

Leah R. Thomas
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Graduate Division of Religion, Drew University, May 2017
Dissertation: *“Just Caring”: An Interdisciplinary Feminist Approach to Ethical Pastoral Care with Women with Mental Illness*
Committee: Traci C. West (chair), Arthur Pressley, Kate Ott
- M.Div. University of Notre Dame, 2003
- B.A. Theology and Political Science, University of Notre Dame, 1999

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2017 The Reverend Robert W. Edgar Dissertation Prize for Social Justice
- 2013 Faculty Award for Most Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Drew University
- 2012 Bishop Edmund Award for Excellence in Coursework, Drew University
- 2010-2015 Academic Fellowship Award, Drew University
- 2000-2003 Full Tuition Award, University of Notre Dame
- 1995 Rotary Scholarship for Leadership and Service

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2020 *Just Care: Ethical Anti-Racist Pastoral Care with Women with Mental Illness*
Lanham: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2020.

Articles

- 2024 “Job and Disability Theology: A Lens for Examining Communal Blame.” *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* 25.2 (Fall 2024): 56-63.
- Book Review of *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism*. *Interpretation, A Journal of Bible and Theology* (Oct 2024).

- 2022 “The Case for Just Care: How Christian Social Ethics Enhances Pastoral Theology.” *Spiritual Caregivers in the Hospital: Windows to Competent Practice*, 3rd. ed., edited by Leah D. Bueckert and Daniel S. Schipani, 305–17. Kitchener: Pandora, 2022.
- 2021 “Addressing Race in the Classroom: A Trauma-Informed Communal Embodied Practice.” *Spotlight on Teaching*, March 9, 2021, 23–28; <https://rsn.aarweb.org/spotlight-on/teaching/trauma-informed-pedagogies/addressing-race-classroom-trauma>.
- “Ethical, anti-racist pastoral care with women with mental illness: A research note on *Just Care*.” *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* 22, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 80–91.
- 2012 “Sex and Religion: Feminist Views” *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion*. New York: Springer, 2012.

Newsletter Publications

- 2002 “The Witness of the Early Church and the Question of Women’s Ordination.” *New Woman, New Church* 24.5 (Summer 2002).
- 2001 “Vatican Instructional Bans Inclusive Language.” *New Woman, New Church* 24.2 (Summer 2001): 4.
- 2001 “Young Feminist Network Explores Witness of Women Working for Change.” *New Woman, New Church* 24.3 (Fall 2001): 6.

Other Publications

- 2008 *The Word on Campus, Cycle C*. Plainfield: RENEW International, 2008.
- 2007 *The Word on Campus Cycle B*. Plainfield, RENEW International, 2007.
- 2006 *The Word on Campus, Cycle A*. Plainfield: RENEW International, 2006.
- 2005 *As I Have Loved You*. Plainfield: RENEW International, 2005.
- 2004 *Preparing the Way*. Plainfield: RENEW International, 2004.

Edited Works

- 1998 *Soref Symposium, Oslo Impasse: Where Do We Go from Here?* Washington D.C.: Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 1998.
- 1998 *Building Toward Crisis: Saddam Husayn’s Strategy for Survival*. Eds. Monica Neal Hertzman and Leah Thomas. Washington Institute: Washington, 1998.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers/Presentations

- 2024 Moderator, “Practical Theologies/Wisdom Traditions in Spiritual Care,” International Association of Spiritual Care’s online symposium. Sept 24-26, 2024.
- 2023 “Resiliency Training,” Keynote speaker, Rooted and Grounded, Pathways through Climate Doom: Resistance and Resilience. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, September 28-30, 2023.
- “Attending to the Presence of Trauma in Churches,” Workshop, MC USA Conference. Kansas City, MO, July 6, 2023.
- “Job and Disability Theology: A Lens for Examining Communal Blame of People,” Workshop, School of Leadership Training. Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, VA, January 10–11, 2023.
- 2022 “Climate Change as a Traumatic Stressor: The Implications of Trauma Studies for ‘Climate grief’ and ‘Eco-anxiety,’” Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit. American Academy of Religion, November 2022.
- “Confronting religious trauma in A Church Dismantled,” A Church Dismantled—A Kingdom Restored. September 9, 2022, <https://youtu.be/CEoZU3a-Ws0>.
- “Trauma-informed Caregiving,” Workshop, Virginia Mennonite Conference. Ridgeway Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA, September 23, 2022.
- Respondent, Goshen Conference on Science and Religion. Goshen, IN, March 2022.
- 2021 “*Restitutio Divina*: An Embodied Response to COVID-19,” Psychology, Culture and Religion Section. American Academy of Religion, November 2021.
- “Attending to the Body: How to Stay Grounded While Working for Racial Justice,” UMC Grandview Church. Lancaster, PA, August 10, 2020.
- “Trauma and Resilience: An Interactive Gathering about Our Pain and How We Move Forward,” Lancaster Theological Seminary. Lancaster, PA, April 2021.
- “Trauma-informed Congregational Care,” Workshop, Pastors and Leaders Conference. Elkhart, IN, March 2–3, 2021.

- 2020 “*Restitutio Divina: An Embodied Approach to Gender-Based Violence*,” Women and Religion Section. American Academy of Religion, November 2020.
- 2019 “*Restitutio Divina: A Somatic Practice of Biblical Interpretation*,” Bible and Practical Theology Section. American Academy of Religion, November 2019.
- 2017 “Religion and Suicide,” Manhattan College. Manhattan, NY, October 18, 2017.
- 2016 “Scapegoated: An Evaluation of the Theory of René Girard and the Role of Bodily Suffering and Disability in the Book of Job and Today,” Co-Sponsored Session: Theology and Religious Reflection Section and Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Group and Colloquium on Violence and Religion. American Academy of Religion, November 2016.
- 2015 “Chaplaincy with Persons with Mental Illness,” Didactic Presenter for CPE participants at Hebrew Union College. New York, NY, April 2015.
- 2015 “Medical Ethics,” Guest scholar on Radio Show, WMNJ. Madison, NJ, March 25, 2015.
- 2011 Respondent to paper by Angella Son, “Women out of Order,” New York Theological Seminary's Annual Women's Conference, June 2011.
- 2007 Keynote Presenter, National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry Conference, January 2007.
- 2006 “If I Don’t Agree with Church Teaching, Should I Leave the Church?” Busted Halo Podcast. New York, NY, September 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AMBS, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Contextual Education

Somatic Spirituality (2020-present)
 Pastoral Care 1 (2020-present)
 Pastoral Care 2 (2022-present)
 Understanding Trauma in Ministry and Peacebuilding (2022-present)
 Ministry in Church and World (2020-present)
 Supervised Ministry Experience (2020-present)

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Instructor

Introduction to Pastoral Method (2017-2020)
 Womanist and Feminist Approaches to Pastoral Care (2019)
 Grief Care (2020)
 Religious Education (2019)

Drew University Theological School, Instructor

Ministry with Those with Mental Illness (D. Min., 2018)
Religion and the Social Process (2018)
Introduction to Pastoral Care (Summer 2016, 2017)

Drew University Theological School, Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Ethics (2015)
Global Ethics and Culture (Africa University, Zimbabwe, 2014)
Christian Social Ethics (2014)
Preaching (2013)
Sociology of Religion (Religion and the Social Process) (2012)
Introduction to Pastoral Care (2012)

Workshop Presenter, RENEW International

Social Justice and Outreach (2003-2009)
Facilitation and Leadership (2003-2009)
Conflict Resolution (2003-2009)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2010-2016 Research Assistant to Dean Virginia Samuel
Conducted research and created programming for Drew's Clergy Health Initiative

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board Member, *Journal of Pastoral Theology* (2024-present)
Board Member, Hermitage Retreat Center (2023-present)
Convener, Religion and Society, Drew University (2012-2013)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Society for Pastoral Theology
International Association for Spiritual Care
Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counseling

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2019-2020 Designated Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, Lancaster, PA
2013-2018 Chaplain, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, Morris Plains, NJ
2009-2010 Chaplain, Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, Morris Plains, NJ
2007-2009 Manager of Young Adult Ministries, RENEW International, Plainfield, NJ
2003-2007 Creator of Campus RENEW, RENEW International, Plainfield, NJ
2002-2003 Campus Ministry Mentor, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

