

# BETH FELKER JONES

## Position

Professor of Theology. Northern Seminary. Lisle, Illinois. 2021-present.

Professor of Theology. Wheaton College. Wheaton, Illinois. 2016-2021. (Associate Professor 2010-2016, Assistant Professor 2008-2010)

Assistant Professor of Bible and Religion. Huntington University. Huntington, Indiana. 2004-2008.

## Education

**Duke University Department of Religion**, Ph.D., 2004

Major field: systematic theology, Minor fields: historical theology, women's studies

Graduate certificate in women's studies, 2002

**Duke Divinity School**, MTS, *summa cum laude*, 2000

**DePauw University**, BA, *summa cum laude*, 1998

Major: psychology, Minor: religious studies

Study abroad, School for International Training in Nairobi, Kenya, 1996

## Books

*Converting Love: Systematic Theology, Conversion, and Consent*. Under contract with Oxford University Press. Expected 2024.

*Why I am a Protestant*. Forthcoming with Intervarsity Press.

*Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Baker, 2014. Second edition forthcoming, July 2023.

*Pandemic Prayers: Devotions and Prayers for a Crisis*. Wipf & Stock, 2021.

*Faithful: A Theology of Sex*. Ordinary theology series ed. Gene Green. Zondervan, 2015.

*God the Spirit: Introducing Pneumatology in Wesleyan and Ecumenical Perspective*. Wesleyan Doctrine Series, ed. Randy Cooper, Andrew Kinsey, D. Brent Laytham, and D. Stephen Long. Cascade Press, 2014.

*The Marks of His Wounds: Gender Politics and Bodily Resurrection*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

## Select Articles and contributions to books

Essay for symposium with Jason E. Vickers, Daniel Castelo, John L. Drury, Justus H. Hunter. "What Makes Wesleyan Theology Theological? A Symposium in Honor of John Webster." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 52 (2) 7-46, 2017.

"Radical faithfulness," *Christian Reflection: A Series in Faith and Ethics*, Baylor, 16, 2016, 10-19.

"The future of Wesleyan theology is revival," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 50:1, Spring, 2016, 37-50.

“Witnessing in Freedom: Resisting Commodification of the Image” in *The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology*. Intersivity Press, 2016.

“‘The Spirit Helps us in our Weakness’: Review essay on Sarah Coakley’s *God, Sexuality, and the Self: An Essay ‘On the Trinity,’*” *The Other Journal*, June, 2014.

“What is Christian Hope?” in *Theology Questions Everyone Asks: Christian Faith in Plain Language*. Ed. Gary Burge and David Lauber. Intersivity Press, 2014, 184-196.

“Writing theology for the church,” *Catalyst*, 38:3, March, 2012, 5-8.

“Think of what you were” in *Called to Unite Knowledge and Vital Piety*. Ed. Michael G. Cartwright and Merle D. Stregge. University of Indianapolis Press, 2012, 197-202.

“Body,” in *Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics*. Ed. Joel Green. Baker Press, 2011, 105-109.

“A Wesleyan theology of grace and mission,” in *Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom: United Methodist Perspectives*. Ed. Michael G. Cartwright. University of Indianapolis Press, 2010, 109-123.

### **Edited Volumes**

With Jeffrey Barbeau. *The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology*. Intersivity Press, 2016.

With Jeffrey Barbeau. *Spirit of God: Christian Renewal in the Community of Faith*. Intersivity Press, 2015.

### **Select Reviews**

Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza’s *Transforming Vision: Exploration in Feminist The\*logy*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 17:1, January 2015, 120-121.

Glen Stassen’s *Living the Sermon on the Mount: A Practical Hope for Grace and Deliverance*, in *The Journal of Family and Community Ministries* 22:3, Fall 2008, 44.

Sarah Coakley’s *Powers and Submissions: On Spirituality, Philosophy, and Gender*, in *Pro Ecclesia* 9:3, 372-374.

### **Select ecclesial writing**

*Church Blogmatics* at [bethfelkerjones.com](http://bethfelkerjones.com)

“The Bible and the Undoing of Patriarchy,” at the Junia Project, September, 2022.

“What should I think about sex?” for *Personal Questions Everyone Asks: Christian Faith in Plain Language*, ed. Gary Burge and David Lauber. Intersivity Press, 2020.

“Discipleship in quarantine,” *Good News Magazine*, May/June issue, 2020.

“Creatio ex nihilo and the power of God,” *Good News Magazine*, March/April issue, 2020.

“Epiphany 5 E C2, Epiphany 6 E C2” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship*, Year C, Vol. 1, Advent through Epiphany, ed. Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby. Westminster John Knox, 2018.

Devotion in *The Blessed Way: Following Jesus Through the Sermon on the Mount* (Christianity Today, Spring 2017).

Columnist for the *Christian Century* “on media,” 2012-2017, select contributions.

“Wizards in New York,” on *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, December 21, 2016

“Episodes in hell,” on *The Night Of*, November 9, 2016

“Redeeming lemons,” on *Lemonade*, Jun 20, 2016

“Breaking the codes,” on *Game of Thrones*, July 6, 2015

“Policing and race,” on *Scandal* and *New Girl*, May 27, 2015

“Domination system,” on *50 Shades of Grey*, March 2, 2015

“TV Protestants,” April 2, 2014

“Longing for home,” on *the Hobbit*, January 7, 2013

“Pinterest and Porn,” October 17, 2012

“Why deeds and creeds matter,” at seedbed.com, September 19, 2016.

“Called first to Christ,” *Christian History*, issue 100, 2014, 8-12.

Contributions at the Faith and Leadership website of Duke Divinity School.

“On a collision course at Advent,” December 2012.

“The moral weight of inaction,” May 2012.

“The Hunger Games, Christian ethics, and the young,” March, 2012.

“The god of ‘Glee’ and the Incarnation,” October, 2010.

“Gospel in the dirt,” February 2010.

“Are the kids all right? Questions about donor conception,” *Christian Century* November 2, 2010, 12-13.

*Touched by a Vampire: Discovering the Hidden Messages in the Twilight Saga*. Multnomah Books, 2009.

Portuguese/Brazilian edition as *A Cruz e o Crepusculo: Revelando as mensagens ocultas na saga Stephenie Meyer*, Thomas Nelson Brasil, 2010.

German edition as *Faszination mit Biss: Was die Twilight-Saga so unwiderstehlich macht*, Gerth Medien, 2010.

“Marked for life,” *Christian Century*, May 15, 2007, 19-20.

“Spanking away sin: Christian child abuse,” *Christian Century*, May 1, 2007, 8-9.

### **Select conference presentations, public engagement, and invited lectures**

“Leading for the Future of Ecclesiology” workshop developer and leader for the Kern Foundation, initiative for faculty development for theological educators, Christian Humanism Conference, Dallas, TX, 2022.

Respondent to J. Richard Middleton’s “Narrative-Sacramental Theology of Being Human,” The Dabar Conference on creation, The Henry Center. Deerfield, IL, 2022.

Keynote speaker, Annual Conference for the Society of Christian Educators on “Teaching for Redemptive Flourishing.” Presented two lectures, “Teachers and the Incarnation” and “Power, Particularity, and Community: Reflections on Teaching Theologically.” Dallas, TX, 2022.

Plenary speaker for the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity conference, “Spiritual Bodies: How Christian Theology Helps Us Understand the Relationship between the Body and the Spiritual Life.” Virtual conference, 2021.

The Ryan Lecturer at Asbury Theological Seminary, three sermons and lectures on gender and sexuality. Wilmore, KY, 2020.

Chapel Speaker at Taylor University, “The Bible and the Body.” Facilitated student educational events related to gender and sexuality. Upland, IN, 2019.

The Luther Lee Lecture at Indiana Wesleyan University, “Theology of Gender.” Marion, IN, 2018.

Plenary speaker at the “Deeply Rooted” conference, “Bodies and Sabbath rest.” Chicago, IL, 2016.

Plenary speaker, “Embodied from creation through redemption: Placing gender and sexuality in theological context,” for the Center for Pastor Theologians theology conference, “Beauty, order, and mystery: The Christian vision for sexuality.” Oak Park, IL, 2016.

The J. Arthur Heck lectures at United Theological Seminary, “Converted to Christ: A heart strangely warmed.” Dayton, OH, 2016.

The Dean’s lecture at Candler Theological Seminary at Emory University, “A Wesleyan theology for a church with a future.” Atlanta, GA, 2015.

Panelist for Evangelical Studies Group discussion of Robert Johnston’s *God’s Wider Presence* at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, GA, 2015.

Guest for NPR’s *On Point*, “Politics, tragedy and religion in the public sphere,” July 6, 2015.

The Albright-Deering lecturer (with Jason Byassee) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, “Trinity: What’s God up to in the world?” and leader for United Methodist clergy workshop on “Creativity: Speaking of God in a new media age.” Pittsburgh, PA, 2015.

Keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, “The future of Wesleyan theology is revival.” Mt. Vernon, OH, 2015.

“Integrating theology: Conversion” for Provisional Ordination Seminar for the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Pine Lake, WI, 2013.

“Theology of the body and cosmetic enhancement” at “The scandal of bioethics” conference sponsored by The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity. Deerfield, IL, 2011.

“Personal holiness: Ordering your own household” at the Wesley Conexion Project at the University of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN, 2011.

Christian Theological Research Fellowship session on my *Touched by a Vampire* at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, GA, 2010.

“Not bootstraps theology: Grace and holiness in mission,” the Showers Lecture at the University of Indianapolis symposium on “Christian mission in the United Methodist Church: Past, present & future.” Indianapolis, IN, 2008.

Book presentation for the Christian Theological Research Fellowship. Responded to Paul Molnar’s *Incarnation and Resurrection*; Dr. Molnar responded to my *Marks of His Wounds*. American Academy of Religion Meeting. San Diego, California, 2007.

“Body as icon and beauty transformed,” Theology and Religious Reflection Section, American Academy of Religion Meeting. San Antonio, Texas, 2004.

### Select Teaching Experience

**Courses taught at Northern Seminary:** Theology I, Theology II, Christian Doctrines: Pneumatology & Eschatology, Gender & Theology, Doctrine, Ministry, and the Theology of the Human Body, Sexual Ethics and the Family. 2021-present.

**Director** for the D.Min. program in Theology and the M.Div. program

### Examiner for PhD dissertations:

Sam Ashton, Wheaton College, directed by Marc Cortez, 2022.

Dustyn Keepers, Wheaton College, directed by Dan Treier, 2022.

Fellipe do Vale, Southern Methodist University, directed by Steve Long and Billy Abraham, 2021.

Timothy Gaines, “Trinitarian economics,” Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, directed by Brent Waters, Spring 2014.

Amy Hughes, “Chastely I live for thee,” Wheaton College, directed by George Kalantzis, Spring 2013.

**Courses taught at Wheaton College:** Gender and Theology, Human Trafficking: Political and Theological Perspectives, Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Christian Thought, Systematic Theology, Marriage/Sex/Family in the Christian Tradition, Gospel/Church/and Culture, Advanced Topics in Systematic Theology: Seminar in Theological Anthropology, Feminist Theology, Eschatology, Theology of John Wesley, Senior Seminar in Global Christianity, Christology, The Holy Spirit and the Last Things, Advanced Integrative Seminar: Theology and Literature of the Black Body, First Year Seminar: The Good Life and the Christian Imagination. 2008-2021.

**Mobile education course for Logos Bible Software:** on “Christian Thought: Heresy and Orthodoxy,” Bellingham, WA, May 2014.

### Select Honors and awards

Aldeen grant in support of research and writing, Wheaton College, Spring 2012, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2020.

Recipient of writer’s residency for the Collegeville Institute’s workshop, August 2017.

Junior Faculty Achievement Award, Wheaton College, 2012.

Dempster Fellowship, General Board of Higher Education Ministry of the United Methodist Church, 2004.

Duke University Graduate Research Fellowship, 2003.

John Wesley Fellowship, A Foundation for Theological Education, 2000.

*Phi Beta Kappa*, DePauw University, 1997.

### Related professional experience and service

Member of the American Academy of Religion, Christian Theology Research Fellowship (Vice President, 2006-2009. Executive board member at large, 2004-06), and the Wesleyan Theological Society.

Teaching fellow for the John Wesley Institute, connecting faithful Wesleyan scholars with local churches and organizations. 2022-.

Theological commissioner from the North America Region to the World Evangelical Alliance Theological Commission, 2017-.

Member of the advisory board for InterVarsity Press New Explorations in Theology series, 2017-.

Director of interdisciplinary faculty advanced faith and learning seminar: “Gender and Sexuality: Theological Integration,” 2018-2019, Wheaton College.

Member of the drafting committee for the “Reforming Catholic confession” written for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation <http://reformingcatholicconfession.com/committees/>

Co-editor with Alan Padgett of distinguished dissertation book series sponsored by the journal *Word & World* and the Christian Theological Research Fellowship, published by Wipf and Stock, 2006-2015.

Director of Center for Applied Christian Ethics faculty seminar, “the body,” and of CACE Spring conference, “mBody,” 2011-2012.