

JAMES K. MEAD

Professor of Religion
Northwestern College
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Academic Positions

Northwestern College (Orange City, Iowa)

Professor of Religion, 2012-present
Marvin and Jerene DeWitt Endowed Chair of Religion, 2015-present
Associate Professor of Religion, 2006-2012
Assistant Professor of Religion, 2000-2006

Princeton Theological Seminary

Teaching Fellow 1996-1999

Education

Ph.D. (Biblical Studies) *Princeton Theological Seminary* (Princeton, NJ)
May 1999

M.Div., M.A. (Biblical Studies) *Reformed Theological Seminary* (Jackson, MS)
May 1984

B.A. (Theology) *Georgetown University* (Washington, D.C.)
May 1980

Courses Taught

Introduction to Biblical Studies
Introduction to Christian Theology
Christian Story 1: The Biblical Tradition
Biblical Interpretation and Theology
Biblical Theology
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Topics in Old Testament Studies
 Pentateuch-Israel's Torah
 Historical Books—Prophetic Narratives
 Psalms—Israel's Worship
 Prophets—Then and Now
 Israel's Stories—Literary Interpretation of OT Narrative
 Wisdom Literature—Job and Human Suffering
 Judaism, Old Testament and Christian Biblical Theology
 Women of Faith: Ruth, Esther, and the Song of Songs
Topics in New Testament Studies
 Acts: The Church's Fellowship and Mission
Senior Seminar in Religion
Honors Seminar: The Rhetoric of Relationships in Ancient Hebrew Narrative

Papers and Publications

Dissertation

“‘Elisha Will Kill’?: The Deuteronomistic Rhetoric of Life and Death in the Theology of the Elisha Narratives” (Princeton Theological Seminary, May, 1999)

Monograph

Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes (Westminster John Knox, 2007).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “Genesis 1 within the Faith-Science Debate.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* (May-June, 2016): 16-17.
- “‘Let us Press on to Know the Lord’: Preaching the Knowledge of God in Hosea 5:15-6:6.” *Word and World* 28 (2008): 196-202.
- “All Our Grievs to Bear: A Biblical and Theological Reflection.” *The Reformed Review* (Fall, 2002): 5-18
- “Telling the Old, Old Stories.” *Catalyst* 28 (February, 2002):1, 4-5.
- “Kings and Prophets, Donkeys and Lions: Dramatic Shape and Deuteronomistic Rhetoric in 1 Kings 13.” *Vetus Testamentum* 49 (1999): 191-205

Dictionary and Book Entries

- “The Biblical Prophets in Historiography,” in *Ancient Israel’s History: An Introduction to Issues and Sources*, eds. B. Arnold and R. Hess (Baker Academic, 2014): 262-285.
- Entries on twenty seven different people and places for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Walter deGruyter, 2009):
 Ahinidab, Ahishar, Argob and Arieah, Arza, Ben-Abinidab, Ben-Geber, Beth-Dagon, Beth-Diblathaim, Beth-Eked, Beth-Haggan, Beth-Rehob, Beth-Shittah, Beth-Tappuah, Bethuel (Person), Bethuel (Place), Bidkar, Binnui, Biddui (1), Biddui (2), Biddui (3), Biddui (4), Biddui (5), Biddui (6), Birzaith, Bishlam, Bozez.
- “Exodus 15” and “Psalm 121” in *The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday’s Texts: Psalms Readings* (Eerdmans, 2009)
- “Mount Tabor” in *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2009): 5:460-461.
- “Reed” in *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2009): 4:754.
- “Labor” in *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2008) 3:553-554.
- “Elijah” in *The Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (InterVarsity Press, 2005): 249-254.
- “Elisha” in *The Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (InterVarsity Press, 2005): 254-258.
- “Genesis 22” in *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction*, eds. M. Roncace and P. Gray (SBL, 2005): 98-100.

“Psalms of Lament” in *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction*, eds. M. Roncace and P. Gray (SBL, 2005): 198-199.

On-Line Articles

Expositions of Year A, B, and C Psalm texts. The Center for Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary. [<http://www.workingpreacher.org/>] (August-September, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014, and 2017). Total of twenty entries.

Expositions of four Year-A, Isaiah and Leviticus lectionary texts. The Center for Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary. [<http://www.workingpreacher.org/>] (October, 2008). Total of four entries.

Papers at Academic Conferences

“*Sola Scriptura* but not *Una Interpretatio*: The Reformation’s Unresolved Tension between History and Theology in Biblical Studies” (To the Baylor Conference on the Bible and the Reformation, October 25, 2017)

“Cast the Ark upon the Waters: A Missional reading of the Flood Story” (To the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 21, 2012)

“Elijah and Elisha in ‘Exile’: The Inclusion of Prophetic Cycles in the Deuteronomistic History” (To the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 21, 2011)

“Rabbinic Literature and the Problem of Jewish Biblical Theology.” To the Upper Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, April 10, 2010.

“Unbearable Behavior? Literary Criticism and the Bad Reputation of Elisha” (To the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November, 2001)

“Kings and Prophets, Donkeys and Lions: Dramatic Shape and Deuteronomistic Rhetoric in 1 Kings 13.” (To the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Society of Biblical Literature, March, 1998.)

Reviews (in Peer Reviewed Journals)

Katharine Dell, *Who Needs the Old Testament: Its Enduring Appeal and why the New Atheists Don’t get It*. In *Review of Biblical Literature* (May 18, 2018)

Jeffrey S. Anderson, *The Blessing and the Curse: trajectories in the Theology of the Old Testament*. In *Review of Biblical Literature* (October 1, 2015)

Hagelia, Hallvard, *Three Old Testament Theologies for Today: Helge S. Kvanvig, Walter Brueggemann and Erhard Gerstenberger*. In *The Journal of the Hebrew Scriptures* 12 (2012).

Jon M. Isaak. *New Testament Theology: Extending the Table*. In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 66 (2012): 216.

Carol M. Bechtel, ed. *Touching the Altar: The Old Testament for Christian Worship*. In *Doxology: A Journal for Worship* (July, 2008)

Donn F. Morgan, *The Making of Sages: Biblical Wisdom and Contemporary Culture*. In *Christian Education Journal* NS 7:1 (Spring, 2003):126-128.

Walter Brueggemann, *Ichabod Toward Home: The Journey of God’s Glory*. In *The Presbyterian Outlook* Vol. 184, No. 29 (September 2-9, 2002): 13.

- Mary H. Schertz and Perry B. Yoder, *Seeing the Text: Exegesis for Students of Greek and Hebrew*. In *Christian Education Journal* 5 (Fall 2001): 131-134.
- Goran Larsson, *Bound for Freedom: The Book of Exodus in Jewish and Christian Traditions*. In *The Asbury Theological Journal* 56.2-57.1 (Fall, 2001-Spring, 2002): 149-150.
- Dale Patrick, *The Rhetoric of Revelation in the Hebrew Bible*. In *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* (November, 2000): 376-378.
- Godfrey Ashby, *Exodus* (International Theological Commentary Series). In *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin* (July, 1999): 228-229.
- Walter Brueggemann, *Cadences of Home: Preaching to Exiles*. In *Koinonia: The Princeton Seminary Graduate Forum*. (Spring, 1998): 133-136.

Public Presentations at Northwestern College

- “The Intersection of Evolutionary Biology and the Christian Doctrine of God.” Presented to Yada: Faith and Science Club. October 12, 2017.
- “Genesis 1 Within the Faith-Science Debate.” Annual Day of Learning Panel Presentation. February 10, 2016
- “Justice in Jesus’ Bible: The Old Testament Background on Jesus’ Teaching on Justice.” Annual Day of Learning Workshop, February 12, 2014.
- “Rabbinic Literature and the Land of Israel-Palestine: A Christian Appropriation for the Present Situation.” Summer research grant presentation. February 21, 2012.
- “Spiritual Reading of the Psalms” for Black Hills Retreat, September 25, 2010
- “Rethinking ‘Dominion’ in Genesis 1-3: Creation Care for a New Creation” Annual Day of Learning Workshop, April 1, 2009.
- “A Biblical Theology of Land.” Minding Place Symposium workshop on Galilee: Hinterland or Holy Land? April 9, 2008.
- “Prospects for a Dramatic-Critical Reading of Biblical Narratives,” Ancient Israelite Plays Symposium, April 24, 2004.
- “The Divine Vocation: Reformed Theology’s Conversation with the Call of God in the Biblical Traditions.” (Vocare: Find Your Place – Lilly Grant Forum November 6, 2003)
- “‘Let No One Call You Teacher’: Authority and Method in the Teaching of Biblical Studies at Northwestern College.” (Written for the Pedagogy Project, June 30, 2002.)

Grant Writing

- Lilly Foundation Youth Theology Institute. Successful proposal for “Living Your Faith” \$440,000 grant Awarded January 1, 2016.

Honors and Awards

- Recipient: Northwestern Endowed Research Fellowship, 2009-10
- Recipient: Summer Research Grants, Northwestern College, 2004 & 2005
- Winner: Northwestern College Teaching Excellence Award, 2004
- Finalist: Northwestern College Teaching Excellence Award, 2003

Howard Clark Kee Presentation Award, for Best Student Paper at the Mid-Atlantic Regional of the Society of Biblical Literature, March, 1998
 Old Testament Editor, *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum*, 1997-1999

Teaching Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1996-1999
 Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Reformed Theological Seminary, May, 1984
 Graduated Magna Cum Laude, Georgetown University, May, 1980
 Brennan Medal, for Outstanding Theology Major at Georgetown University, May, 1980

Professional Service at Northwestern College

Task Force on Academic Program Prioritization (2018-19)
 Religion Department Chair (2015-present)
 Academic Program Review Task Force (2018-19)
 Deans Council, 2014-2017 (Secretary)
 Academic Affairs Committee, 2011-2015 (Chair 2012-14)
 Task Force on Faculty Evaluation, 2008 (Chair)
 Faculty Status Committee, 2006-2009 (Secretary); 2010-2011
 Faculty Handbook Committee, 2006-2009 (Secretary, 2009)
 NCA Assessment Taskforce, 2004-05 (Member)
 Academic Dean's Council, 2004-05 (Secretary)
 NCA Task Force on Distinctive Organization, 2003-04 (Co-chair)
 Honors Program, 2003-2006 (Co-director)
 Faculty Development Committee, 2001-03 and 2017-present (Member)
 Admissions, Retention, and Honors Committee 2001-03 (Chair)
 Chaplain Search Committee, 2002-2003 (Member)

Professional Memberships

Society of Biblical Literature
 Institute for Biblical Research (Treasurer, 2011-2017)

Church Membership and Service

Ordination

November 11, 1984 by the Presbytery of the Pines, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 March 2015 transferred to East Sioux Classis of the Reformed Church in America

Membership

Trinity Reformed Church, 2015-present
 East Sioux Classis, 2015-present
 Prospect Hill Presbytery 2001-2015
 Monmouth Presbytery 1999-2001
 Pines Presbytery 1984-1999

Pastorates

Stated Supply, Old Tennent Presbyterian Church, Tennent, NJ 1999-2000
 Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Magnolia, AR 1988-1995

Pastor, Vidalia Presbyterian Church, Vidalia, LA 1984-1987

Classis Service

In the Classis of East Sioux

President (2019) and Leadership Team Member (2018-2020)

Presbytery Service

In Prospect Hill Presbytery:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 2011-2012

Permanent Judicial Commission, 2008-2012

Reader of Ordination Exams, Chicago reading group, March, 2007

Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 2002-2007

Pulpit Supply (approximately one eighty times since 2000)

Moderator of Session, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Cherokee, IA
(2003)

Moderator of Session, First Presbyterian Church, Paullina, IA (2004-05)

In Pines Presbytery:

Committee on Ministry, 1986-1992

Committee on Examinations, 1990-1992

Presbyteries Cooperative Committee—Read Ordination Exams, 1989,
1990, 1995

Division of Nominations, 1990-1992

Division of Ecclesiastical Communications, 1994-1995

Moderator of Presbytery, October, 1992

Commissioner to General Assembly, 1994