 (May/June, 1999): 118-124.

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 75/1 (October, 1998): 41-50.

‘The Ascension,’ Pulpit Digest (July/August, 1997): 63-68.

5. INVITED LECTURES/ADDRESSES

I have not included sermons here. I preach nearly every Sunday by invitation, most often in Western Canada. However, I have received invitations to preach in every Canadian province and a few times in the United States and the UK.

- 2016 Synod of British Columbia, Presbyterian Church in Canada, ‘*Preaching Vision*’
- 2016 Alberta and NorthWest Conference, United Church of Canada, ‘*Recall through Renewal of the Mind*’
- 2016 Diocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada, ‘*Renew, Refresh, Rejoice*’ Keynote Speaker
- 2016 Refugees and the Gospel, Interreligious Panel, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Chilliwack
- 2015 Niblett Memorial Lecture, ‘*Troubling Context: Theological Education in Canada*,’ Sarum College, Salisbury, UK., Preaching at St. Thomas, Church of England, Salisbury
- 2015 Panel on Climate Change, Presbytery of Westminster
- 2014 *Theological Perspectives on Palliative Care*, British Columbia Hospice and Palliative Care Association
- 2014 Diocese of Vancouver, Synodical Preacher
- 2012 ‘*How do we Know God?*’ Ahmadiya Muslim Community Inter-Religious Colloquium, University of British Columbia, BC
- 2012 *Spiritual Gifts for the Missional Church*, Richmond Presbyterian Church
- 2012 Westminster Presbyterian Church, *Resurrection and the Body*, Westminster Ministerial Lenten Series

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- 2012 *Existence of God and Human Suffering*, Ahmadiya Muslim Community Inter-Religious Colloquium, University of Fraser Valley University, Mission, BC
- 2011 Taiwanese Ministers of North America, Kerrisdale Presbyterian, ‘*The Holy Spirit in Reformed Theology*’
- 2011 The Synod of Alberta and the North West, ‘*The Congrégation- Listening to Scripture Together*’
- 2011 Calvin Presbyterian Church, North Bay, Ontario, ‘*The Bible as Artifact, Literature and Living Voice*’
- 2010 AAR Regional Meeting, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Theological Division, ‘*Calvin and Ricoeur on Hermeneutics and Imagination*’
- 2010 Friends of Vancouver School of Theology, ‘*Imagination in Recent Theology*’
- 2010 University of Calgary, Presbyterian of Calgary-McLeod, ‘*A Theology of Reformed Leadership*’
- 2009 John Calvin Today, Surrey, B.C., Renewal Fellowship Conference, ‘*The Spirited Life: John Calvin and the Holy Spirit*’
- 2009 Presbyterian College, Montreal, Calvin and The Christian Faith Today Conference, ‘*Scripture Stoked: Reforming Reformed Imagination?*’
- 2009 The Synod of British Columbia, White Rock, ‘*Calvin and the Venerable Company of Preachers*’
- 2009 St. Andrew’s/Vancouver School of Theology, ‘*Does Biblical Interpretation have a Prayer?*’ Inaugural Lecture for The St. Andrew’s Hall Chair in Reformed Studies
- 2009 Presbyterian Church in Canada, New Church Development, Continuing Education: *Worship, Preaching and Evangelism: Fear and Faithfulness*, Presbyterian College
- 2008 Keynote Address: *Biblical Interpretation: When Revelation and Hermeneutics Meet*, Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University: Respondent: Dr. André Gagné, Assistant Professor
- 2008 Knox Summer Fellowship 2008, ‘*Great Nights of the Bible,*’ Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto

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- 2008 Keynote Address: *Getting a Grip: Theology and Church Life*, and *Temptations for City Churches*, St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology, Best Practices Conference for Presbyterian Clergy and Church Leaders
- 2007 *Ministry: Catching Up with What God is Doing*, Student and Faculty Retreat, Presbyterian College, Montreal
- 2007 *The Church in the 21st Century*, Knox College/St. Andrew's King Street, Toronto, Sponsored Lectures: *The Church in the Present - Tense* and *The Gospel and our Situation*
- 2004 *War and Peace: Restraining Evil without Committing It*, October Series of Lectures, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal
- 2003 Graduate Lecture, *The Perils of Relevance*, and Convocation Address, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec, McGill University
- 1998/1999 *The Point of Preaching*, Presbyterian, Anglican and United Church Colleges, McGill University
- 1998 *Reading the Bible as Scripture*, Student and Faculty Retreat, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec
- 1991 *The Canon and the Truth: Brevard Childs and James Barr on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method*, (Canadian Theological Society, Queen's University)
- 1988 *Is Intratextual Theology Fideistic?*, Canadian Evangelical Theological Association, Tyndale Theological Seminary

6. TEACHING EXPERIENCE (At the Vancouver School of Theology unless otherwise noted)

(i) *Courses Taught*: Advanced Degree (Th.M.)

Theological Aesthetics

A Secular Age: Charles Taylor's on Secularity

Contemporary Trinitarian Theology

Interpretation and Imagination in Post-liberal Theology

The Doctrine of God in Post-liberal Theology

Research Methods: Theological Research Methodologies

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(ii) Courses Taught: Basic Degree (M.Div, MATS, MAPPL)

Christ and Culture: Barth and the Rise of National Socialism
Theology and Practice of Prayer

Lecturer in Church History with Donald Lewis, Regent College:

John Calvin and the Geneva Project

Schleiermacher and the Rise of Liberalism

The Churches and Fascist Totalitarianism

Constructive Theology

Reformation History

Reformed Theology of the 19th and 20th Century

Principles of Preaching, Montreal School of Theology, McGill University, Montreal
Church, Ministry and Sacraments, Presbyterian College

Worship in the Reformed Tradition, Presbyterian College

Orientation to Ministry, Presbyterian College

Introduction to Philosophy, Sheridan College, Brampton, ON.

(iii) Courses Taught: Lay Education (certificate)

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

Theology for Non-Theologians

Who Says You Haven't Got A Prayer?

(iv) *Teaching Assistant*

1990-1992 Teaching Assistant to Professor Reginald Stackhouse 'Basic Christian Ethics,' 'Theodicy,' 'Existential Concerns in Theology,' 'Religion and the Gospel,' and 'Eschatology' at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

1990 Teaching Assistant to Professor David Demson 'Introduction to Systematic Theology' at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto

1988-1990 Teaching Assistant to Professor John Webster 'Introduction to Systematic Theology,' 'Atonement and Sanctification' and 'Christology' at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

7. RESEARCH INTERESTS/AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Systematic and Constructive Theology
Theological Hermeneutics/Biblical Theology
History of Reformed Tradition
Theological Aesthetics

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8. *SOCIETIES/ASSOCIATIONS*

American Academy of Religion
Calvin Studies Society of North America
Canadian Theological Society
Society of Biblical Literature
Karl Barth Reading Group, Vancouver (initiated)