

# WESLEY VANDER LUGT

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

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## EDUCATION

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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

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Adjunct Professor of Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary <i>Doctor of Ministry in the Arts, Ministry, and Mission</i> <i>Christianity, the Arts, and Christian Formation</i> <i>Pastoral Ministry</i> <i>Readiness for Ministry</i> <i>Theology Survey I &amp; 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

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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

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*The Drama of God: Advancing Theatrical Theology*, editor (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, forthcoming).

*Modern Protestant Theology: Introducing the Classics* (London: T&T Clark, 2026).

*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

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"Psalm 104: O Lord, How Manifold Are They Works!," in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (King's College London, 2025); <https://thevcs.org/o-lord-how-manifold-are-thy-works>

"The Comforting and Disrupting Spirit: The Holy Spirit and Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life*," with David McNutt, in *Naming the Spirit: Pneumatology through the Arts* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2025).

"Preface: Theo-Theatrical Imagination," 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).

"The Drama of New Creation," SEEN 14.1 (2015).

"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.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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*T&T Clark Handbook of Theology and the Arts.*, eds. Stephen M. Garrett and Imogen Adkins, *Art+Christianity* (Winter 2025): 17.

*Evangelism in an Age of Despair: Hope Beyond the Failed Promise of Happiness*, by Andrew Root, Englewood Review of Books (June 20, 2025): access online.

*Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods*, by Greg Jarrell, Englewood Review of Books (Feb 29, 2024): access online.

*Making Good: Creation, Creativity, and Artistry*, by Trevor Hart, *Themelios* 40.2 (Aug 2015): 374-75.

*The Empty Church: Theater, Theology, and Bodily Hope*, by Shannon Craig-Snell, *Themelios* 39.3 (2014): 576-77.

*Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction*, by Craig G. Bartholomew and Ryan P. O'Dowd, *European Journal of Theology* 21:2 (2012): 167-69.

*Prophetic Evangelicals: Envisioning a Just and Peaceable Kingdom*, by Malinda Elizabeth Berry, Peter Goodwin Heltzel and Bruce Ellis Benson, eds, *Themelios* 37.3 (2012): 608-10.

*Christian Ethics in a Technological Age*, by Brian Brock, *Presbyterion* 38.1 (2012): 62-64.

*Poetic Theology: God and the Poetics of Everyday Life*, by William Dyrness, *Themelios* 36.2 (2011): 356-57.

*The Future of Christian Theology*, by David F. Ford, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 54.1 (2011), 413-17.

*Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing up in Christ*, by Eugene Peterson, *Practical Theology*, 4.1 (2011): 137-38.

*Remythologizing Theology: Divine Action, Passion, and Authorship*, by Kevin Vanhoozer, *Presbyterion* 36.2 (Fall 2010): 119-122.

*Living Christianity: A Pastoral Theology for Today*, by Shannon Craigo-Snell and Shawnthea Monroe, *Themelios* 35.1 (April 2010): 185-86.

## **SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

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"Sensing God: A Theological Framework for Embodied Aesthetic Experience" Experimental Theological Aesthetics Symposium, Riverside, CA	2026
"Creating by the Spirit" St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA	2026
"The Greatest Drama Ever Staged: Incarnation and Threefold Creativity" St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville	2025
"Gritty Hope and the Gift of Art: From Sentimentality to Eucatastrophe" Anselm Society and Nicaea Christianity Study Center	2025
"Threefold Creativity: How Our Making Reflects God's" Kairos Forum, St Andrew's Church	2025
"The Bible as a Beauty-First Story" First Church Tulsa	2024
"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"	2024

Memorial Baptist Church, Middlebury VT	
“Our Entangled Existence: Reimagining Christian Community Development Principles through an Ecological Lens”	2024
CCDA National Conference, Portland	
“Letting Creation Speak: A Theology of Resonance and the Ecological Art of Vincent van Gogh”	2023
King’s College, London	
“Can Art Provide Hope? The Allure and Limit of Enlightenment, Ecstasy, and Expectation”	2022
Art Seeking Understanding, Baylor University	
“Learning Our Cultural Operating Systems”	2021
Staff Training, <i>Bible Study Fellowship International</i>	
“Divine Artistry and Human Sub-Creation”	2021
<i>Oral Roberts University, Tulsa</i>	
“Black History and the Art of ‘A Woman’s Work’”	2021
<i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary</i>	
“Hope and the Gift of Art: From Sentimentality to Eucatastrophe”	2020
<i>KRUX Artist Gathering, Stellenbosch</i>	
“Unbent by Beauty: Art and Becoming Human Again”	2019
<i>DITA10: A Symposium on the Future of Theology and the Arts, Duke University</i>	
“Why the Arts Matter to our City”	2018
<i>Movement Day, Charlotte</i>	
“How Being a Church for the City Means Being a Church for the Arts,”	2017
<i>CIVA Symposium, Charlotte</i>	
“How Art Can Change the World”	2016
<i>CRUX Artists Gathering, Stellenbosch, South Africa</i>	
“The Slowness of God”	2016
<i>Cape Town Baptist Seminary, Cape Town, South Africa</i>	
“The Origin and Legacy of Human Creativity”	2016
<i>Legacy Gala, Southlake Christian Academy, Charlotte</i>	
“What Kind of Artist is God?”	2015
<i>Integrative Seminar, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte</i>	
“God’s Drama: Living Within the Bible’s Story”	2012
<i>St Andrew Scottish Episcopal Church, St Andrews</i>	
“Ready Actors, Fitting Action: An Improvisational Vision for Theological Ethics”	2011
<i>L’Abri Fellowship, Switzerland</i>	
“Why Evangelicals Need Tradition for Participating in Salvation by ‘No Other Name’”	2011
<i>Evangelical Theological Society, San Francisco</i>	
“Performing Sanctification: Putting on a Show or Putting on Christ?”	2011
<i>Edinburgh Conference in Christian Dogmatics, Edinburgh</i>	
“Scripture as Transcript and Prescript: A Theodramatic Model for	2011

Biblical Authority and Interpretation," <i>Society for the Study of Theology, York</i>	
"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**

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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–
Designing for Shalom project leader	2025
Peer Reviewer, special issue of <i>Religions</i> on "Experimental Theological Aesthetics"	2025
PhD Examiner, University of Leuven	2025
Peer Reviewer, <i>St Andrews Encyclopedia of Theology</i>	2023
PhD Supervisor, Oxford Centre for Christian Mission	2019-2023
External Dissertation Reader, Southeastern Baptist Seminary	2021
Conference Coordinator, <i>Theatrical Theology: Conversations on Performing the Faith</i>	2012
Co-Founder and Editor, "Transpositions" <i>An online journal of theology and the arts</i>	2010-2013
President, St Mary's Postgraduate Committee, <i>University of St. Andrews</i>	2010-2011

## **NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, Kinship Plot	2021–present
Biblical Art Collection Committee, Museum of the Bible	2026–present
Board Member, Christians in Theatre Arts	2019–2025
Board Member, Lorient Arts	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

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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