

CURRICULUM VITAE

DON W. SPRINGER, Ph.D.

Lecturer in Theology and Patristics,
Co-director of the McMaster Divinity College Centre for Patristics and Early Christianity
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer in Theology and Patristics, Co-director of the Centre for Patristics and Early Christianity,
McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2022-present

Patristics Assistant, McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2021-2022

Affiliate Faculty Professor, Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, 2019-2021
Affiliate Faculty Member and Kairos Project Mentor

Course Instructor, The Pappas Patristic Institute, Brookline, MA, 2017-2020
Faculty member for the Summer Patristic Studies Program

Course Instructor, McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2017-2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant, McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2015-2019

- Graduate Assistant to the Managing Editor of the MDC Press, 2017-2019
- Lecturer, Department of Theology and Church History, 2016-2018
- Graduate Assistant to Dr. Gordon Heath, Professor of Christian History, 2015-2017

Teaching Fellow, The Pappas Patristic Institute, Brookline, MA, Summer 2015, 2016

Teaching Assistant, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, 2003-2005

- Assistant to Dr. Craig Allert, Department of Religious Studies

Lead Teacher and Minister, Mission Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON, 2019-present;
Westlynn Baptist Church, North Vancouver, BC, 2005-2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Theology), McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON, 2019

Dissertation: "Irenaeus of Lyons on the Spiritual Life." Examiners: Dr. Gordon Heath
(supervisor), Dr. Steven Studebaker, Dr. D. Jeffrey Bingham.

Comprehensive Examinations: The Historical Development of the Doctrine of the Trinity; Global
Christianity; The History of Christian Spirituality

Master of Theological Studies (Church History), Trinity Western Seminary, Langley, BC, 2014

Thesis: "Apostolic Memory in the First Two Centuries of the Church." Supervisors: Dr. Bruce
Guenther, Dr. Craig Allert

Graduate Studies, Regent College, Vancouver, BC, 2003, 2013

Four theology/history courses completed for transfer credit; instructors included Scott McKnight,
Andrew Walls, Andrea Sterk

Bachelor of Arts (Biblical Studies), Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford, BC, 2001

Graduation with the highest distinction

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph in Development

Image of God, Image of Life: The imago Dei and the Spiritual Life in Irenaeus' Adversus Haereses.
Revisions underway on my doctoral dissertation, with an invitation to submit to the Brill series, *Vigiliae Christianae, Supplements.*

Edited Volumes

Patristic Spirituality: Classical Perspectives on Ascent in the Journey to God. Studies in Theology & Religion 30. Edited by Don W. Springer, K. Clarke. Leiden: Brill, 2022. Contributors include: Andrew Louth, Brian Daley, Lewis Ayres, Hans Boersma, Stanley Porter, B. Bucur, Anna Silvas, A. Conway-Jones, B. Matz, D. Prassas, A. Hughes, G. Boersma, G. Vall, J. Zecher.

Studia Patristica (CIX): Readings in Irenaeus of Lyon. Papers presented at the Eighteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2019. Volume 6. Edited by Markus Vinzent, Don W. Springer, Awet Andemichael, Leuven: Peeters, 2021.

Irenaeus of Lyons: A Handbook. Edited by John Behr, Don W. Springer, Awet Andemichael. In development, anticipated publication in 2024.

Articles and Chapters

“L’image « ré-imaginée » : une analyse de l’interprétation non anthropologique d’Irénee de *Genèse* 1,26.” In *Irénee de Lyon ou théologien de l’unité.* Théologie historique 132. Eds. Guillaume Bady et Marie Chaieb. 379-388. Paris: Beauchesne, 2022.

“Irenaeus on Divine Ascent.” In *Patristic Spirituality: Classical Perspectives on Ascent in the Journey to God.* Studies in Religion and Society 30. 109-129. Leiden: Brill, 2022.

“Embodied Spirituality in Irenaeus of Lyons.” In *Early Christian Mystagogy and the Body*, edited by N. Vos, P. van Geest. *Annua Nuntia Lovaniensia* 83. 67–76. Leuven: Peeters, 2022.

“Hands for Beholding: Irenaeus’ ‘Two Hands’ and the *visio Dei*.” In *Studia Patristica (CIX): Readings in Irenaeus of Lyon.* Volume 6. Edited by M. Vinzent, D.W. Springer, A. Andemichael, 97–108. Leuven: Peeters, 2021.

“Recapitulative Reversal and the Restoration of Humanity in St. Irenaeus.” In *The Mystical Tradition of the Eastern Church: Studies in Patristics, Liturgy, and Practice.* Gorgias Eastern Christian Studies 56. Edited by Sergey Trostyanskiy and Jess Gilbert, 85–98. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2019.

“Tell Us No Secrets: St. Irenaeus’ Contra-Gnostic Doctrine of Communion.” *Vox Patrum* 37.68 (2017): 85–94.

Encyclopedia Essay

“The Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.” In *Melton's Encyclopedia of American Religions*, edited by J.G. Melton, et al., 2110. Ninth Edition. Volume 2. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2016.

Book Reviews

Review of Kenneth Laing, *Irenaeus, the Scriptures, and the Apostolic Writings.* London: T&T Clark, 2022. *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, forthcoming, 2023.

Review of Anthony Briggman, *God and Christ in Irenaeus.* Oxford Early Christian Texts. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 71.4 (2020): 831-833.

Review of Edward Adams, *The Earliest Christian Meeting Places: Almost Exclusively Houses?* London: Bloomsbury, 2013. *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 68.4 (2017): 822–824.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- “The Rise of Patristics among Free-church Protestants.” A Guest lecture given to the faculty of theology at the Catholic University of Lyon. Lyon, FR, October 2022
- “Christianity and the Empire in the Second Century.” The Andrew Fuller Centre for Baptist Studies. Theme: Political Theology in the History of the Church, Oakville, ON, September 2022
- “Imago Re-imagined: An Analysis of Irenaeus’ Non-anthropological Understanding of Genesis 1:26.” Irénée de Lyon ou l’unité en question, Lyon, France, October 2020

International Conference Presentations

- “Hands for Beholding: *Adversus haereses* IV.20, the ‘Two Hands,’ and the *visio Dei*.” XVIII International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August 2019
- “Embodied Spirituality in Irenaeus of Lyons.” The Netherlands Centre for Patristic Research – Third International Congress, Theme: Early Christian Mystagogy and the Body, Utrecht, Netherlands, August 2017
- “Communion, Union, and Vivification: Irenaeus on Participation with God.” International Patristic Conference of the Polish Patristic Section, Lublin, Poland, May 2016

North American Conference Presentations

- “Irenaeus on Theosis and Divine Ascent.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2022
- “A Paradise of Mercy: Theophilus on Theosis.” Canadian Society of Patristics Studies Annual Meeting, Online, May 2022
- “Theophilus and Theosis: Tension between Personal Piety and Trinitarian Doctrinal Advancement.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Online, May 2021
- “Violent Anthropology Reproached: Irenaeus of Lyons on the *Imago Dei*.” Canadian-American Theological Association & Wycliffe College Interdisciplinary Conference, Toronto, ON, Oct 2018
- “Imaged Ascent: Irenaeus on the Restoration of Humanity’s Potential for Union with God.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2018
- “Spirituality in Tension: The Conflict between Grace and Virtue in Justin Martyr’s Apologies.” Canadian-American Theological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, May 2017
- “Hands off: A Re-evaluation of the Importance of Irenaeus’ Favourite Trinitarian Motif.” Canadian Society of Patristics Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, May 2017
- “Irenaeus on the Recapitulative Reversal Necessary for Divine Union.” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2017
- “Restorative Spirituality: Irenaeus and the *Imago Dei*.” Sophia Institute Annual Conference, Theme: Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church, Union Theological Seminary, NY, December 2016
- “Early Patristic Participation: Divine Participation in Ignatius, Clement, and the Didache.” Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2016
- “The Cross-Cultural Life and Legacy of Irenaeus of Lyons.” Canadian Evangelical Theological Association Fall Theology Conference, Theme: Global Christianity, Toronto, ON, October 2015
- “The Doctrine of the Trinity in Irenaeus’ *Demonstration*.” Pappas Patristic Institute Graduate Student Conference, Brookline, MA, March 2015

“Tradition Overdone? A Re-evaluation of Tertullian’s *Prescription*.” Mennonite Graduate Student Conference, Theme: Religious Texts, Elkhart, IN, June 2004

Response Papers

Response to “Defense of Faith: Examining the Religious & Cultural Tools of 2nd Century Apologists.” Pappas Patristic Institute Graduate Student Conference, Brookline, MA, March 2016

Response to “The Didache as Christian Torah.” Pappas Patristic Institute Graduate Student Conference, Brookline, MA, March 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Developed and Taught

The Second Century and the Bible, Mission Baptist Church, Winter 2022

The Doctrine of Theosis, Pappas Patristic Institute, Summer 2020 (Covid cancelation)

Irenaeus of Lyons on the Spiritual Life, Pappas Patristic Institute, Summers 2017-2019

The Story of the Early Church, Mission Baptist Church, Spring 2019

Global Christianity: Historical & Spiritual Intro, McMaster Divinity College, Spring 2018 (cancelled)

Introduction to Patristic Theology & Spirituality, McMaster Divinity College, Spring 2017

The Ministry and Mission of Christ, Westlynn Baptist Church, 2010

The Theology of Mark’s Gospel, Westlynn Baptist Church, 2007

Invited Lectures

Theological Studies: Methodology and Approaches, McMaster Divinity College, Fall 2019

The Reformers’ Reception of the Fathers, McMaster Divinity College, Winter 2018

The Trinity: Historical Developments, McMaster Divinity College, Fall 2016 & 2017

The Doctrine of the Trinity after the Reformation, McMaster Divinity College, Winter 2017

Christology: Historical Developments, McMaster Divinity College, Winter 2017

The Church Fathers in the Baptist Tradition, McMaster Divinity College, Spring 2016

An Introduction to Byzantine Christianity, Trinity Western University, 2004

Apostolic Succession in the Early Church, Trinity Western University, 2003

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

Conference Programming

“New Horizons in Early Christian Studies.” A Conference Sponsored by the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies, North American Patristics Society, and The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute in the University of St. Michael’s College. Speakers: Peter Martens, Lewis Ayres, Robin Darling Young. Co-organiser and planner, with John Solheid. Toronto, ON, March 26-27, 2021

“The Reformation in a Post-Christian World.” A conference hosted and organised by McMaster Divinity College. My role included acting as the liaison to the plenary speakers, marketing, logistics, and leading a team of three graduate assistants. Hamilton, ON, Oct 2017

Conference Session Planning

“Irenaeus of Lyon: New Directions in Scholarship.” Chair for one session of this pre-arranged workshop for the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2020

“Theosis in the Second and Third Centuries: Early Perspectives and Approaches to the Human Journey to God.” Co-organiser, with John Solheid. A pre-arranged session for the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2020

“Irenaeus in the Second Century.” Organiser and chair for two sessions at the XVIII International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, UK, August 2019 (with Lewis Ayres, John Behr, D. J. Bingham, Y. de Andia, Susan Graham, S. Moringiello, S. Presley, P. Saieg, A. Andemicael)

“Spirituality and the Trinity: Steps of Ascent to the Divine.” Organiser for this pre-arranged session of the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2018

“Incarnation and Ascent toward the Divine in Early Christianity.” Co-organizer for this pre-arranged session of the North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 2017

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Canadian Society of Patristic Studies

North American Patristics Society

International Association of Patristic Studies

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

I served two years (2017-2018) as the assistant to Dr. D. Fuller, managing editor of the McMaster Divinity College Press and three years (2015–2018) as the graduate assistant to Dr. G. Heath, professor of Christian History at McMaster Divinity College. I was the first reader for Dr. Heath, including work on three edited volumes of essays (*Empire from the Margins*, Pickwick, 2017; *Christian Responses to Terrorism*, Pickwick, 2017; *American Churches and the First World War*, Pickwick, 2016). Both positions involved editing, formatting, bibliography generation, and indexing.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Small Research Grant, North American Patristics Society, 2020, \$1,500 USD

Scholarship (Oxford Travel Award), International Association of Patristic Studies, 2019, €600

Scholarship (Oxford Travel Award), North American Patristics Society, 2019, \$500 USD

John Billes Scholarship, McMaster Divinity College, 2014/15 & 2015/16, \$2,000 per year

Entrance Award, McMaster Divinity College, 2014–2018, \$17,000 program total

Travel Bursary, Mennonite Graduate Student Conference, 2004, \$500

Grace Rempel Memorial Scholarship, Columbia Bible College, 2001, \$1500

Christian Ministry Scholarship, Columbia Bible College, 2000, \$1000

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Lead Pastor, Mission Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON, 2019-present

Executive Board, The Eastern Association of the North American Baptist Conference, 2019-present

Mentor, Columbia Bible College Alumni Mentoring Program, 2016-2017

Senior Pastor, Westlynn Baptist Church, North Vancouver, BC, 2005-2013

Executive Board Member, Westcoast Baptist Association, Vancouver, BC, 2010-2013

President, Lowlands Senior Citizens Housing Society, North Vancouver, BC, 2006-2013

Interim Pastor, Maple Ridge Church of the Nazarene, Maple Ridge, BC, 2005

Associate Pastor, Hillside Community Church, Aldergrove, BC, 2001

REFEREES

Prof. Dr. Lewis Ayres, Durham University

Professor of Catholic & Historical Theology in the Department of Theology and Religion,
+44(0)191.33.43945, l.o.ayres@durham.ac.uk

Fr. Rev. Dr. John Behr, Aberdeen University

Professor of Divinity, The School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, john.behr@abdn.ac.uk

Dr. Bruce Beck, The Pappas Patristic Institute, Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology

Assistant Professor of New Testament and former Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute,
617.731.3500, bbeck@hchc.edu

Dr. Gordon L. Heath, McMaster Divinity College

Professor of Christian History, Centenary Chair in World Christianity, Director of Canadian
Baptist Archives, 905.525.9140 x. 26409, gheath@mcmaster.ca

Dr. Brian Matz, Fontbonne University

Professor, Religious Studies, Carondelet Chair of Catholic Thought, 314.719.4352,
bmatz@fontbonne.edu

Dr. D. Jeffrey Bingham, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Dean of the School of Theology, Professor of Theology, 817.923.1921 x. 4220,
jbingham@swbts.edu

Dr. Margaret Schatkin, Boston College

Associate Professor, Theology Department, 617.552.4604, schatkin@bc.edu

Dr. Steven M. Studebaker, McMaster Divinity College

Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Howard and Shirley Bentall Chair in
Evangelical Thought, 905.525.9140 x. 20097, studeba@mcmaster.ca

Prof. Dr. Paul van Geest, Full Professor of Church History and History of Theology, Faculty of

Catholic Theology, Tilburg University, +31134663800, P.J.J.vanGeest@tilburguniversity.edu