

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, 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

Doctor of Ministry

Faculty and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary,
January 2023—present

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, 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, 2012

- Attended to the formation of a community of learners and preachers, facilitated 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, 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

National Clergy Renewal Grant, Lilly Endowment Inc., 2020

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

CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor and Head of Staff, Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2013-2023

- 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 eight people
- 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 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 2014-2020

- Support the mission and strategy of Pittsburgh Presbytery

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

- Crafted and led worship for large multi-generational congregation; taught 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, DC, 1990-1993

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 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 Every Matter Under Heaven: Preaching on Special Occasions*, Fortress Press, 2022.

Book Reviews and Articles

- 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/
- 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/
- 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,” *Glossolalia* (Fall 2012). www.glossolalia.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,” *Glossolalia*, 4, no.1 (Fall 2011). glossolalia.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

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.

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

REFERENCES

John S. McClure, Professor of Homiletics, Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, 411 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240-1121. (615) 945-0821. john.s.mcclure@gmail.com

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

Jean Henderson, Honorably Retired Presbyterian Pastor, 346 Norman Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. (724) 776-8346. jhhh21942@aol.com

Susan Rothenberg, Church Consultant and Pastor-at-Large, Pittsburgh Presbytery, 156 56th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. (412) 585-1219. smr33@verizon.net