CURRICULUM VITAE

DONALD MacALLISTER FAIRBAIRN, JR.

EMAIL: dfairbairn@gordonconwell.edu

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Patristics - July 1999, University of Cambridge** (Cambridge, England)
  Dissertation: "Grace and Christology in Cyril of Alexandria and John Cassian"
- **M.Div. (with honors) - June 1989, Denver Seminary** (Denver, Colorado)
  First 2 years (1986-88), Erskine Theological Seminary (Due West, South Carolina)
  Study of classical Greek and religion in preparation for seminary (1985-86), Furman University (Greenville, South Carolina)
- **A.B. in English literature (*summa cum laude*) - June 1985, Princeton University** (Princeton, New Jersey)
  Thesis: "Filling the Void: Three Victorian Visions of a Godless World"

TEACHING POSITIONS

Full-Time Positions:

2025–present	Robert E. Cooley Distinguished Professor of Early Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte, North Carolina)
2010–2025	Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte, North Carolina)
2006–2010	Professor of Historical Theology, Erskine Theological Seminary (Due West, South Carolina)
2002–2006	Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Missions, Erskine Theological Seminary (Due West, South Carolina)
1999–2001	Assistant Professor of Church History and Missions, Erskine Theological Seminary (Due West, South Carolina)
1996–1999	No position, since I was working on my Ph.D.
1992–1996	Professor of Systematic Theology, Donetsk Christian University (Donetsk, Ukraine)
1989–1992	International staff, Campus Crusade for Christ (I served as a student minister in Soviet Georgia and then did research on Eastern Orthodoxy and Islam in Eurasia for the benefit of the Eurasian staff.)

Major On-Going, Part-Time Positions:

2023–present	Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Union School of Theology (Bridgend, Wales)

2004–2022	Professor of Historical Theology, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit (Leuven, Belgium)
1996–2002	Adjunct Professor of Theology and consultant to the academic department, Donetsk Christian University (Donetsk, Ukraine)

Occasional Adjunct Teaching:

In addition to the on-going, part-time teaching above, I have taught courses as an adjunct at the following institutions (listed alphabetically, with years courses were taught):

Asbury Theological Seminary (Wilmore, Kentucky, USA) – 2022
Cambridge Summer School of Theology (Cambridge, England) – 2005, 2011
Denver Seminary (Littleton, Colorado, USA – 2011, 2014, 2016, 2019
Global Alliance for Theological Education (Los Angeles, California, USA) – 2022
Greek Bible Institute (Athens, Greece) – 2009
Haddington House (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada) – 2005, 2006
IFES Eurasia (Donetsk, Ukraine) – 2007, 2008
North Caucasus Bible College (Prokhladny, Russia) – 2010
REALIS Institute (Kiev, Ukraine) – 2004, 2010
Trinity Fellowship Pastors College (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) – 2025, 2026

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly or Academic Books:

The Christological Controversies from Ephesus (431) to Chalcedon (451): Essential Readings. Dallas: Fontes Press, forthcoming. [Editor and translator]

Christology and the Logic of Grace in Fifth-Century Gaul. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025.

Fulgentius of Ruspe and the Scythian Monks: Correspondence on Christology and Grace. The Fathers of the Church 126. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013. [Co-translated with Rob Roy McGregor.]

Grace and Christology in the Early Church. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. [This book has also been published in Russian.]

Eastern Orthodoxy through Western Eyes. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. [This book has also been published in Russian and Romanian.]

Student-level or Popular Books:

The Trinity. Essentials Series. Bridgend, Wales: Union Publishing, 2024. [This book is being translated into Amharic, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Malay, Swahili, Telugu, Turkish, and Urdu.]

The Global Church—The First Eight Centuries: From Pentecost through the Rise of Islam. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2021.

The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019. [Co-authored with Ryan Reeves.] [This book has also been published in Italian and is being translated into Spanish.]

Understanding Language: A Guide for Beginning Students of Greek & Latin. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009. [This book has also been published in French, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish, and is being translated into Korean and Traditional Chinese.]

[I have also written a book on Islam in Eurasia and a workbook on Christian apologetics, both published only in Russian.]

Contributions to Scholarly or Academic Multi-Author Works:

"Christ as Son, Revealer, and Saviour." In *A New History of Christian Doctrine*, edited by Mark Edwards, Giulio Maspero, and Robert Woźniak. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

"Council of Ephesus (431)." In the *T & T Clark Companion to the Creeds and Councils*, edited by David Maxwell. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, forthcoming.

"Early Receptions." In *The Cambridge Companion to Christology*, edited by Timothy Pawl and Michael Peterson, 79-93. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025.

"Ante-Nicene Trinitarianism: From Confession to Theology." In *On Classical Trinitarianism: Retrieving the Nicene Doctrine of the Triune God*, edited by Matthew Barrett, 3-20. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2024.

"Unknowable or Unknown God? Evangelical Tensions." In *The Book of Acts: Theological-Ecumenical Readings*, edited by Charles Raith II, 258-264. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2019.

"*Fides Quae Creditur?* The Nicene Background to the Reformation." In *Reformation Celebration: The Significance of Scripture, Grace, Faith, and Christ*, edited by Gordon Isaac and Eckhard J. Schnabel, 191-203. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2018. [This chapter has also been published in Spanish in *Revista Evangélica de Theología* 1:1 (April 2022), 29-39.]

"Cyril of Alexandria." In the *T & T Clark Companion to Atonement*, edited by Adam J. Johnson, 457-460. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2017.

"Athanasius." In the *T & T Clark Companion to the Doctrine of Sin*, edited by Keith Johnson and David Lauber, 165-179. London: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2016.

Contributions to Student-level or Popular Multi-Author Works:

"Chalcedon, Council of," "Ephesus, Council of," and "Nestorius/Nestorianism." In *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, third edition, 165-166, 275, 584-585. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

"Contemporary Millennial/Tribulational Debates: Whose Side Was the Early Church On?" In *A Case for Historic Premillennialism*, edited by Craig L. Blomberg and Sung-Wook Chung, 105-131. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

"The One Person Who Is Jesus Christ: The Patristic Perspective." In *Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective: An Introductory Christology*, edited by Fred Sanders and Klaus Issler, 80-113. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2007.

"Eastern Orthodox Mystical Theology." In *Mysticisms East & West: Studies in Mystical Experience*, 146-65. Carlisle, England: Paternoster Press, 2003.

"John Cassian." In *The Dictionary of Historical Theology*, edited by Trevor Hart, 115-16. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

"Orthodox Supremacy in Russia: Is There a Place for Evangelicalism?" In *God in Russia: The Challenge of Freedom*, edited by Sharon Linzey and Ken Kaisch, 288-314. Lanham, MD.: University Press of America, 1999.

<u>Articles in Scholarly or Academic Journals</u>:

"The Spectre of 'Nestorius': Christology and the Logic of Grace among the Gallic Monks." *Studia Patristica*, forthcoming. [Peer reviewed]

"Interpreting Conciliar Christology: An Overview in the Service of Analytic Theology." *Journal of Analytic Theology* 10 (2022): 363-381. [Peer reviewed]

"The Sardican Paper, Antiochene Politics, and the Council of Alexandria (362): Developing the 'Faith of Nicaea.'" *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 66:2 (October 2015), 651-678. [Peer reviewed]

"Context, Context, Context: Athanasius' Biblical Interpretation in *Contra Arianos.*" *Perichoresis* 12:2 (Fall 2014), 119-135.

"Justification in St. Cyril of Alexandria, with some Implications for Ecumenical Dialogue." *Participatio: The Journal of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship* 4 (2013): 132-155. [Peer reviewed. This article has been re-printed in *T. F. Torrance and Eastern Orthodoxy: Theology in Reconciliation*, edited by Matthew Baker and Todd Speidell, 123-147 (Wipf & Stock, 2015).]

"The Synod of Ancyra (358) and the Question of the Son's Creaturehood." *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 64:1 (April 2013), 111-136. [Peer reviewed]

"Allies or Merely Friends? John of Antioch and Nestorius in the Christological Controversy." *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 58:3 (July 2007), 383-399. [Peer reviewed]

"Patristic Soteriology: Three Trajectories." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 50:2 (June 2007), 289-310. [Peer reviewed]

"The Puzzle of Theodoret's Christology: A Modest Suggestion." *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 58:1 (April 2007), 100-133. [Peer reviewed]

"Patristic Exegesis and Theology: The Cart and the Horse." *The Westminster Theological Journal* 69:1 (Spring 2007), 1-19.

Articles in Student-level or Popular Journals/Magazines (select list):

"Creeds and the Gospel: From the Beginnings to the Council of Nicaea (325). *Christ Over All*, July 7, 2025. https://christoverall.com/article/longform/creeds-and-the-gospel-from-the-beginnings-to-the-council-of-nicaea-325/

"Arabian Fights: The Rise of Islam and the Resilience of the Church." *Desiring God*, May 16, 2025. https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/arabian-fights

"Constantine's Foil: How Peace in Rome Led to Persecution in Persia." *Desiring God*, July 25, 2023. https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/constantines-foil

"The Chalcedonian Definition: Christ's Two Natures." *Credo Magazine* 11:2 (July 12, 2021). https://credomag.com/article/the-chalcedonian-definition/

"No Creed but the Bible? Ancient Creeds and Contemporary Faith." *Christian Research Journal* 41:2 (April 2018), 42-47.

"Family, Faith, and Father." *Christian Research Journal* 40:5 (October 2017), 34-41.

"Translating 'Son of God': Insights from the Early Church." *St. Francis Magazine* 8:6 (December 2012), 749-775.

"Jesus' Relationship to God, from His Words in John 13-17." *St. Francis Magazine* 8:5 (October 2012), 571-592.

"Eastern Orthodoxy: An Historical-Theological Overview." *Areopagus Journal* 12:3 (Summer 2012), 8-17.

"Is the Early Church Relevant to the Scottish Reformation?" *Haddington House Journal*, Vol. 8, Supplemental Issue (2006): 7-28.

"Salvation as *Theosis*: The Teaching of Eastern Orthodoxy." *Themelios* 23:2 (June 1998): 42-54.

Book Forewords:

Foreword to Bryan M. Litfin, *The Story of the Trinity: Controversy, Crisis, and the Creation of the Nicene Creed*, 11-14. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2025.

Foreword to Michael Jin Choi, *Christian Orthodoxy in the Second Century*, ix-xii. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2024.

Foreword to John Edward White, *Factors Behind the Ukrainian Evangelical Missionary Surge from 1989 to 1999*, ix-xi. Bellingham, WA: Pickwick, 2020.

Book Reviews:

Daley, Brian E., SJ. *Christology in Early Christianity: Collected Essays*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2025. Reviewed in *Pro Ecclesia*, forthcoming.

Sweeney, Douglas A. *The Substance of Our Faith: Foundations for the History of Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. Reviewed in *Fides et Historia* 56:2 (2024), 94-95.

The Council of Ephesus of 431: Documents and Proceedings. Translated by Richard Price, with an introduction and notes by Thomas Graumann. Translated Texts for Historians 72. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2020. Reviewed in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 72:1 (April 2021), 450-453.

Smith, Mark S. *The Idea of Nicaea in the Early Church Councils, AD 431–451.* Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: University Press, 2018. Reviewed in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 71:1 (April 2020), 371–373.

Bevan, George A. *The New Judas: The Case of Nestorius in Ecclesiastical Politics, 428-451 CE*. Leuven: Peeters, 2016. Reviewed in *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 45:2 (December 2018), 446-447.

Van Kuiken, E. Jerome. *Christ's Humanity in Current and Ancient Controversy: Fallen or Not?* London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017. Reviewed in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 69:2 (October 2018), 900-902.

Burns, J. Patout, and Robin M. Jensen. *Christianity in Roman Africa: The Development of Its Practices and Beliefs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014. Reviewed in *Africanus Journal* 9:1 (April 2017), 32-33.

Baker, Matthew, and Mark Mourchian, eds. *What is the Bible? The Patristic Doctrine of Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016. Reviewed in *Themelios* 41:2 (August 2016), 358-360.

Vranic, Vasilije. *The Constancy and Development in the Christology of Theodoret of Cyrrhus*. Supplements to *Vigiliae Christianae* 129. Leiden: Brill, 2015. Reviewed in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s., 67:1 (April 2016), 328-330.

Elliott, Curtis. "Theologizing Place Displacement: Reconciling, Remaking and Reimagining Place in the Republic of Georgia." Ph.D. Dissertation, Asbury Theological Seminary, 2015. Reviewed in *East-West Church & Ministry Report* 24:2 (Spring 2016), 15-16.

Crawford, Matthew R. *Cyril of Alexandria's Trinitarian Theology of Scripture*. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: University Press, 2014. Reviewed in *Church History* 85:1 (March 2016), 159-161.

Hwang, Alexander, *et al*, eds. Grace *for Grace: The Debates after Augustine and Pelagius*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2014. Reviewed in *Augustiniana* 66:1 (Spring 2016), 277-280.

Radcliffe, Jason R. *Thomas F. Torrance and the Church Fathers: A Reformed, Evangelical, and Ecumenical Reconstruction of the Patristic Tradition*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2014. Reviewed in *Participatio: The Journal of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship* 5 (2015), 115-118.

George, Timothy, ed. *Evangelicals and Nicene Faith: Reclaiming the Apostolic Witness*. Beeson Divinity Studies. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011. Reviewed in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 16:2 (April 2014), 235-237.

Meconi, David Vincent, SJ. *The One Christ: St. Augustine's Theology of Deification.* Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013. Reviewed in *Augustinian Studies* 45:1 (Spring 2014), 107-109.

Lössl, Josef. *The Early Church: History and Memory*. London: T&T Clark, 2010. Reviewed in *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* 30:2 (Autumn 2012), 242-243.

Schor, Adam M. *Theodoret's People: Social Networks and Religious Conflict in Late Roman Syria*. Transformation of the Classical Heritage 48. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. Reviewed in *Catholic Historical Review* 98:2 (April 2012), 340-341.

Angold, Michael, ed. *The Cambridge History of Christianity. Vol. 5: Eastern Christianity*. Cambridge: University Press, 2006. Reviewed in *Ashland Theological Journal* 43 (2011), 169-170.

Guroian, Vigen. *The Melody of Faith: Theology in an Orthodox Key.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010. Reviewed in *Themelios* 36:1 (May 2011), 156-157.

Payton, James R., Jr. *Light from the Christian East: An Introduction to the Orthodox Tradition*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007. Reviewed in *Religion in Eastern Europe* 27:4 (November 2007), 62-68.

Letham, Robert. *Through Western Eyes: Eastern Orthodoxy: A Reformed Perspective*. Fearn, Rossshire, Great Britain: Mentor, 2007. Reviewed in *Religion in Eastern Europe* 27:4 (November 2007), 62-68.

Ferguson, Everett. *Church History Volume One: From Christ to Pre-Reformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005. Reviewed in *Haddington House Journal* 9 (2007), 95-99.

Nassif, Bradley, *et al. Three Views on Eastern Orthodoxy and Evangelicalism*. Ed. James J. Stamoolis. Counterpoints. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. Reviewed in *Westminster Theological Journal* 68:1 (Spring 2006), 162-165.

Laird, Martin. *Gregory of Nyssa and the Grasp of Faith: Union, Knowledge, and Divine Presence.* Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: University Press, 2004. Reviewed in *Westminster Theological Journal* 67:1 (Spring 2005), 184-187.

Garvilyuk, Paul. *The Suffering of the Impassible God: The Dialectics of Patristic Thought*. Oxford Early Christian Studies. Oxford: University Press, 2004. Reviewed in *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 56:3 (July 2005), 542-543.

Aagaard, Anna Marie, and Peter Bouteneff. *Beyond the East-West Divide: The World Council of Churches and "the Orthodox Problem."* Geneva: WCC Publications, 2001. Reviewed in *East-West Church & Ministry Report* 12:2 (Spring 2004), 14-15.

Glanzer, Perry L. *The Quest for Russia's Soul: Evangelicals and Moral Education in Post-Communist Russia*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2002. Reviewed in *Religion in Eastern Europe* 23:5 (October 2003), 51-58.

Pre-publication Peer Reviews:

I have served as an anonymous peer reviewer for book proposals for the Catholic University of America Press, Routledge, and Westminster John Knox Press, and for article proposals for *The Heythrop Journal*, *The Journal of Theological Studies, Modern Theology*, *Religions*, *Studia Patristica*, and *Unio cum Christo.*