
CURRICULUM VITAE

MARK WATERS, Ph.D.

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CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Education, McMurry University / 2026-Present

Professor of Religion, McMurry University / 2000 – Present

- **Professor:** 2016–Present
- **Associate Professor:** 2013–2015
- **Assistant Professor:** 2007–2013
- **Adjunct Instructor:** 2000–2006

Courses currently or recently in rotation:

- Religions of the World
 - Homiletics
 - Pastoral Care and Counseling
 - Dialogue with the Other
 - Faith and Science (Co-taught with an astrophysicist)
 - Queer Studies (Co-taught with a sociologist)
 - Liberation Theology
 - Interfaith Leadership
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky | 1987 – 1991 (Departed the Baptist Church and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, 2000)*

- **Major:** Homiletics | **Minor:** Theology
- **Dissertation:** *David Tracy and Theological Conversation: A Hermeneutic for Sermon Development in the Pastoral Context.*
 - *Abstract:* The dissertation analyzed Tracy's hermeneutics in the context of modern and postmodern thought and applied his hermeneutical methodology to sermon development and delivery. This application utilized the framework of Aristotle's rhetorical canons.
 - *Context:* David Tracy is the Greeley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Catholic Studies and Professor Emeritus of Theology and the Philosophy of Religion in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Tracy is a systematic theologian whose areas of expertise include postmodern theology, epistemology, and hermeneutics with particular interest in the philosophical hermeneutics of Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, and Paul Ricoeur and the theological methodologies of Paul Tillich and Bernard Lonergan.

Graduate Study (PhD Level) *Baylor University, Waco, Texas | 1984 – 1985*

- **Concentrations:** Religions of the World and Church History.

Master of Divinity *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky | 1981 – 1984*

- **Concentration:** Pastoral Care and Counseling.

Clinical Pastoral Education *Baptist Hospital Highlands, Louisville, Kentucky | 1983*

- **Concentration:** Oncology.

Bachelor of Arts *Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas | 1976 – 1980*

- **Major:** History | **Minor:** Psychology.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Religious pluralism, theologies of religion, comparative theology, and comparative religion
- Faith and Science

- Contextual Theology (Liberation Theology, Queer Theology)
 - Sociology of Religion
 - Diversity, dialogue, and relationship building in pluralistic contexts
 - Practical Theology
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PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

Forthcoming & Working Papers

- **Waters, Mark**, Aravind Mohan, and Yordanos Ayelework. "Interfaith Informatics: Bridging Technology and Religious Understanding." Working paper funded by a KIVA Fellowship Grant. Anticipated Spring 2027.
- **Waters, Mark** and Aravind Mohan. "Real or Imagined Correlation: Christian Sacramental Theology and the Immanence of God in the Vedanta Schools of Hinduism and Islamic Mysticism." Working paper funded by a KIVA Fellowship Grant.
- Mohan, Aravind and **Mark Waters**. *Interfaith Informatics*. Technical Report TR-Faith-09-2025-MM. Department of Computer Science, McMurry University, September 2025. (In preparation for Journal Submission).

Academic Publications

- **Waters, D. Mark**. "Antitheodicy and Pastoral Formation: A Metacognitive Approach." *Theology Today* 82, no. 3 (October 2025): 266–279.
- **Waters, Mark**. "Amipotence: A Middle Way between Theodicy and Antitheodicy." In *Amipotence: Expansion and Application, Vol. 2*, edited by Brandon Brown et al., 235–241. Grasmere, Idaho: SacraSage Press, 2025.
- **Waters, Mark**. "Achieving Civic Pluralism." *Your Voice at the Center*. Religica Theolab, The Center for Ecumenical and Religious Engagement, Seattle University, 2023.
- **Waters, Mark**. "Interfaith Cooperation and the Entrepreneurial Enterprise." In *A World Encyclopedia of Business Storytelling, Set 1, Vol. 1*. Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific Publishing, 2023.
- **Waters, Mark**. "Civic Engagement as an Avenue to Interreligious Cooperation in Religiously Diverse Communities." *The Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Summer 2018.

- **Waters, Mark.** “How Relationships Engender Peace.” *The Interfaith Observer*, September 2016.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Unpacking Pluralism.” *The Interfaith Observer*, January 2016.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Shedding Religious Exclusivism in the College Classroom.” *The Interfaith Observer*, December 2015.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Kinship with Creation: Spirituality from Below.” In *Caring for Creation: An Academic Conference on Religion and the Environment*. Waco, TX: Baylor University, 1999.
- **Waters, Mark.** “The New Homiletic and Post-MTV Proclamation.” *Window 2*, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 8-12.
- **Waters, Mark.** “An Exposition of Matthew 11:16-19.” *Review and Expositor* 90, no. 4 (Fall 1993): 565-567.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Aristotle’s Classical Canons and Jürgen Moltmann’s Sermon, ‘Revolutionary Love of our Enemies.’” *Paradigms: A Graduate Student Journal in Religious Studies* 4, no. 1 (Summer 1988): 42-69.
- **Waters, Mark.** “A Journey into Hope.” *Preaching* 3, no. 2 (September-October 1987): 21-23.

Selected General Audience Publications

- *Spirit of Abilene* Columns, <https://spiritofabilene.com/tag/mark-waters/>
 - “Q&A with Dr. Mark Waters” (An interview following my appointment as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education at McMurry University, July 18, 2026)
 - “God’s Self-Revelation in the Least of These” (Reflections on a study abroad course that I co-taught in El Salvador on Latin American Liberation Theology, June 6, 2026)
 - “Sharia: The Path to the Watering Hole” (A critical response to politicians who are spreading false information about the nature of the Islamic concept of Sharia, April 11, 2026)
 - “Twisting the Text: A Call for Responsible Interpretation” (A critical response to military commanders who claim that Trump is anointed to begin the war with Iran and spark the second coming, March 2026).
 - “Religion and Politics vs. Church and State (November 2025)

- “Faithfully Navigating Church and State” (July 2025)
- “Christian Higher Education” (April 2025)
- “Ordo Amoris” (Critical response to J.D. Vance, 2024)
- “Offended, Really?” (Olympics opening ceremony analysis, 2024)
- “Is the Concept of Religion Evolving in American Consciousness?” (2024)
- “Faith and Science in the Classroom” (2024)
- “The Parliament of the World’s Religions: Not Simply Kumbaya and Warm Fuzzies” (2023)
- “McMurry University Adds Interfaith Minor” (2018)
- **Waters, Mark.** “The Sacramental Work of Kathleen Norris.” *The Lay Reader*. Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, 2023.
- **Waters, Mark.** Multiple articles for *The Old Main Chronicle*, McMurry Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Finding a Way through Grief” and “Don’t Let Depression Steal Your Life.” Bookstore-cool.com, 1999.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Hope for Small and Medium-Sized Churches.” *Baptists Today*, 1998.

Grant Proposals & Conference Papers

- **Waters, Mark** and Philip LeMasters. *Hispanic Humanities in the Americas*. Grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2023 (not awarded).
- **Waters, Mark.** *Global Christian Citizenship*. Grant proposal awarded by Lilly Fellows (\$3000), 2021.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Multiculturalism: The Role of Religion and Media.” Paper presented at The International Conference on Multiculturalism, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, India, July 2014.
- **Waters, Mark.** “Transformed to Serve, Inspired to Lead.” Paper presented to the Leadership Institute for Educators (LIFE), Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, November 2009.
- **Waters, Mark.** “A Rationale for the Propriety of Conversation as a Hermeneutic for Preaching.” *The Academy of Homiletics*, 1992.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Sermon:** Pride Sunday. Metropolitan Community Church, Abilene, TX, June 29, 2025.
- **Presentation:** “Queer Theology.” United Campus Ministries, Angelo State University, April 1, 2025.
- **Presentation Series:** “Views of the Holy Trinity.” Delivered at three Episcopal congregations and St. Paul United Methodist Church, April – July 2025.
- **Podcast:** “Theodicy and Antitheodicy.” *McMurry Minds: The Professor’s Podcast with Dr. Paul Fabrizio*, March 2025.
- **Faculty Colloquium:** “Student Belonging in Higher Education.” McMurry University, 2024. (Also presented to Academic Success Coaches).
- **Presentation:** “Falling Upward by Fr. Richard Rohr (Chapters 1-3).” Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, Spring 2024.
- **Podcast:** *McMurry Minds: The Professor’s Podcast with Dr. Paul Fabrizio*, February 2024.
- **Podcast Guest:** “What is Religious Pluralism?” *One Question with Pastor Adam*, The Raven Foundation, July 2023.
- **Panel:** “Navigating Obstacles: Interfaith Work in the Buckle of the Bible Belt.” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, 2023.
- **Lecture:** “Evil is a Verb: Pastoral Responses to Suffering in the Independent-Inclusive Catholic Church.” Inclusive Catholic Virtual Summer School, Austin, TX, July 2023.
- **Class:** “Theodicy and Antitheodicy.” St. Paul United Methodist Church, July 2023.
- **Semester Study:** “Religions of the World.” Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, 2019.
- **Presentation:** “Unpacking Pluralism: Practical Implications of an Ambiguous Term.” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Toronto, 2018.
- **Moderator:** “Building Interfaith Bridges in an Evangelical Culture” (Student Panel). Parliament of the World’s Religions, Toronto, 2018.
- **Paper Presentation:** “Interfaith Dialogue and Contact Theory.” Pre-conference meeting of the American Academy of Religion, 2016.
- **Panel:** Report on the 2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions. Abilene Interfaith Council, November 2015.

- **Panel Facilitator:** “Beyond Dialogue: Assisting College Students in Developing Interreligious Relationships.” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Salt Lake City, 2015.
- **Keynote Speaker:** The International Conference on Multiculturalism: The Role of Religion and Media. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, India, July 2014.
- **Lecturer:** “Pedagogical Methods in the U.S.” Department of Education, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, India, July 2014.
- **Baccalaureate Speaker:** McMurry University, May 2014.
- **Panel Facilitator:** “Dreams and Visions” (Abilene Interfaith Council). The Grace Museum, Abilene.
- **Keynote Speaker:** “Ethical Leadership.” Abilene Better Business Bureau Torch Award Luncheon, November 2010.
- **Series:** “Dialogue with the Other.” St. Paul United Methodist Church, November 2010.
- **Paper Presentation:** “Servant Leadership and Community.” Fourth Annual Ethical Student Leadership Conference, Wiley College, January 2010.
- **Workshop:** “Disciplines for Servant Leadership.” 18th International Conference of the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, June 2008.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

McMurry University (Highlights)

- **Interfaith Studies Minor:** Developed and led implementation; created the course *Interfaith Leadership*.
- **Servant Leadership:** Expanded curriculum from one to six courses (e.g., *Concepts and Techniques*, *Ethics*, *Senior Capstone*).
- **Christian Ministry:** Developed *Homiletics*, *Pastoral Care and Counseling*.
- **Interdisciplinary:** Co-created *Queer Studies* (with Sociology) and *Faith and Science* (with Physics) courses.

Other Teaching Appointments

- **Instructor:** Independent-Inclusive Catholic Summer School, Austin, TX (July 2023). Topic: Theodicy/Antitheodicy.

- **Instructor:** United Methodist Course of Study Program (Perkins School of Theology/SMU), 2014–2022.
- **Visiting Professor:** *Living World Religions*, Harlaxton College, England (University of Evansville), Summer 2019.
- **Instructor:** Pastoral Ministry for Local Priests and Deacons, Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas, 2004–2009.
- **Assistant Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry:** Logsdon School of Theology, Hardin-Simmons University, 1998–1999.
 - *Courses:* Pastoral Care, Advanced Preaching, Worship and Liturgy, OT Intro.
 - *Editor:* *Window* (Logsdon School of Theology publication).
- **Adjunct Professor of Preaching:** The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Spring 1992.
- **Garrett Fellow/Graduate Assistant:** The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1987, 1989–1990.
- **Graduate Assistant:** Baylor University Department of Religion, 1984–1985.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Can AI Help Students Practice Difficult Conversations?**, A webinar sponsored by the Constructive Dialogue Institute (July 9, 2026).
- **Political Violence in America: Public Perceptions, Polarization, and Accountability**, a webinar sponsored by PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute, January 2026).
- **Civilization in Transition 9:** Jungian International Training Zurich Foundation, Santa Fe, NM (November 2025).
- **Parliament of the World's Religions:** Chicago, IL (August 2023); Toronto (2018); Salt Lake City (2015); Melbourne (2009).
- **BlueEQ Training:** "The Key to Student Success: Developing Emotional Intelligence Skills" (Summer 2023).
- **DEI Training:** Penn State University (Spring 2023).
- **Bridging the Gap Training:** Interfaith America (Spring 2023).

- **AAC&U Summer Institute:** Online (June 2020).
- **Interfaith Youth Core (Interfaith America) Leadership Institute:** Chicago (2018); Atlanta (2015, 2016).
- **Teaching Interfaith Understanding Seminar:** CIC and Interfaith Youth Core, facilitated by Dr. Eboo Patel and Dr. Laurie Patton (July 2017).
- **American Council on Education:** 13th Cohort on Internationalizing a University Campus (2015–2017).
- **Secular Buddhism Conference:** The Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe, NM (June 2014).
- **Co-Creation Conference:** Servant Leadership School of Greensboro (2012, 2014).
- **Servant Leadership Learning Community Certification:** Ann McGee-Cooper and Associates (2008–2009).
- **Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership Conferences:** 2007, 2008, 2009.
- **Foundations for Leadership:** Society for Organizational Learning (SoL), Cambridge, MA (March 2007).
- **Internship in Contemplation and Social Justice:** Center for Action and Contemplation (Richard Rohr), Albuquerque, NM (February 2007).
- **Family Pathfinder Training:** Facilitating Families from Welfare to Work (January 1998).
- **Support Group Facilitator Training:** Prevention Research Institute (October 1991).

AWARDS & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Awards

- **E. E. Hall Scholar Award of Achievement:** McMurry University (2025-2026)
- **Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year:** McMurry University (2014, 2024).
- **Outstanding Student Organization Sponsor:** McMurry SAGA & Better Together Alliance (2019); Gay-Straight Alliance (2012).
- **Heartbeat of the Campus Award:** McMurry Alumni Association (2017).
- **The Gordon R. and Lola J. Bennett Award:** For outstanding teaching, service, and leadership (2015).

Committee Service (McMurry University)

- **Current:** Academic Cabinet (2021–Present); Excelencia in Education Affiliate Team Facilitator (2024–Present); Committee for Academic Technology (2026–Present); Dean’s Council (2026–Present).
- **Past:** Faculty Development Committee (2023–2026); Faculty Council (2021–2024); Student Appeals Committee (2024–2025); Diversity Council (2021–2024); Queer Relations Subcommittee (2023–2024); BRIDGE/Interfaith Steering (2017–2024); Curriculum Committee (2018–2020); Co-Chair, ACE Internationalization Leadership Team (2015–2017); Centennial Vision Task Force (2014–2015); Task Force for Center for Global Leadership (2013–2014).

Student Organization Sponsorship

- **Current:** Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA, formerly Gay-Straight Alliance, 2011–Present).
- **Past:** McMurry Intercultural Student Association (2018–2020); McMurry Interfaith Student Organization (2017–2025); Student Government, Chapel Design Team, Men’s Interclub, APO, HEI.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Class Facilitator:** "Coffee Talks," Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest (2024–Present).
- **Board of Directors:** Fletcher Seminary (2025–Present); Abilene Interfaith Council (2020–2024; Participant since 2000); Re: Ministries (2012–2017); St. John’s Episcopal School (2010–2011); Abilene Neighborhoods in Progress (2002–2007); Tarrant Area Community of Churches (1997–1998); Western Hills Counseling Center (1996–1998).
- **Diocesan Service (Episcopal Diocese of NW Texas):** Licensed Lay Preacher (2002–Present); Millennium Development Goals Commission (2006–2008); Jubilee Ministry Coordinator (2003–2007).
- **Advisory Boards:** Nonprofit Management Center (2006–2008); Baptist Studies Advisory Board, Brite Divinity School (1997–1998).
- **Mental Health Task Force:** Betty Hardwick Center (2003–2007).
- **Environmental Ethics Committee:** Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas (1997–2000).

- **Trustee/Ethics Committee:** Tri-County Baptist Hospital, LaGrange, KY (1992–1995).
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PASTORAL & PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Interim Chaplain *McMurry University | August 2014 – June 2015*

Interim Pastor *First Presbyterian Church, Baird, Texas | 2010; 2011 – 2014*

Minister of Faith Formation *Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene, Texas | 2006 – 2009*

Executive Director *Just People, Inc., Abilene, Texas | 2001 – 2007* Managed a nonprofit providing support services to people in poverty, disadvantaged youth, and the homeless.

Special Needs Coordinator *Just People, Inc., Abilene, Texas | 2000 – 2001*

Protestant Religious Education Coordinator *Dyess Air Force Base Chapel | 2000 – 2001*

Research Consultant *Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas | 2000 – 2001* Researched and wrote educational resources on environmental justice.

Pastoral Leadership (1978 – 1999)

- **Interim Pastor:** First Baptist Church, Munday, Texas (1999).
 - **Pastor:** Western Hills Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas (1995–1998).
 - **Pastor:** Ballardsville Baptist Church, Crestwood, Kentucky (1987–1995).
 - **Pastor:** First Baptist Church, Troy, Texas (1985–1986).
 - **Pastor:** Sparta Baptist Church, Sparta, Kentucky (1981–1984).
 - **Pastoral Staff Intern:** Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas (1980).
 - **Youth Minister:** University Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas (1978–1979).
 - **Summer Missionary:** Juneau and Petersburg, Alaska (1978).
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Abilene Interfaith Council
- American Academy of Religion
- The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences
- The Parliament of the World's Religions