

RUY COSTA
rocosta888@gmail.com

EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston, MA
Ph.D. (Religion and Society)

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, South Hamilton, MA
Master of Arts in Theological Studies (Christian Social Ethics)

PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY, Campinas, Brazil
Theology (4 year degree required of Presbyterian ministers in Brazil)

UNIVERSITY OF MOGI DAS CRUZES, São Paulo, Brazil
BA in Education

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION (AAR)
SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS (SCE)

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Culto, Política e Transgressão – Ética e Liturgia na Era da Tecocracia (São Paulo: Pluralidades, 2022)

Globalization and Culture, a study commissioned by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (ACSWP, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Louisville, KY) 2003.

Toward a Latin American Protestant Ethic of Liberation, PhD dissertation (Michigan: University Microfilms International). 1990

Chapters in Edited Works:

“Ética e Liturgia,” (“Ethics and Liturgy”), a chapter in **Teologia do Culto**, a Festschrift in honor of Jaci Maraschin, edited by Claudio Carvalhaes. Fonte Editorial, 2012.

“Prepare Seu Coração,” (“Prepare Your Heart”), in **Oi Pai**. Cláudio Carvalhaes. PerSe. 2011.

“The Weekend, Labor and Leisure in America” a chapter in **Sunday, Sabbath and the Weekend: Managing Time in a Global Culture**, eds. Edward O’Flaherty, Rodney Peterson, Timothy A. Northon. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010.

"The Political Importance of the Sabbath" in **Labor and Leisure: A Look at Contemporary Values**, Ruy Costa editor and author of the Introduction and a Study Guide (Boston: Massachusetts Council of Churches). 1994

"Introduction" in **Struggles for Solidarity: Liberation Theologies in Tension**, Ruy Costa and Lorine Getz editors. Fortress. 1992

"Inculturation, Indegenization and Contextualization," in **One Faith, Many Cultures**: Ruy Costa editor. (Maryknoll and Cambridge: Orbis/BTI). 1987

Co-author:

Just Globalization: Justice, Ownership and Accountability, approved by the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2006. Published by the Office of the General Assembly, P.C. (U.S.A.). 2006

An Invitation to Sabbath: Recovering the Gift, Report of the Sabbath Keeping Work Group of the Congregational Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted by the 212th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and published by the Office of Spiritual Formation, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Louisville, KY, 2000).

Igreja: Comunidade Missionária (Church: A Missionary Community, a book on missions in Latin America written in cooperation with four colleagues. (Sao Paulo: ABU Editora). 1978

Other co-authored documents:

A Covenant for the Earth and Creation, report from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Assembly in Accra. 2004

Violence, Religion and Terrorism, Resolution adopted by the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 2004

Clergy Confidentiality, Resolution on "clergy confidentiality" policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), adopted by the 214th General Assembly of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2002.

Iraq and Beyond, Resolution on the Iraq War prepared by Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and adopted by the 214th General Assembly of the General of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2002.

Neither Riches Nor Poverty, a Compensation Policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 2010

WORK EXPERIENCE

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOSTON CAMPUS (CUME)

1982-97 – Taught courses in Portuguese and assisted CUME's Founding Director in setting a Portuguese language track program for Brazilian immigrant pastors.

2018 – Introduction to Pastoral Care

2019 – Writing and Critical Thinking

2020 – Introduction to Theological Studies

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LATINO AND GLOBAL MINISTRIES (LGM)

2021 – LGM1-PRT Cohort Adviser

2021 -- Introduction to Theological Studies

2022 – Spiritual Formation for Ministry

2022 – Christian Ethics

EPISCOPAL DIVINITY SCHOOL

2008 – History of Christian Social Ethics

2009 – Paulo Freire's Philosophy of Education

ELIOT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Lowell, MA

Chaplain, Day Center Program for Homeless Persons

PLACE OF PROMISE, Lowell, MA

Executive Administrator

March 2016 -- 2019

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION, Boston, MA

Executive Director – July 1999 to March 2015

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, Boston, MA

Associate Director/Legislative Agent – July 1989 to June 1999

BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE – a collaborative of Seminaries and Schools of Theology in eastern Massachusetts, including Andover Newton Theological School, Boston University School of Theology, Boston College Department of Theology, Harvard Divinity School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Greek Orthodox Seminary, Weston School of Theology and other institutions, Cambridge.
Program Coordinator – 1985 -- 1988

OTHER TRAINING

FAA licensed private pilot, SEL

Civil Air Patrol, Search and Rescue Pilot

Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency:

National Incident Management System (NIMS):

IS 100 – Intro to Incident Command System

IS 200 – Single Resource and Initial Action
ICS 300 – Unified Command
ICS 400 – Advanced ICS
ICS 800 --

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

ELIOT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Lowell, MA.
Elder, serving in Church Session. 2018 -- Present

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND (PNNE) P.C. (U.S.A.)
Commission on Ministry. 2019 -- Present

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND (PNNE) P.C. (U.S.A.)
Chair -- Shekinah Task Force (New Church Development) 2017 – 2018

PLACE OF PROMISE (a Christian residential program for women and men broken and hurt by addiction and other challenges, some with criminal records), Lowell, MA
Board Member. 2016

BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE Ethics Colloquium. 1998 -- 2015

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, board member. 2005 -- 2015

CIVIL AIR PATROL, Greater Nashua Squadron, Nahua, NH. 2004 – Present
Major, Mission Pilot and Character Development Instructor.

SABBATH KEEPING WORKING GROUP of the Congregational Ministries Division,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 1998-02

ELIOT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C. (U.S.A.), Lowell, MA. Elder serving in Session.
2006--08

P.C. (U.S.A.) GENERAL ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE ON COMPENSATION
“Neither Riches Nor Poverty” a Compensation Policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
and Social Witness on Compensation. 2009-10

P.C. (U.S.A.) GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS
(GACER)’S TASK FORCE ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS, Review of PC (USA)
relationships with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Caribbean
and North American Area Council of Churches (CANAAC). 2009-10

MISSION RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INVESTMENT (MRTI), a Committee of the
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) tasked with implementing the
General Assembly’s policies on social responsible investing by engaging corporations in
which the church owns stock. 1999-03

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WITNESS POLICY (ACSWP), General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The ACSWP “develops, interprets, and monitors policies that encourage and challenge the church and society to reflect and act in faithful response to God’s call to do justice.”

Elected member, 1997-03

Committee Chair, 2001-03

ADVICE AND COUNCIL sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Advice and Counsel sub-committee drafts memoranda advising the commissioners to the General Assembly on issues to be voted by the Assembly which have social witness policy implications.

Chair, 1999-01

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Corresponding member, 2002-03

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, Presbytery of Boston. Committee Chair, 1998-01

MASSACHUSETTS’ GOVERNOR LATINO SERVICE TASK FORCE. 1996-98

SPECIAL BYLAWS WRITING COMMITTEE, Presbytery of Boston. 1996-97

SPECIAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE, Presbytery of Boston. 1993-94

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION, Synod of the Northeast, PC (USA). 1992-96

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION, Presbytery of Boston, PC (USA). Chair, 1991-96

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL, Presbytery of Boston. 1991-96, 1998-01

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE JOINT COMMITTEE, Presbytery of Boston, Presbytery of Northern New England and Presbytery of Southern New England. 1991-94

THE SAFETY NETWORK, a non-profit grassroots political organization in Massachusetts lobbying the state legislature on issues of human services and social welfare.

President, 1991-95

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC (USA), Cambridge, MA. Elder serving in Session, 1989-92

MASSACHUSETTS HUMAN SERVICES COALITION. 1989-92

BRAZILIAN PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE (precursor of the Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Cambridge); founding organizer and chair of its board of trustees. 1988-93.

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Boston Presbytery, PC (USA). 1987-88

PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE, Boston Presbytery, PC (USA). 1984-87

UESVA (Association of High School Students in the City of Venâncio Aires, Brazil) President. 1969. Organized the first "Olympic" games among the five high schools in town.

CONFERENCES

Commissioner of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council. Accra, Ghana 2004

Delegate-speaker representing the Presbyterian Church (USA) Georgetown, Guyana. 2003
North American and Caribbean Regional Consultation of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches
(a planning meeting in preparation for the General Council of the Alliance in Ghana).

Retreat leader
Annual theological conversation retreat for the clergy in the Presbytery of Boston. Theme: "A theological reflection on the meaning of the Sabbath for today." 2002

Speaker
Cambridge, MA
Jubilee 2000 and the International Debt; Episcopal Divinity School. 1999

Speaker
Boston, MA
Shorter Work-Time Conference; Boston College. 1997

Planning Committee and Workshop co-leader
Weston, MA
Consumption, Population and the Environment; a conference sponsored by the Boston Theological Institute and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. 1995

Panelist
Cambridge, MA
Creation as Beloved of God; a Study for the World Council of Churches, Unit III, Theology of Life Program; hosted by the Boston Theological Institute with the assistance of the Union of Concerned Scientists. 1995

Workshop leader

Princeton, N.J.

Regional Racial Justice Conference co-sponsored by the Racial Ethnic Ministries of the General Assembly, P.C. (U.S.A.), Princeton Theological Seminary (Center for Continuing Education), Synod of the Northeast and Synod of the Trinity. 1994

Organizing Committee

Inter-religious Conference on Health Care Access Campaign held in Chicago. 1993

Coordinator

Regional Conference on Access to Health Care co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the National Inter-Religious Healthcare Access Campaign. 1992

Participant

Matanzas, Cuba

"Conference for Peace in Latin America." 1998

Coordinator

"Boston Theological Institute Traveling Seminar to Nicaragua."

A course for credit for BTI students. In Nicaragua meetings with peasants, church leaders, union leaders and government officials, including the minister of Social Welfare, Mr. Tefel and the minister of culture, Mr. Cardenal. 1988

Coordinator

Boston, MA

"Theologies of Liberation in the Americas." The third annual BTI consultation on missiology. Participation of theologians from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Europe and the United States. 1986

Coordinator

Boston, MA

"One Faith, Many Cultures, Contextualization." The second annual BTI consultation on missiology. 1986

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR, Civil Air Patrol, 2018.

PRIZE WINNER, Brazilian Literary Context, promoted by the Brazilian Consulate General in Boston, the Weekly Magazine "Alternativa" and the Academy of Letters of Governador Valadares; work: "A Estória de Dom Sá Bichão" (the Story of Mr. Big Know-it-all") a children's tale of an old smart big rat who learned how to control people and how to make them work for him without rest. 1997

DISSERTATION SCHOLARSHIP, Graduate School, Boston University. 1988

STUDENT GRANT, Graduate School, Boston University. 1982

CUM LAUDE MATS degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. 1982

LANGUAGES: English, Portuguese and Spanish

Last review: Nov 2022