

PERSONAL VITA: William D. Dennison, Ph. D.

Professional Data:

- 2006- Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Covenant College. Lookout Mountain, GA.
1993-2006 Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Covenant College. Lookout Mountain, GA.
2003- Visiting Professor of Apologetics and Systematic Theology. Northwest Theological Seminary. Lynnwood, WA.
2000- Apologetics Professor. MTIOPC (Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church). Willow Grove, PA. (appointed by the denomination).
1991-93: Bible Instructor (Department Chair 78-90; 91-93) Calvin Christian High School, Grandville, MI.
1977-90: Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Spring; Part time) Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI.
1990-91: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Full time). Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI.
1988: Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Fall; Part time) Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI.
1988: Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Spring; Part time) Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI.

Education:

- 1981-92: **Ph. D.** College of Arts and Letters at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Interdisciplinary Ph. D. in 19th and 20th century German Theology, Philosophy, and Intellectual History.
Dissertation: The Young Bultmann: Context for His Understanding of God.
1985: Studied in the Graduate School of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, IN. (Studied under Raymond Brown and Gerald O'Collins)
1976-80: **Th. M. (Masters of Theology)** Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. in the field of Theological Studies: Apologetics.
1973-76: **M. Div. (Masters of Divinity)** Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA.
1969-73: **B. A.** Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. in the field of Biblical Literature and Philosophy.

Church Membership:

Ordained teaching elder in the Presbytery of the Southeast in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Professional Acknowledgement:

Academic biography appeared in the 64th edition of *Marquis Who's Who in America* in 2010.

Book Publications:

The Young Bultmann: Context for His Understanding of God, 1884–1925. American University Studies Series 7, Theology and Religion. New York: Peter Lang, 2008.

Comments from inside the book jacket:

“In this groundbreaking study William Dennison moves beyond interpreting the history of theology simply as a phenomenon in the history of ideas and instead sees theology as developing within the broader historical and cultural movements of its time. He draws on a wide range of primary and secondary sources to locate Rudolf Bultmann’s theology in its social, historical, philosophical, and theological context. **In what is the most impressive English-language study of Bultmann’s early theology**, Dennison persuasively argues that Bultmann remained deeply influenced by the tradition of the mediating theology of Schleiermacher which sought to connect the findings of scholarship with pastoral and parochial theology. The influences of the History of Religion School, the early dialectical theologians, including Karl Barth, as well as the philosophy of the Marburg neo-Kantians and later of Heidegger, are discussed in detail alongside Bultmann’s background in a rural parsonage which decisively shaped his approach to theology and religious experience. This clearly-written and accessible book makes an important contribution to the study of the development of German theology in the early twentieth century.” Dr. Mark D. Chapman, Vice-Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford and a member of the Faculty of Theology, Oxford University. He is also editor of the *Journal for the History of Modern Theology/ Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte*.

A Christian Approach to Interdisciplinary Studies: In Search of a Method and Starting Point. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2007.

Comments from the book jacket:

“Let’s face it. As colleges and universities overhaul their general education, core, and honors programs, let alone their majors, many are replacing the separate disciplines with an interdisciplinary approach, whether faculty like it or not. William Dennison’s *A Christian Approach to Interdisciplinary Studies* arrives just in time to give us the ‘ontological integrative starting point’ and justification for a Christian approach to IDS. A joy to read, this scholarly work defends and articulates the interdisciplinary approach provided by the Triune God of the Scripture, the ‘author of integration.’” Mary Dengler, Associate Professor of English, Editor of *Pro Rege*, Director of the Kuyper Center, Dordt College

“In a careful critique that calls for a response from his fellow interdisciplinary theorists, Dennison asserts that interdisciplinary studies have failed to achieve its purported defining characteristic: integration. In his bold proposal for a Christocentric foundation for interdisciplinary studies, Christian academics of all disciplines will find a challenging, even rebuking, call to conformity to Christ in our profession. Perhaps most important, Dennison establishes a vital role for interdisciplinary studies in Christian colleges and universities—not in weak imitations of anemic secular models, but in uniquely Christian programs built on the truth that integration is already achieved in Christ, who is before all things and in whom all things hold together.” Christopher Horne, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, University of Tennessee @ Chattanooga

Paul’s Two-Age Construction and Apologetics. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2000 (republished).

Paul’s Two-Age Construction and Apologetics. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1985 (out-of-print).

Professional Articles appearing in a Book:

“Is Classical Christian Education Truly Christian? Cornelius Van Til and Classical Christian Education,” in *Confident of Better Things: Essays Commemorating Seventy-Five Years of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, eds. John R. Muether and Danny E. Olinger. (Willow Grove, PA: The Committee of the Historian of the OPC, 2011), 101-125.

“Reason, History, and Revelation: Biblical Theology and the Enlightenment,” in **Resurrection and Eschatology: Theology in Service of the Church: Essays in Honor of Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.**, ed. Lane G. Tipton and Jeffery C. Waddington (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2008), 340–360.

“The Eschatological Implications of Genesis 2:15 for Apologetics,” in **Revelation and Reason: New Essays in Reformed Apologetics**, ed. K. Scott Oliphant and Lane G. Tipton (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2007), 190–204.

“Biblical Theology and the Issue of Application,” in **Reformed Spirituality: Communing with Our Glorious God**, ed. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. and J. Andrew Wortman (Taylors, SC: Southern Presbyterian Press, 2003), 119–151.

Professional Journal Articles:

Forthcoming in Fall 2013: Review article on *Natural Law and the Two Kingdoms: A Study in the Development of Reformed Social Thought*, by David VanDrunen. *Westminster Theological Journal*.

“The Christian Academy: Antithesis, Common Grace, and Plato’s View of the Soul” *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. Vol. 54, no. 1 (March 2011): 109-131.

“The Christian Apologist in the Present State of Redemptive-History,” *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*. XXV, no. 3 (December 2010): 11-24.

“Comparing J. Gresham Machen and Rudolf Bultmann: Reflections upon the Marburg Experience, 1905-06” *Journal for the History of Modern Theology/Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte* 16/2 (2009): 217-235.

Rudolf Bultmann’s Review of J. Gresham Machen’s, *The Origin of Paul’s Religion*,” Edition by William D. Dennison, English translation by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., *Journal for the History of Modern Theology/Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte* 16/2 (2009): 236-240.

J. Gresham Machen’s Letters Home from Marburg, 1905-06,” edition, forward, and footnotes by William D. Dennison. *Journal for the History of Modern Theology/Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologiegeschichte* 16/2 (2009): 241-275.

“So, What is Faith? Hebrews 11:1, 17–19; Gen. 18:14; 22:1–14,” **KERUX: THE JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**. XXIV, no. 1 (May 2009): 28-33.

“In Search of a Starting Point and a Method for Interdisciplinary Studies in the Context of Christian Theism,” **PRO REGE**, XXXV, no. 1 (September 2006): 10–23.

“Natural and Special Revelation: A Reassessment,” **KERUX: THE JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, XXI (September 2006): 13–34.

“The Redemptive-Historical Hermeneutic and Preaching,” **KERUX: THE JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, XXI (May 2006): 11–39. This article also appears on the website in honor of Richard B. Gaffin, Jr.: www.richardgaffin.info (placed May, 2008).

“The Passion Narratives of Mark and Luke: Christ’s Loneliness and the Christ of Compassion,” **KERUX: THE JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, XIX (September 2004): 32–44.

“Reason, History, and Revelation: Biblical Theology and the Enlightenment,” **KERUX: THE JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, XVIII (May 2003): 3–25.

“Dutch Neo-Calvinism and the Roots for Transformation,” **JOURNAL OF THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**, XXXXII (June 1999): 271–291.

“Rudolf Bultmann: Pastor?” **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XXXIV (April 1999): 179–187.

“Van Til and Common Grace,” **MID-AMERICA JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY**, IX (Fall 1993): 225–247. [Because their publication schedule got behind, this volume appeared in the Spring of 1998].

“Abraham: The Prophet (Gen. 20: 1–18),” **KERUX: A JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL PREACHING**, XIII (September 1998): 25–32.

“Van Til and Analytical Philosophy,” **WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, LVII (Spring 1995): 33–56.

“Resurrection Living (Col. 3:1-4),” **KERUX: A JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL PREACHING**, IX (May 1994): 24–31.

“Bethel: House of God (Gen. 28: 10-22),” **KERUX: A JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL PREACHING**, II (December 1987): 23–30.

“Your Life is the Worship of Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:1-18),” **KERUX: A JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL-THEOLOGICAL PREACHING**, I (September 1986): 37–43.

“Indicative and Imperative: The Basic Structure of Pauline Ethics,” **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XIV (April 1979): 55–78.

“Miracles as 'Signs': Their Significance for Apologetics,” **BIBLICAL THEOLOGY BULLETIN**, VI (June-October 1976): 190–202.

Ecclesiastical Articles Written:

“Darwin on Christian Theism,” **NEW HORIZONS**, XXX, no. 7 (July 2009): 8-9.

“Introduction” to Charles G. Dennison’s “Evangelism and the Church,” **ORDAINED SERVANT**. June-July 2009. http://www.opc.org/os.html?article_id=158; also appears in the publication, *Ordained Servant* 18 (2009): 42-51.

“Parenting the Baptized,” **NEW HORIZONS**, XXIX, no. 6 (June 2008): 6-7.

“The First Wedding: A Copy of the Last Wedding,” **THE OUTLOOK**, LV, no. 6 (June 2005): 5–8.

“Joseph: Justified by Faith,” **THE OUTLOOK**, LIV, no. 11 (December 2004): 4–6.

“Van Til’s Critique of Human Thought,” **NEW HORIZONS**, XXV, no. 9 (October, 2004): 9–10.

“From the Department of Apologetics,” **His Story is ...Our Story: Northwest Theological Seminary Newsletter**, V:1 (March 2004): 3–4.

“Mary: The Image of the Christian Life,” **THE OUTLOOK**, LIII, no. 10 (December 2003): 2–4.

“Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part III),” **THE OUTLOOK**, LIII, no. 7 (September 2003): 11–13.

“Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part II),” **THE OUTLOOK**, LIII, no. 6 (July/August 2003): 12–14.

“Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part I),” **THE OUTLOOK**, LIII, no. 5 (June 2003): 4–7.

“Resurrection Living,” **THE GALILEAN**, VI, no. 4 (March-April 2003) 3–6 [this is the 3rd time this article has appeared by request; *The Galilean* is published & distributed in India].

“Resurrection Living,” **NEW HORIZONS**, XXII, no. 4 (April 2001): 8–10.

“Luther and Calvin on Interpretation,” **THE OUTLOOK**, (October 1996): 3–6.

“Covenant College: A Ray of Hope in Education,” **MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**, (Atlanta: Presbyterian Church in America, 1994): 178–180.

“Christ, Our Starting Point.” **NEW HORIZONS**, XII, no. 10 (December 1991): 3–5.

“Creation and Re-creation: Reflection on Salvation,” **JOURNEY MAGAZINE**, VI, no. 1-3 (January/March 1991): 17–18.

“Van Til: Raising a Question.” **JOURNEY MAGAZINE**. II, no. 5 (September-October 1987): 10–11, 24.

Book Reviews:

Forthcoming: *Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Ways*, with contributions by Craig L. Blomberg, Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., F. Scott Spencer, Robert W. Wall, Merold Westphal, ed. Stanley E. Porter & Beth M. Stovell. **NEW HORIZONS**.

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church, by N. T. Wright. **NEW HORIZONS**. (April 2009): 22-23.

Cornelius Van Til: Reformed Apologist and Churchman, by John R. Meuther. **ORDAINED SERVANT**. October 2008. http://www.opc.org/os.html?article_id=120
Appears in published volume of the journal: *Ordained Servant: A Journal for Church Officers*. XVII (Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2008): 123-125.

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism, by Timothy Keller. **ORDAINED SERVANT**. October 2008. http://www.opc.org/os.html?article_id=119
Appears in published volume of the journal: *Ordained Servant: A Journal for Church Officers*. XVII (Willow Grove, PA: The Committee on Christian Education of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2008): 147-151.

The Pattern of Sound Doctrine: Systematic Theology at the Westminster Seminaries: Essays in Honor of Robert B. Strimple, ed. David VanDrunen. **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XL, no. 2 (November 2005): 380–383.

Van Til's Apologetic: Reading and Analysis, by Greg L. Bahnsen. **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XXXIX, no. 1 (April 2004):188–191.

New Testament Theology, by Leon Morris. **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XXVII, no. 1 (April 1992): 102–106.

Interpreting the Bible: A Popular Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics, by Terence J. Keegan. **CALVIN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**, XXIV, no. 1 (April 1989): 139–140.

Radio/Internet Interviews:

Reformed Forum website: June 10, 2011. Topic: *Transformation and Christian Higher Education*. interviewed by: Camden Bucey and Jeff Waddington.
<http://reformedforum.org/ctc180>

Reformed Forum website: October 29, 2010. Topic: *Machen and Bultmann at Marburg*. interviewed by: Camden Bucey. <http://reformedforum.org/ctc147/>

Reformed Forum website: Spring-Summer 2010. Topic: *Christ and Culture Forum* with William D. Dennison, Daryl Hart, Nelson Kloosterman, and Doug Wilson. Interviewed by: Camden Bucey. <http://reformedforum.org> or <http://reformedforum.org/?s=dennison>

Reformed Forum website: October 5, 2009. Topic: my book *Paul's Two-Age Construction and Apologetics*. Interviewed by: James Cassidy and Camden Bucey.
<http://reformedforum.org/ctc92/>

Reformed Forum website: January 22, 2009. Topic: my book on *The Young Bultmann: Context for His Understanding of God*. interviewed by: Jeffrey Waddington, James Cassidy, and Camden Bucey. <http://www.reformedforum.org>

CDR Radio Network: Cedarville University. April 22, 2008. Topic: my book, *A Christian Approach to Interdisciplinary Studies: In Search of a Method and Starting Point*. Interviewed by: Chad Bresson, Impact News Director of CDR.

Professional Organizations (membership):

Evangelical Theological Society; Society of Christian Philosophers (charter member); The International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISEA; charter member); Association for Integrative Studies (AIS).

Professional Academic Attendee @ Conferences:

Fourteenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law: University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario (Canada). August 6-11, 2012.

Association for Integrative Studies (AIS) Conference: Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI. October 13-15, 2011.

Recent Professional Presentations:

Spring 2013: March 6-7

Craig Center Doctoral Seminar: Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA. Seminar: *Natural Law in the Reformed Tradition*.

Christology Lecture: "Christology in the Gospel Passion Narratives."

Apologetics Lecture: "Van Til's Philosophy of History."

Distinguished Scholar Invitee: Spring 2011

Craig Center Doctoral Seminar: Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA. Seminar: *Religion and Culture: Rudolf Bultmann's Paradigm for the Modern Christian Life*.

Christology Lecture: "Christology in the Gospel Passion Narratives."

August 9, 2009: Presented two lectures for the Reformed churches in western Michigan at Trinity United Reformed Church in Caledonia, MI: (1) Darwin: Human Prejudice? and (2) Postmodernism: Is it Dangerous?

April 3, 2009: Presented a paper on "J. Gresham Machen and Rudolf Bultmann: Any Comparison Possible?" at the Southeastern Evangelical Theological Society Regional Meeting at Temple Baptist Seminary in Chattanooga, TN.

March 13-14, 2009: Presented the 6th Annual Lectures at Granite State School of Theology and Missions, Manchester, NH. Topic: *The Book of Hebrews: Pilgrims in a Postmodern World*. 1st Lecture: Christ in History; 2nd Lecture: History, Postmodern Style; 3rd Lecture: Hebrews 11: Pilgrims of Faith.

March 30, 2007: Presented a lecture entitled “What’s So Special about Natural Revelation,” at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA.

November 17, 2006: Presented a paper entitled “What’s So Special about Natural Revelation,” at the 58th annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) held in Washington, DC.

June 9, 2006: Presented a lecture on “Antithesis, Common Grace, and Plato’s View of the Soul,” at the organizing convention for The International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISCA) held at Southern Evangelical Seminary in Matthews, North Carolina.

Recent Ecclesiastical Presentations:

March 3, 2013: Presented a lecture on “Van Til and the Westminster Confession of Faith,” Franklin Square OPC, Franklin Square, NY.

May 15-17, 2012: Presented lectures on “Presuppositional Apologetics” to finish an academic course on the said subject for MTIOPC (Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church). The closing session was held at Grace OPC in Vienna, VA.

August 7, 2011: Presented a lecture entitled, “Christology in Luke’s Passion Narrative” at Sovereign Grace OPC in Oak Harbor, WA.

June 22-25, 2011: Presented 5 Lectures for a Young Adult Conference on the subject of “Defending your Faith in the Trenches.” Machen Retreat Center in Virginia.

August 17-19, 2010: Presented lectures on “Presuppositional Apologetics” to finish an academic course on the said subject for MTIOPC (Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church). The closing session was held at Grace Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. Photos and article in *New Horizons* (October, 2010), 2, 14-16.

September 13, 2009: Two Lectures on “The Marburg Experience of J. Gresham Machen and Rudolf Bultmann in 1905-06.” Sandy Springs Presbyterian Church, Maryville, TN.

October 25, 2009: Two Lectures on “The Marburg Experience of J. Gresham Machen and Rudolf Bultmann in 1905-06.” Immanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Coraopolis, PA.

December 13, 20, 2009: Two Lectures on “The Marburg Experience of J. Gresham Machen and Rudolf Bultmann in 1905-06.” Cornerstone Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN.