

JAMES CALVIN DAVIS

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I. PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Education

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA Ph.D., Religious Studies (Philosophical and Theological Ethics)	2001
Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA Master of Divinity	1995
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA B.S., <i>magna cum laude</i> , Math, English, and Religion	1992

Employment

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT George Adams Ellis Chair of Liberal Arts (2019) Professor of Religion (2012); Associate Prof. (2007); Assistant Prof. (2001)	2001-present
Union Presbyterian Seminary (formerly Union-PSCE), Richmond, VA Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology	2000-2001
Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, VA Visiting Instructor	2000
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA Summer Instructor	1998

Administrative Appointments

Academic Director, Privilege & Poverty Academic Cluster, Middlebury College	2013-2019
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Middlebury College <i>Primary Areas:</i> curricular planning, academic facilities and budgets, faculty salaries, departmental reviews	2012-2013
Assistant Provost, Middlebury College <i>Primary Area:</i> Chief of staff for Provost/VPAA	2010-2012
Chair, Religion Department, Middlebury College	2009-2010
Chair, Institutional Review Board, Middlebury College	2008-2010

Faculty and Organizational Governance

Council on [Faculty] Reviews, Middlebury College	2015-2019
Board Member, Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Oxford Humanities Program	2015-2018
Board Chair, Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP) Directed the organization's first strategic plan and implemented its current governance structure	2013-2015

II. SCHOLARSHIP

Books

American Liturgy: Finding Theological Meaning in the Holy Days of US Culture. Cascade Books, 2021.

Forbearance: A Theological Ethic for a Disagreeable Church. Eerdmans, 2017.

In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Issues That Divide Us. Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.

On Religious Liberty: Selections from the Works of Roger Williams. Harvard University Press, 2008.

The Moral Theology of Roger Williams: Christian Conviction and Public Ethics. WJK, 2004.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Roger Williams,” in *Explorations in Baptist Political Theology*, B&H Publishing (in process for 2022).

“Privilege as Moral Vice: A Christian Ethical Perspective on Socio-Economic Inequality and Higher Education in the US,” *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies* 29:2 (2020).

“Puritan Ethics,” in *Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics*, 3rd edition, WJK (in limbo).

Review Essay: John Bowlin, *Tolerance Among the Virtues in Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 72:2 (2018).

“Civility” three essays appearing as study sessions from *The Thoughtful Christian*, WJK (2012).

“Roger Williams,” in *Dictionary of Early American Philosophy*, Continuum Press (2012).

“Saving Grace and Moral Striving: Thrift in Puritan Theology,” with Charles T. Mathewes, *Thrift and Thriving in America: Capitalism and Moral Order from the Puritans to the Present*, Oxford (2011).

Three essays for *Feasting on the Word, Year C* (Biblical Commentary Series), Louisville, KY: WJK (2009).

“William Ames’s Calvinist Ambiguity over Freedom of Conscience,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 33:2 (2005).

“Roger Williams and Public Discourse in America,” *Journal of Church and State* 43:4 (2001).

“Pardoning Puritanism: Community, Character, and Forgiveness in the Work of Richard Baxter,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 29:2 (2001).

Plus book reviews in various journals.

Op-Eds

“Faithful Patriotism” - <https://englewoodreview.org/james-calvin-davis-faithful-patriotism-essay/> - for *Englewood Review of Books* (July 1, 2021)

“Civility and Its Discontents: Why Our Public Political Behavior Matters As Much As Ever” *New York Daily News* (July 6, 2018).

“After Protests, Can Campuses Come Together?” *Sojourners* (April 26, 2017)
<https://sojo.net/articles/after-protests-can-campuses-come-together> .

“Holy Forbearance: Faithful Witness in Times of Disagreement” *Presbyterian Outlook* (June 9, 2014).

“Supersizing Wealth Speech and Downsizing Campaign Fairness” [Op-Ed on *McCutcheon v. FEC*]
Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice (posted April 17, 2014).

“Incivility as Social Sin—and the Church’s Faithful Response” *Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice* (posted October 2012).

“Resisting Politics as Usual: Civility as Christian Witness” @ *this point* (posted June 2012).

“Rush, Religion, and Respect” *Albany Times-Union* (March 10, 2012) – picked up by the *Washington Post* (March 11, 2012).

“Reforming ‘Politics as Usual’: Presbyterians and the Pursuit of Civility” on *The Presbyterian Outlook* blog (posted October 20, 2010).

“Muslims, Puritans, and the Elusive Art of Civility” on *Flunking Sainthood*, a Beliefnet blog (posted September 2010).

“Mainline Protestantism: Antidote to American Incivility?” on *Patheos.com* (posted July 26, 2010).

“Will There Be Football in Heaven?” *The Presbyterian Outlook* (March 23, 2009).

“A Pilgrim Thanksgiving,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, vol. 186, No. 42 (November 22-29, 2004).

“Finding Hope in the Great Ends of the Church,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, vol. 186, No. 29 (August 2-9, 2004).

“Organ Donation Changes Urged,” *The Addison Independent*, vol. 57, no. 25 (June 19, 2003).

“Questioning Authority in a Time of War,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 185:12 (March 31, 2003).

“A Different View on Cloning Issue,” *The Addison Independent*, vol. 14, no. 51 (May 20, 2002).

Presentations

“Poverty as Dehumanization,” Donor Appreciation Reception for HOPE—October 21, 2021

“American Holy Days: Thinking Theologically about Secular Culture” Redstone Presbytery—October 9, 2021

“Rethinking Christian America” (two sessions)—Visiting Scholar Program, Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church, Blowing Rock, NC—September 26-27, 2021

“Where Do We Go from Here? Forbearance and Civility after the 2020 Election” for the Nehemiah Leadership Network (American Baptist Church)—February 2, 2021

“Forbearance, Civility, and Beloved Community” for Albany Presbytery PC(USA)—October 3, 2020

- “The Character of Beloved Community” for the Synod of the Trinity PC(USA)—September 27, 2020
- “Privilege as Moral Vice,” presented at Annual Meeting of Society of Christian Ethics—January 10, 2020
- “Reforming Friendship,” 3-day Workshop for 4th Presbyterian Church, Greenville SC—September 13-15, 2019
- “Civility and Its Discontents” for Vermont Humanities Council’s First Wednesday Series, Rutland Free Library—May 1, 2019
- “Servant Leadership and the Liberal Arts,” Keynote Remarks for Public Service Leadership Awards, Middlebury College—April 30, 2019
- “Forbearance” for the Vermont District of the United Methodist Church, North Ferrisburgh, VT—March 31, 2019
- “Privilege as Moral Vice in Higher Education” for International Global Studies Program, Middlebury College February 26, 2019
- “Secularism, Theology, and the Liberal Arts” for Middlebury College Scott Symposium—January 25, 2019
- “Roger Williams and the Moral Use of the Law,” Reformed Theology Interest Group at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting—January 5, 2019
- “Religion and the 2018 National Elections,” Elderly Services, Inc.— Three sessions in October 2018
- “Forbearance” for The Colossian Forum Annual Conference, Holland MI—September 21-22, 2018
- “Can We Talk about Guns?” Panelist, Middlebury Community Conversations, Middlebury VT—May 6, 2018
- “Is Civility Dead? Religion, Political Virtue, and Deliberative Democracy in an Age of Trump,” Carol Rifelj Faculty Lecture Series, Middlebury College—April 4, 2018
- “Is Civility Dead? Religion, Political Virtue, and Deliberative Democracy in an Age of Trump,” Middlebury Alumni Gathering, Washington, D.C.—January 25, 2018 (also Philadelphia 3/2018)
- “Transforming Poverty Studies,” AAC&U Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.—January 26, 2018
- “Forbearance and Friendship,” Transylvania Presbytery Calvin Retreat, Lexington KY—Feb. 3-4, 2017
- “Talking Politics in a Polarized Time,” Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur GA—Oct. 21, 2016
- “Civility and Christian Public Witness” Southwest Association, Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ—September 18, 2016
- “Why Civility Matters—Or Does It?” Green Mountain Academy, Manchester VT—June 21, 2016
- “Churches and Colleges: Schools of Civility” Mary E. Borges Memorial Lecture, Dickinson College, Carlisle PA—February 24, 2015
- “Physician Aid in Dying: A Christian Perspective” Addison County Meeting, Vermont Conference UCC, Shoreham VT—May 4, 2014

- “Friendship and Faith: Pillars of Small-Town Civility” St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Middlebury VT—
March 25, 2014
- “A Theology of Forbearance” Donegal Presbytery (PA)—March 16, 2013
- “Religion, Civility, and Politics: Can These Three Things Ever Go Together?”
First Presbyterian Church, Hudson Falls NY – October 21, 2012
Ripton Community Church (VT)—May 13, 2012
Delmar Presbyterian Church (NY) – March 16, 2012
- “Civil Politics: An Oxymoron?” The Hawthorne Club, Middlebury VT—March 12, 2012
- “Christian Vision and Civil Discourse: A Call for Civility in American Public Life” Westminster Presbyterian
Church, Lincoln NE – January 28-29, 2012
- “Reforming the Ties That Bind: Theological Virtues for Living Together with Difference”
Covenant Network Annual Conference, Durham NC – November 3-5, 2011
- “Them’s Fightin’ Words: Civility and Incivility in American Politics” Three-part course for Elderly Services in
Middlebury, VT – July 2011
- “First Amendment Freedoms and an Obligation to Civility” University of North Alabama, Florence AL –
April 28-29, 2011
- “What Makes Theological Ethics Theological?” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting –
January 5-9, 2011
- Book Discussion, *In Defense of Civility* 51 Main, Middlebury VT – November 17, 2010
- “Talking in Good Faith: Religion and the Elusive Art of Respectful Public Debate” (3 lectures)
Killington Grand Resort, Killington VT – August 2-4, 2010
- “Confessions of a Calvinist” (In Celebration of Calvin’s 500th Birthday) Albany Presbytery – Sept. 26, 2009
- Panel Participant, “Charles Darwin’s Influence on the Humanities” Middlebury College – September 25, 2009
- “The Legacy of Calvin and Calvinism in America” East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, Craftsbury VT –
August 9, 2009
- “Roger Williams and the Baptist Legacy on Religious Freedom” Rhode Island Historical Society / John Clarke
Society, Newport RI – October 11-12, 2008
- “Matters of Life and Death: Christian Morality in American Political Debate” Four-part course for ESI in
Middlebury, VT – September 2008
- “The Separation of Church and State: Roger Williams and the Birth of an American Ideal” Faculty Lecture
Series, Middlebury College – March 8, 2007
- Panelist, “Is there such a thing as a Judeo-Christian ethic?” Middlebury College – September 18, 2006
- “Religion, Politics, and Moral Values” First Presbyterian Church, Hudson Falls NY –
April 23, April 30, May 7, 2006

- “Go and Do Likewise: An Introduction to Christian Ethics”
Capital Region Theological Center (Albany NY) – February 4 & 11, 2006
- Roundtable Discussion of *The Moral Theology of Roger Williams*
Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting – January 5-8, 2006
- “Religion in American Politics: A Historical Perspective”
Guest Lecture at the Sherburne Memorial Library, Killington VT – July 20, 2005
- Panel Participant, “Can Religion, Philosophy, and Science Really Talk to Each Other?”
Ross Commons, Middlebury College, May 3, 2005
- “Creative Tension in the Great Ends of the Church”
Annual Retreat of Albany Presbytery, Silver Bay NY – June 14-15, 2004
- “From John Winthrop to Suze Orman: What’s Happened to the American Dream?”
Faculty Lecture Series, Middlebury College – February 25, 2003
Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting – January 9-12, 2003
- “The Just War Tradition and Christian Reflection on War with Iraq”
Troy United Presbyterian Church (NY) – 9 February 2003
- “Ethical Dilemmas and Gospel Decisions: Conversation on the Impending War with Iraq”
Albany Presbytery Workshop – October 19, 2002
- “Vocation, Common Good, and the Poor: Puritan Reflections on Economic Inequality”
Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting – January 5-7, 2001
- Participant, Institute for Reformed Theology Colloquy, “Reformed Theology and Public Ethics”
Union-PSCE, Richmond, VA – September 2000-March 2001
- “Moral Pluralism and Christian Conviction: Roger Williams’s Hope for ‘Civility’”
Pruit Memorial Symposium, Baylor University, Waco TX – October 28-30, 1999

III. FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

External Competitive Grants

- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Institutional Grant for campus discourse (member, project committee), 2018
- Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, Project Grant for Researchers, 2015
- Association of American Colleges & Universities, *Bringing Theory to Practice* Grant, 2013
- National Endowment for the Humanities, *We the People* Research Fellowship, 2005-2006
- National Endowment for the Humanities, *We the People Initiative* Summer Stipend, 2004

Internal Grants

- Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Enrichment Fund, Middlebury College, Fall 2007
- Ada Howe Kent Faculty Development Award, Middlebury College, 2002-2003

Undergraduate and Graduate Studies: Grants and Honors

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship, 2000-2001
Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, 2000-2001
Walter W. Moore Graduate Fellowship, Union Theological Seminary, 1995
Phi Beta Kappa, Dickinson College, 1992

IV. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Church (Local & Denominational)

PCUSA, Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates: 2016-present
Social Ethics Network (affiliated with PCUSA Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy): 2013-present
Theologian-in-Residence, The Congregational Church of Middlebury (VT): 2013-present
Parish Associate, First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls (NY): 2004-2012
Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Albany Presbytery: 2002-2004
Pastor, Scottsville Presbyterian Church, Scottsville, VA: 1996-2000
Temporary Pastor, Salem Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsville, VA: 1994-1995

Community

Addison Central School District (VT) Continuity of Learning Team: June-August 2020
Board Member, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO): 2015-2018
Regular teacher in Elderly Services Continuing Education Program, Middlebury VT

The Profession

Board Member, Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (see also CV p. 1): 2013-2015, 2017-2018
External Review Team, Religious Studies, Lafayette College: Spring 2014
Participant, National Institute for Civil Discourse Roundtables: 2011
Participant, Respectful Dialogue Initiative, Office of Public Witness, PC(USA): 2011-2012
NEH Summer Stipend Selection Committee: August 2008/August 2009
Society of Christian Ethics: Session convener; reviewer for *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*
Manuscript Reviewer for *Poverty & Public Policy*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Political Science Review*,
Journal of Church and State, *Political Theology*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Politics and Religion*,
Cambridge, Eerdmans, WJK.

V. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Christian Ethics (SCE)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Associate Member, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)

Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Albany Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)