

WESLEY VANDER LUGT

Acting Director, The Leighton Ford Initiative in Theology, the Arts, and Gospel Witness
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, University of St Andrews	2013
M.Div., Covenant Theological Seminary	2007
B.A., History, Covenant College	2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary <i>Christianity, the Arts, and Christian Formation</i> <i>Pastoral Ministry</i> <i>Readiness for Ministry</i> <i>Theology Survey I & II</i>	2017–present
Theologian in Residence, First Presbyterian Church, <i>Tulsa</i> <i>Beauty Is Oxygen</i> <i>Biblical Theology of Kinship</i> <i>Slow Faith: A Study in the Psalms</i> <i>Human Sexuality and the Church</i>	2021–2022
Visiting Instructor in Contemporary Culture, Covenant Theological Seminary <i>Theology, Art, and Christian Formation</i>	2021
Adjunct Lecturer, Cape Town Biblical College <i>Christian Formation and the Arts</i>	2016
Adjunct Lecturer and Tutor, University of St Andrews <i>Christian Doctrine and the Arts</i> <i>Theology: Issues and History</i> <i>Jesus and the Gospels</i>	2010–2013

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

Theologian-in-Residence, First Presbyterian Church (<i>Tulsa, OK</i>)	2021–2022
Lead Pastor, Warehouse 242 (<i>Charlotte, NC</i>)	2013–2021
Church Planter and Youth Pastor, Holy Trinity Church (<i>St. Andrews, Scotland</i>)	2009–2013
Ministry Associate, Armonía (<i>Mexico City/Oaxaca, Mexico</i>)	2008–2009
Director of Youth Ministries, Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church (<i>Saint Louis, MO</i>)	2007–2008
Youth Ministry Associate, Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church	2004–2007

BOOKS

A Prophet in the Darkness: Exploring Theology in the Art of Georges Rouault, editor (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2024).

Beauty Is Oxygen: Finding a Faith that Breathes (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2024).

Living Theodrama: Reimagining Theological Ethics, Routledge Studies in Theology, Imagination, and the Arts (Abingdon: Routledge, 2014).

Theatrical Theology: Explorations in Performing the Faith, edited with Trevor A. Hart (Eugene: Cascade, 2014).

Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition, co-authored with Kelly Kapic (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2013).

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

"Preface," in Bruce D. Long, *The Problem with the Dot: A Holistic Approach to Christians' Care and Cultivation of Global Culture through the Theatrical Ecosystem* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2020).

"Afterword," with Ben Wayman, in Samuel Wells, *Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics*, 2nd edition (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018).

"Karl Barth: *Church Dogmatics*," in *Reading Christian Theology in the Protestant Tradition*, edited by Kelly Kapic and Hans Madeume (London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017).

"José Miguez Bonino: *Doing Theology in a Revolutionary Situation*," in *Ibid.*

"James Cone: *Black Theology and Black Power*," in *Ibid.*

"Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel: *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*," in *Ibid.*

"Charles Hodge: *Systematic Theology*," in *Ibid.*

"Soren Kierkegaard: *Practice in Christianity*," in *Ibid.*

"Kosuke Koyama: *Water Buffalo Theology*," in *Ibid.*

"George Lindbeck: *The Nature of Doctrine*," in *Ibid.*

"Sallie McFague: *Models of God*," in *Ibid.*

"Walter Rauschenbusch: *Christianity and the Social Crisis*," in *Ibid.*

"Friedrich Schleiermacher: *The Christian Faith*," in *Ibid.*

"Paul Tillich: *Dynamics of Faith*," in *Ibid.*

"Church Beyond the Fourth Wall: Incorporating the Audience as Guest in Interactive and Ecclesial Theatre," *Cultural Encounters* 8.1 (2012): 7-22.

"The Ascension of Jesus and the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Patristic Perspective: A Theological Reading," *The Evangelical Quarterly* 79.1 (Jan-Mar. 2007): 23-34.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

“Creation Cares: A Creedal Theology of Entanglement and Co-Tending” Tyndale Fellowship Conference	2024
“The Arts, Integrative Imagination, and Resisting Missional Reductionism” Stott-Bediako Forum, International Fellowship of Mission as Transformation	2024
“The Beauty of a Well-Place Work” Kairos Forum, St Andrew Anglican Church	2024
“Why Beauty Matters for Everyone” Memorial Baptist Church, Middlebury VT	2024
“Our Entangled Existence: Reimagining Christian Community Development Principles through an Ecological Lens” CCDA National Conference, Portland	2024
“Letting Creation Speak: A Theology of Resonance and the Ecological Art of Vincent van Gogh” King’s College, London	2023
“Can Art Provide Hope? The Allure and Limit of Enlightenment, Ecstasy, and Expectation” Art Seeking Understanding, Baylor University	2022
“Learning Our Cultural Operating Systems” Staff Training, <i>Bible Study Fellowship International</i>	2021
“Divine Artistry and Human Sub-Creation” <i>Oral Roberts University, Tulsa</i>	2021
“Black History and the Art of ‘A Woman’s Work’” <i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary</i>	2021
“Hope and the Gift of Art: From Sentimentality to Eucatastrophe” <i>KRUX Artist Gathering, Stellenbosch</i>	2020
“Unbent by Beauty: Art and Becoming Human Again” <i>DITA10: A Symposium on the Future of Theology and the Arts, Duke University</i>	2019
“Why the Arts Matter to our City” <i>Movement Day, Charlotte</i>	2018
“How Being a Church for the City Means Being a Church for the Arts,” <i>CIVA Symposium, Charlotte</i>	2017
“How Art Can Change the World” <i>CRUX Artists Gathering, Stellenbosch, South Africa</i>	2016
“The Slowness of God” <i>Cape Town Baptist Seminary, Cape Town, South Africa</i>	2016
“The Origin and Legacy of Human Creativity” <i>Legacy Gala, Southlake Christian Academy, Charlotte</i>	2016
“What Kind of Artist is God?” <i>Integrative Seminar, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte</i>	2015

“God’s Drama: Living Within the Bible’s Story” <i>St Andrew Scottish Episcopal Church, St Andrews</i>	2012
“Ready Actors, Fitting Action: An Improvisational Vision for Theological Ethics” <i>L’Abri Fellowship, Switzerland</i>	2011
“Why Evangelicals Need Tradition for Participating in Salvation by ‘No Other Name’” <i>Evangelical Theological Society, San Francisco</i>	2011
“Performing Sanctification: Putting on a Show or Putting on Christ?” <i>Edinburgh Conference in Christian Dogmatics, Edinburgh</i>	2011
“Scripture as Transcript and Prescript: A Theodramatic Model for Biblical Authority and Interpretation,” <i>Society for the Study of Theology, York</i>	2011
“Following Jesus without Faking It: Exploring Authentic Discipleship” <i>European Leadership Forum, Eger, Hungary</i>	2011
“Scripture as Transcript and Prescript: Improvising Biblical Hermeneutics” <i>Evangelical Theological Society, Atlanta</i>	2010
“Ready Actors, Fitting Action: An Improvisational Vision for Theological Ethics” <i>Seminar at The Institute for Theological, Imagination and the Arts, St Andrews</i>	2010
“Church Beyond the Fourth Wall: Interactive and Ecclesiological Theatre” <i>International Society for Theology, Religion, and Literature, Oxford</i>	2010
“Scripture and Tradition in Theodramatic Performance” <i>Theology, Aesthetics, and Culture Conference, St Andrews</i>	2010

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Acting Director, Leighton Ford Initiative in Theology, the Arts, and Gospel Witness. <i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte</i>	2022–
Arts and Culture Editor, <i>Ex Fonte Magazine</i>	2024–
Peer Reviewer, <i>St Andrews Encyclopedia of Theology</i>	2023
PhD Supervisor, <i>Oxford Centre for Christian Mission</i>	2019-2023
External Dissertation Reader, <i>Southeastern Baptist Seminary</i>	2021
Conference Coordinator, <i>Theatrical Theology: Conversations on Performing the Faith</i>	2012
Co-Founder and Editor, “ <i>Transpositions</i> ” <i>An online journal of theology and the arts</i>	2010-2013
President, <i>St Mary’s Postgraduate Committee, University of St. Andrews</i>	2010-2011

NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder and Operations Director, <i>Kinship Plot</i>	2021–present
Board Member, <i>Christians in Theatre Arts</i>	2019–present
Board Member, <i>Lorien Arts</i>	2016-2024

Administrative Coordinator, Lausanne International Consultation on Care and Counsel as Mission, <i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>	2009
Chaplaincy Team Leader, St Leonard's School, <i>St Andrews</i>	2010-2013
Casting Call Project Director, Youth Theatre Project, <i>St. Andrews</i>	2010-2011

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

John Stott Award for Pastoral Engagement, <i>Henry Center (TEDS)</i>	2018–19 / 2019–20
National Clergy Renewal Grant, <i>Lilly Endowment</i>	2019
Certificat d'Etudes en Français Langue Entrangère, <i>Institut Catholique de Paris</i>	2010
Cambridge Scholar, <i>European Leadership Forum</i>	2010
Certificado de Español, <i>Instituto Cultural Oaxaca</i>	2008
Kern Scholar, <i>Covenant Theological Seminary</i>	2004–2007
Maclellan Scholar, <i>Covenant College</i>	2000–2004