

The Rev. David M. Mellott PhD

Contact

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Education

Emory University | Atlanta GA

Doctor of Philosophy, Theological Studies

2005

Dissertation: Ethnography As Theology: Encountering the Penitentes of Northern New Mexico

Sorbonne University | Paris, France

French Language and Civilization Studies

Winter 1998

Goethe Institute | Munich, Germany

German Language and Civilization Studies

Fall 1997

The Society of St. Sulpice

Spiritual Direction and Ministerial Formation Training

St. Patrick Seminary | Menlo Park CA

Grand Séminaire Saint Suplice | Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

St. Mary's Seminary & University | Baltimore, MD

July 1996

July 1995

July 1994

The Catholic University of Leuven | Leuven, Belgium

Licentiate in Sacred Theology) magna cum laude

1992

Master of Arts/Bachelor in Sacred Theology, Religious Studies

1989

Bachelor of Arts, Theology, summa cum laude

1988

The Pontifical College Josephinum | Columbus, OH

Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude English Literature and Latin American Studies

1986

Administrative and Pastoral Work History

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Seminary

Lancaster Theological Seminary

2011-Present

Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Seminary

Lancaster Theological Seminary

2011

Director of Ministerial Formation

Lancaster Theological Seminary

2006-Present

Associate Director of Continuing Education

Lancaster Theological Seminary

2005-2008

Assistant Pastor and Associate Director of the Diocesan Office of Ecumenism

St. Joseph and St. Lawrence O'Toole Churches | Ironton, OH

1992-1994

Teaching History

Professor of Theological Formation

Lancaster Theological Seminary 2017-Present

Associate Professor of Practical Theology

Lancaster Theological Seminary 2011-2017

Adjunct Instructor

Howard Community College | Columbia MD | Philosophy 2003-2005

Spring Hill College | Atlanta, GA | Liturgical Studies 2000-2001

Emory College | Atlanta GA | Religious Studies 1999-2001

Residential Faculty Member

St. Mary's Seminary & University | Baltimore MD | Theology 1994-1997

Academic Scholarship & Awards

Wabash Colloquy for Theological School Deans 2012-2013

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship 2002-2003

Dean's Teaching Fellowship | Emory University 2002-2003

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellowship | Emory University 1998-2002

Aquinas Fellowship | The Aquinas Center of Theology | Emory University 1998-1999

Pinter Scholar | The Pontifical College Josephinum 1984

Professional Associations

Chief Academic Officer Society (CAOS) 2011-Present

Spiritual Direction International 2011-Present

The Society for the Study of Spirituality 2010-Present

Association for Theological Field Education 2006-Present

American Academy of Religion 1995-Present

Publications

"Integrating Qualitative Research into Theological Curriculums," *Qualitative Research in Theological Education: Pedagogy in Practice*, Eds. Mary Moschella and Susan Willhauck, London: SCM, 2018

Finding Your Way in Seminary: What to Expect, How to Thrive. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.

"Hearing the Faithful: A Classroom Syllabus." *Practical Matters* 3(2010): 3-11. *Web*.

I was and Am Dust: Penitente Practices as a Way of Knowing, Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009.

"Penitentes, Los Hermanos." *Hispanic America Religious Culture*. Ed. Miquel De La Torre. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009. 421-422.

Mark D. Jordan, Meghan T. Sweeney and David M. Mellott, eds. *Authorizing Marriage?: Canon, Tradition, and Critique in the Blessing of Same-sex Unions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

"Naming the Mechanisms of Self-deception: A Call to Liberation for Gay Roman Catholic Clergy." *Gay Catholic Priests and Clerical Sexual Misconduct: Breaking the Silence*. Eds. Robert E. Goss and Donald L. Boisvert. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2005.

Rev. of Prayer of Jesus-Prayer of the Heart, by Alphonse and Rachel Goettmann. *Mid-Stream: The Ecumenical Movement Today* 31.2 (1992): 165-166.

Academic Presentations

"Resurrecting Seminary for the Life of the World." Lancaster Theological Seminary Fall Convocation. Lancaster, PA. September, 11, 2015.

"Qualitative Research and Preparation for Ministry." Qualitative Research in Theological Education Symposium. Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, Canada, May 24-25, 2016.

"Church Weddings: Blessing Unions and Constructing Genders." 2012 Foote Lectures. First Congregational Church, UCC, Ithaca, NY. April 23, 2012.

Keynote Response to Perspectives on Ecclesiology and Ethnography. 2012 Ecclesiology and Ethnography USA Conference. Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN. May 21, 2012.

"Beyond Open and Affirming." Beyond Apologetics Symposium. Robert Carr Chapel, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX. October 7, 2010.

"Naming and Resisting the Mechanisms of Self-deception: A Call to Liberation for Gay Roman Catholic Clergy." Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group. AAR Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. November 25, 2002.

"What Our Students Have to Teach Us: Pedagogical Reflections on Teaching an Introductory Course on the History of Christianity." Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion. AAR Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November 18, 2001.

Grants

- “Current and Future Directions in Theological Education.” A grant of \$275,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation designed to cultivate a sustained reflection on theological education at the field level. 2017-2019.
- “The Future of Theological Education.” A planning grant of \$25,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to support the planning of a major grant designed to study theological education at the field level. 2016.
- “The Soul Work of Addressing Race and Privilege in the Classroom: A Retreat of the Lancaster Theological Seminary Faculty.” A grant of \$5,000 from the Wabash Center to provide leadership of a retreat for regular and adjunct faculty. 2015.
- “Identifying and Dismantling White Privilege in Pedagogy: A Workshop for Faculty at Lancaster Theological Seminary.” A consultant grant from the Wabash Center to provide leadership for faculty weeklong workshop. 2014.
- “Diversity and Anti-Racism Education.” A grant of \$16,775 from the United Church of Christ to support faculty, staff, and trustee participation in the Anti-Racism Institute. 2012.

Selected Christian Formation Presentations

- “Christian Spiritual Disciplines and How They Work.” First Followers. First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA. 16 August 2017.
- “Soulful Themes of Advent and Christmas.” Christian Adult Forum. Saint John Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, and Saint Paul Episcopal, Columbia, PA. Advent 2015.
- “Less Common Melodies on the Christian Spiritual Path.” Christian Adult Forum. Saint John Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, and Saint Paul Episcopal, Columbia, PA. Winter 2014.
- “Everyday Theologizing: How Is God in the Midst of Your People?” 2014 Leadership Series. Samaritan Center, Lancaster, PA. Winter 2014.
- “Reimagining the Church *in* a Post-Modern World.” 2011 Leadership Series. Samaritan Center, Lancaster, PA. Spring 2011.
- “Gospel of John Study.” Christian Adult Forum. Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, and Saint Paul Episcopal, Columbia, PA. Fall 2011.
- “Rites of Christian Initiation: Past, Present, and Future.” Christian Adult Forum. Saint John Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, and Saint Paul Episcopal, Columbia, PA. Spring 2011.
- “The Importance of Theological Reflection.” *Christianity 2.0: Renewing a Life of Faith*. Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA. Spring 2011.
- “Meditation, Fasting, and Detachment.” *Christianity 2.0: Renewing a Life of Faith*. Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA. Spring 2011.

“The Church in a Postmodern World.” Thank God it’s Monday. Adult Education Series. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, PA. Fall 2010.

“Heterosexism and the Church.” 2-Day Seminar with Pastoral Leadership Development, Southern Conference United Church of Christ, Burlington, NC. 9-10 April 2010.

“The Kingdom of God.” Christian Adult Forum. Saint John Lutheran, Saint James Lutheran, and Saint Paul Episcopal, Columbia, PA. Fall 2009.

“Beyond Affirming” 2 Day Seminar with Little River United Church of Christ, Annandale, VA. 24-25 October 2009.

Selected Retreats

“Spiritual Practices.” 2013 Fall Retreat. United Church of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. Blowing Rock Retreat Center. 18-20 October 2013.

Gay and Bisexual Christian Men’s Retreat, with Chris Glaser. Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Bangor, PA. 4-7 October 2012.

“Wider and Deeper Living.” 1-Day Retreat. United Church of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. 5 May 2012.

“Shaping a Spiritual Life.” NOVA MCC Congregational Spiritual Retreat, Fairfax, VA. 9-11 May 2008.

“Making Ourselves Available to God: A Day Retreat with Our Christian Ancestors.” York UCC Association Pastor’s Lenten Retreat. St. Jacob’s UCC, York New Salem. 6 February 2006.

“Spiritual Practices and Non-judgmental Listening: A Day of Recollection.” Imago Dei MCC, Glen Mills, PA. 25 September 2004.

“Our Relationship with Christ.” St. Mary’s Seminary & University Seminarian Retreat, Wernersville, PA. 21-25 March 1997.

“Discernment as a Way of Life.” St. Pius X Seminary Retreat. St. Francis Retreat Center, Easton, PA. 22-26 January 1996.

Ministerial Standing, Church Membership, & Church Service

Ordained Minister. The United Church of Christ, Lancaster Association, Penn Central Conference.

Member. Wisdom’s Table at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA.

Chair. Fund Development Team, Wisdom’s Table at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA.

Member. Music Ensemble, Wisdom’s Table at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA.

Denominational Service

Member. Council on Theological Education for the United Church of Christ, currently.

Consultant. *Academy for Spiritual Formation*, the Office of Formation and Leadership Development. Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 2016-2017.

Faculty Member. *Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry (REVM)*, the Office of Formation and Leadership Development. Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 2007-2011.

Consultant. *Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry (REVM)*, the Office of Formation and Leadership Development. Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 2006-2007.

Selected Courses Taught

Where Theology and Strategic Planning Meet
Sustaining a Spiritual Life in the Twenty-first Century
Theological Education and the Spiritual Journey
Spiritual Formation Seminars
Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to Catholicism
Queer Theologizing
Happiness and Christianity
Introduction to Worship
The Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches Polity
Writing as a Spiritual Practice