

Curriculum Vitae
Leah R. Thomas

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Contextual Education
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
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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

- 2019 *Just Care: Ethical Anti-Racist Pastoral Care with Women with Mental Illness*
Lexington/Fortress, an imprint of Rowman and Littlefield.

Articles

- 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

- 2020 “*Restitutio Divina: An Embodied Approach to Gender-Based Violence*,” Session:
Women and Religion, American Academy of Religion’s Annual Meeting,
November 2020
- 2019 “*Restitutio Divina: A Somatic Practice of Biblical Interpretation*,” Session: Bible
and Practical Theology, American Academy of Religion’s Annual Meeting,
November 2019
- 2017 Guest Lecturer, “Religion and Suicide,” Manhattan College, 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’s Annual Meeting, November 2016.

- 2015 Didactic Presenter for CPE participants at Hebrew Union College, “Chaplaincy with Persons with Mental Illness,” April 2015.
- 2015 Guest scholar on Radio Show, “Medical Ethics,” WMNJ, 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 Special Guest on Busted Halo Podcast, “If I Don’t Agree with Church Teaching, Should I Leave the Church?” September 2006.
<http://bustedhalo.com/podcasts/episode-069>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

Convener, Religion and Society, Drew University, 2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

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