

Rev. Joshua R. Sweeden, Ph.D.
1700 E. Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64131
email: jsweeden@nts.edu

CURRENT POSITION:

Professor of Church and Society, Nazarene Theological Seminary

Courses:

Christian Ethics
Christian Witness in Contemporary Contexts
Church and Empire
Christian Faith and Theological Inquiry
Spiritual Formation: Service and Community
Dissertation Methodology

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA (2012)
Practical Theology (concentration in Church and Society)
Dissertation: *The Church and Work: A Study of the Ecclesiological Grounding of Good Work*

M.Div. Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO (2007)
Honors Program

B.A. Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA (2003)
Bible and Christian Ministries

TEACHING:

Assistant Professor of Theology and Richard B. Parker Co-Chair in Wesleyan Theology, Portland Seminary/George Fox University (2013-2016)

Seminary courses:

Missional Ecclesiology (2013-2016)
Culture and Systems Change (2014-2016)
Contemporary Theological Trends (2013, 2016)
Christian Ethics (2014, 2016)
Theology in the Wesleyan Tradition (2013)
Developing a Research Topic (2014-2015)
Spirituality and Work (2014)

Advising:

DMin Faculty Advisor is *Semiotics and Future Studies* track (5 students) and *Leadership and Spiritual Formation* track (2 students), MA Thesis Advisor

Undergraduate courses:

RELI 300 – *Christian Foundations* (2015-2016)

Committees and Service:

Seminary Academic Committee (Chair, 2014-2016), Seminary Curriculum Revision Steering Committee (Chair, 2015-2016), Faculty Chair for Seminary Admissions Review (2014-2016)

Visiting Professor of Religion, Eastern Nazarene College (2011 – 2012)

Survey of the History of Christianity (Spring 2012)
Senior Integrative Seminar (Spring 2012)
Critical Thinking and Logic (Spring 2012)
Christian Tradition (three sections, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)

Intro to Missions (Fall 2011)

Topics in the History of Christianity: Church and Empire (Fall 2011)

Instructor, Boston University School of Theology (2008 – 2010)

Integration of Theology and Practice (2008-2012)

Teaching Assistantships, Boston University School of Theology (2009-2011)

Head T.A., *Practices of Faith* with Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore and Professors Elizabeth Parsons, Claire Wolfteich, and Shelly Rambo (Fall 2010 – Spring 2011)

Vocation, Work, and Faith with Professor Claire Wolfteich (Spring 2010)

Evangelism in Contemporary Cultures with Dean Bryan Stone (Fall 2009)

Instructor, Eastern Nazarene College (January term, 2010)

Special Topics in Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures.

Instructor of Theology and Spiritual Guide, Leavenworth U.S. Penitentiary (2004-2006)

Life Connections Program - intensive faith-based program. I worked with the Protestant cohort. (Contracted through Bresee Institute for Metro Ministries, Kansas City, MO).

Instructor of Theology, C.E.N.E.T.A. Extension of Nazarene Seminary of Buenos Aires (2003)

Doctrine of Holiness I (Semester I)

Systematic Theology (Semester I)

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION:

Nazarene Theological Seminary:

CAO/Dean of the Faculty (2017-2022)

Acting President (2017)

Associations/Accreditation:

Member of Faculty Development Advisory Committee of the Association of Theological Schools (2018-2022)

Member of Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee for the Church of the Nazarene (2018-)

Director of NTS's Comprehensive Evaluation for Reaffirmation of Accreditation (self-study) (2020)

Portland Seminary:

Chair of Curriculum Revision Steering Committee (2015-2016)

Chair of Seminary Academic Committee (Executive Committee of the Faculty) (2014-2016)

Faculty Chair for Seminary Admissions Review (2014-2016)

ATS Self-Study Faculty Rep (2016)

Boston University School of Theology:

Member of ATS Self-Study Steering Committee (2010-2011)

Nazarene Theological Seminary:

Director of Admissions, Nazarene Theological Seminary (2006-2007)

OTHER MINISTERIAL:

Immediate Disaster Response Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (Jan. - Feb. 2010)

Interim Pastor, Cambridge Church of the Nazarene, Cambridge, MA (Jan. 2008 - May 2009)

Volunteer Missionary, Paraguay District, Church of the Nazarene (2003-2004)

Youth Ministry Positions, Napa Church of the Nazarene (2000); Linda Vista Church of the Nazarene (2000); Mission Valley Church of the Nazarene (1999 – Spring 2000)

Director of Student Ministries, Point Loma Nazarene University (2001-2003)

INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS:

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| 2021 | Pathways for Tomorrow Grant, Lilly Endowment Inc. |
| 2019/2020 | Reimagining Pedagogies for Diverse Professionals, Project Grant, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion |
| 2018/2019 | Science for Seminaries Grant, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences |
| 2017/2018 | Innovation Grant, Association of Theological Schools |
| 2017/2018 | Hybrid Pedagogies and Sociology of Learning, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion |
| 2017/2018 | Faculty Development Grant, Association of Theological Schools |

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS:

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| 2016 | Research Grant, George Fox University |
| 2008-2010 | Center for Practical Theology ITP Fellowship, Boston University |
| 2007-2008 | Center for Practical Theology Tuition Scholarship, Boston University |
| 2007 | Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Nazarene Theological Seminary |
| 2005-2007 | Christian Service Scholarship, Nazarene Theological Seminary |
| 2004-2007 | Honors Scholarship, Nazarene Theological Seminary |
| 2003 | M. Estes Haney Award Recipient, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Point Loma Nazarene University |
| 2002-2003 | Associated Student Body Board of Directors Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University |
| 1999-2003 | Academic Merit Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University |

SCHOLARLY INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE:

Primary Teaching Areas: Practical Theology, Ecclesiology, Ethics, and Wesleyan Theology

Research Interests: contextual ecclesial movements, theologies of work and vocation, theological economics, faith and culture, ethics and ordinary life

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ASSOCIATIONS:

Manchester Wesley Research Centre Board
Aldersgate Press Advisory Board
American Academy of Religion
Association of Practical Theology
Wesleyan Theological Society
Wesleyan Philosophical Society

ECCLESIAL AFFILIATION AND SERVICE:

Ordained Elder, Church of the Nazarene
Member, Overland Park Church of the Nazarene
Member, Articles of Faith Study Group, Church of the Nazarene (2017-2021)

Past:

Leadership Team Member, Eden Community Church of the Nazarene, Portland, OR (2016)
Board Member and Finance Chair, Cambridge Church of the Nazarene, Cambridge, MA (2010-2011)

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

The Church and Work: The Ecclesiological Grounding of Good Work. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2014.

Holiness in a Restless World. Kansas City, MO: The Foundry Publishing, *Forthcoming Fall 2022*.

Articles and Book Chapters:

"Work and Vocation." In *The Cambridge Companion to American Protestantism*. Edited by Jason Vickers and Jennifer Woodruff Tait. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

"Holiness in a Time of Crisis: A Modest Proposal." *Connections: The Wesleyan Holiness Connection Journal*, *forthcoming*.

"The Ethics of Evangelism." In *Wesleyan Foundations for Evangelism*. Edited by Al Truesdale. Kansas City, MO: The Foundry, 2020.

"What is the Church's Mission?" co-authored with Nell Becker Sweeden. In *Essential Beliefs: A Wesleyan Primer*. Edited by Diane Leclerc and Mark Maddix. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2016.

"Everyday Practice as Ecclesial Holiness: Intersections of Everyday Work, Sacrament, and Liturgy." *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Spring 2014, Volume 49, Number 1.

"The Particularity of Christian Vocation," *Didache: Faithful Teaching*, June 2006, Volume 6, Number 1.

Encyclopedia Entries:

"Churches of Christ in Christian Union;" "Churches of God (Anderson, IN);" "Church of the Nazarene;" "Free Methodist Church;" "Holiness;" "Parachurch." In *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian, Mark A. Lamport. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Reviews:

Calling and Clarity: Discovering What God Wants for Your Life by Douglas Koskela, 2015. In *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, 2017, Volume 52, Number 2.

Fieldwork in Theology: Exploring the Social Context of God's Work in the World by Christian Scharen, 2015. In *Christian Scholar's Review*, 2017, Volume 46, Number 2.

Covering Up Luther: How Barth's Christology Challenged the Deus Absconditus that Haunts Modernity by Rustin E. Brian, 2013. In *Studies in Christian Ethics*, 2016, Volume 29, Number 2.

Longing for Spring: A New Vision for Wesleyan Community by Elaine A. Heath and Scott T. Kisker, 2010. In *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Fall 2011, Volume 46, Number 2.

Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit by W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson (eds.), 2005. In *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, Spring 2009, Volume 44, Number 1.

Book reviews with the Center for Practical Theology at Boston University School of Theology. Available at <http://www.bu.edu/cpt/resources/book-reviews/>:

Wendell Berry and the Cultivation of Life by J. Matthew Bonzo and Michael R. Stevens, 2009.

A Theology of Work: Work in the New Creation by Darrell Cosden, 2006.

Chasing the Wild Goose: The Story of the Iona Community by Ronald Ferguson, 1998.
Divine Economy: Theology and the Market by D. Stephen Long, 2000.
The Catholic Worker After Dorothy: Practicing the Works of Mercy in a New Generation by Dan McKanan, 2008.
The Craftsman by Richard Sennett, 2008.
Holy Work: Toward a Benedictine Theology of Manual Labor by Dom Rembert Sorg, 2003.
Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work by Miroslav Volf, 2001.

ECCLESIAL PUBLICATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS:

“Fully Formed.” In Nazarene Theological Seminary’s *eConnection*. May 2019.

“Seminary for the Rest of Us.” Missio Alliance, February 2019. <https://www.missioalliance.org/seminary-for-the-rest-of-us-theological-education-isnt-just-for-pastors-anymore/>

“Taking Seminary to Church: Partnering with What God is up to in the World.” In *Grace and Peace Magazine*. Winter 2019. https://issuu.com/graceandpeace/docs/gp_winter19_singlepage

“Beyond Toil: Recovering Work as Gift.” In *Holiness Today*. May/June 2018. <http://holinesstoday.org/beyond-toil-recovering-work-as-gift>.

“The Currency of Preaching.” In Nazarene Theological Seminary’s *eConnection*. April 2018.

“Stewards of the Peaceable Kingdom.” In *UnOrdinary Time: Adult Advent Devotional*. December 16, 2017. <https://unordinarytime.com/advent-daily-devotional-2017/2017/12/15/stewards-of-the-peaceable-kingdom-josh-sweeden>.

“Ordinary Holiness and the Recovery of Practical Moral Reasoning.” In *Renovating Holiness*. Edited By Josh Broward and Tom Oord. SacraSage Press, 2015.

“Recreation as Re-creation.” In *Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Magazine*. 2007, Volume 4, Number 1.

“The Compassion of Mayuto.” In *Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Magazine*. 2006, Volume 3, Number 2.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS:

“Postures of Holiness.” March 11, 2022, at Wesleyan Theological Society. Virtual.

“Marks of a Holiness Ecclesiology.” November 21, 2021, at American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. Part of MWRC Group theme “The Shaping of Early Methodist Identity and Holiness Ecclesiology.”

“A More Excellent Way: From Heroism to Daily-ness.” Hicks Holiness Lectures, two presentations. March 25-27, 2019 at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH.

“We are All Activists Now: Consumerist Liturgies, Works of Mercy, and the Shaping of Affections.” March 14, 2019 at Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Wesley Theological Seminary, D.C.

“We are Not Waiting.” Installation address. October 24, 2017 at Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO.

“Context, Memory, and Suspicion: Church and the Performance of Tradition.” March 4, 2017 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY.

“Neither Baptism Nor Propositional Assent: New Birth as Wesley’s Counter-Constantinianism.” March 12, 2016 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA.

“Work in the New Creation: Theological Considerations for Leaders in the Workplace.” July 17, 2015 at George Fox University’s Ed.D. Colloquium, Newberg, OR.

“Participating in the Theo-drama: An Ecclesial Posture of Continuity and Change.” Keynote address at the Grace and Truth Forum. April 16, 2015, at Northwest Christian University, Eugene, OR.

“Ecclesially Afloat but Vocationally Adrift: What of Vocation in a Post-Christendom Context.” Panelist and Organizer. March 7, 2015 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH.

“Reconciliation and Quotidian Ethics: Atonement and Economics as Case Study in John Wesley’s Praxis.” March 7, 2014 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID.

“Ordinary Practice as Ecclesial Holiness: Intersections of Everyday Work, Sacrament, and Liturgy.” March 23, 2013 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA.

Panelist and Organizer of “*Evangelism After Christendom* Book Discussion.” March 5, 2011 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

“Scripture and the Marketplace.” Presented as panel member of “Scripture and the Public Life: Reading and Performing the Text as Engagement.” March 6, 2010 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Azusa Pacific University, Pasadena, CA.

“Theology of Work: A Conversation in Economy, Ethics, and Community Practice.” Presented March 4, 2010 at Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Azusa Pacific University, Pasadena, CA.

“The Witness of a *Way* of Life: Engaging Contextual Economic Order through New Monasticism and The Catholic Worker.” Presented March 6, 2009 at Wesleyan Theological Society, Anderson University, Anderson, IN.

“Offering a *Way* of Life: The Witness of Local Christian Community and a Contextual Economic Order.” Presented October 23, 2008 at 2nd annual Symposium on Faith and Culture: Bottom-up Approaches to Global Poverty, Baylor University, Waco, TX.

ECCLESIAL PRESENTATIONS:

“Wesleyan Foundations of Evangelism.” Webinar with Dr. David Sharpes and Dr. Jess Middendorf. Center for Pastoral Leadership, April 2020.

“Contemporary Challenges for the Church.” Nor-Cal District Church of the Nazarene, June 30, 2019. San Ramon, CA.

“The Holy Mundane: Wesley’s Vision of the Holy Life as Christian Witness.” M19 Conference, February 13, 2019. Kansas City, MO.

“Mega-Seminar on Evangelism.” Panel presentation. M19 Conference. Kansas City, MO, February 13, 2019. Kansas City, MO.

“Essential Beliefs.” Panel presentation. M19 Conference, February 13, 2019. Kansas City, MO.

"Time for All the Heroes to go Home." College Chapel. Eastern Nazarene College, September 26, 2018. Quincy, MA.

"Proclaiming the Good News for THIS Place." Webinar. Center for Pastoral Leadership, April 5, 2018.

"Developments in Mission." Global Ministry Center of the Church of the Nazarene, February 22, 2018. Lenexa, KS.

"Millennials and the Church." Panel presentation. Northwest Nazarene University, November 11, 2017. Nampa, ID.

"The Story of Stories." University Chapel. MidAmerica Nazarene University, October 9, 2017. Olathe, KS.

"Why Holiness: Holiness and Identity," with Carla D. Sunberg. Webinar. Center for Pastoral Leadership, April 2, 2017.

"The Church and Christian Life." Ministry lecture. MidAmerica Nazarene University, February 9, 2017. Olathe, KS.

"The Scandal of Christian Education." Overland Park Church of the Nazarene, January 29, 2017. Overland Park, KS.

"Toilsome Hope: Work and the New Creation." Medford First Church of the Nazarene, October 3-4, 2015. Medford, OR.

"Wesley on Money, Riches, and Stewardship: Why it Mattered for the Witness of the Church." Oregon Pacific Church of the Nazarene Assembly Workshop, May 16, 2014, McMinnville, OR.

"Social Concern and Everyday Practice: How the Next Generation of Wesleyans are Retrofitting Holiness." Reedwood Friends Church, March 16, 2014, Portland, OR.

"Everyday Work and Ecclesial Witness." Retreat Speaker, KC Trinity Church, October 6-7, 2012, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO.

"The Sermon on the Mount." Eastern Nazarene College Chapel, March 21, 2012, Quincy, MA.

"Kenosis Economics and the Church." Urban Promise Church, April 17, 2011, Somerville, MA.

"Living the Resurrection." With Nell Becker Sweeden, Boston University School of Theology Chapel, April 25, 2010, Boston, MA.

"Ministry and Holy Saturday." Retreat Speaker, PLNU Student Ministries, March 2010, Colorado River, AZ.

"Practices of Resurrection." with Nell Becker Sweeden, Boston University School of Theology Chapel, April 14, 2009, Boston, MA.

"The Great Banquet and Christian Hospitality" Point Loma Nazarene University Chapel, November 11, 2006, San Diego, CA.

"Journey through the Sermon on the Mount." Asuncion Christian Academy Spiritual Emphasis Week, March 2004, Asuncion, Paraguay.

“The Temptations of Jesus.” Keynote Speaker, PLNU Project Y.E.S., March 2003, Tecate, Mexico.