

## Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition

The Board of St. Andrew's Hall is delighted to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Richard Topping as the first St. Andrew's Hall Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition

Richard Topping holds the degrees BA (Waterloo), MA, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto) Diploma (Knox College) and PhD. (St. Michael's, Toronto) He has served as minister of Knox, Port Carling and Zion, Torrance, Ontario, 1993-96, Assistant Minister, the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, 1997-99 and as senior minister of that historic church from 2000 to 2009. Though a downtown, English speaking church, the "A & P" as it is called, has flourished remarkably during Richard's ministry. He has published one book, *Revelation, Holy Scripture and Church* is presently editing another work *Welcome to the Church, A Primer on Christian Faith*. He is the author of many church resources, articles and reviews and has received a number of national and international prizes for his writing and preaching. He has taught a number of courses in Presbyterian College, Montreal and is a speaker in wide demand in church and academic settings.

It is expected that Dr. Topping will give his inaugural lecture and be formally recognized by the Presbytery of Westminster during the *Calvin @ 500 Conference* at St. Andrew's Hall, September 25, 2009.

### CURRICULUM VITAE

of

Richard R. TOPPING

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#### 1. EDUCATION

- 2005                   **Ph.D., Systematic Theology** (First-Class Standing)  
Dissertation: *Revelation, Holy Scripture and Church in the Hermeneutic Thought of James Barr, Paul Ricoeur and Hans Frei*,  
Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto  
School of Theology, University of Toronto  
Dissertation Supervisor: Professor John B. Webster
- 1993                   **One Year Diploma Course**, Knox College, Toronto School of  
Theology, University of Toronto
- 1988                   **M.A., Systematic Theology** (First-Class Standing)  
Thesis: *'A Critical Appraisal of Evangelical Foundational Theology,'*  
Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto  
School of Theology, University of Toronto  
Thesis Director: Professor John B. Webster

1984                    **B.A., Religious Studies** (Dean's Honor List), University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

## 2. AWARDS

- 2006                    Canadian Church Press Award for '*Delving into the Depths of Theology, An Appreciation of Mere Christianity*,' by C.S. Lewis, in The Presbyterian Record (December, 2005): 23.
- 1997                    Pulpit Digest Preaching Award, First Place, Doctrinal/Theological Category, '*The Ascension.*'
- 1993                    Anglican Theological Review Essay Contest, First Place, '*Toward a Critical and Relevant Reading of the Bible as Holy Scripture of the Church.*'
- 1991                    Canadian Theological Society Graduate Student Essay Contest, First Place, '*The Canon and the Truth: Brevard Childs and James Barr on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method.*'

## 3. PUBLICATIONS

### (i) Book

Revelation, Holy Scripture and Church: Theological Hermeneutic Thought of James Barr, Paul Ricoeur and Hans Frei, *New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007).

### (ii) Refereed Articles

*'Transcendental Method and Private Language: Bernard Lonergan and Ludwig Wittgenstein on Religious Language and Experience,'* ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University 21 (Spring, 1993): 11-26.

*'The Canon and the Truth: James Barr and Brevard Childs on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method,'* Toronto Journal of Theology 8/2 (Fall, 1992): 239-260.

*'The Anti-foundationalist Challenge to Evangelical Apologetics,'* The Evangelical Quarterly, 63/1 (January, 1991): 45-60 (Identified as an important criticism of the apologetics of modernity in Timothy Phillips and Dennis Okholm, Editors, Christian Apologetics in the Postmodern World (Downers Grove: IVP, 1995), 231).

### (iii) Articles

*'John Calvin on the Sacraments,'* Presbyterian Record (forthcoming, December, 2008)

*'Hans Frei and the Future of Theology,'* Canadian Theological Society Newsletter, 9/2 (November, 1990): 1-5.

'*Epistemological Problems with Historical Apologetics*,' Prolegomena 1/2 (December, 1989): 27-32.

(iv) *Church Publications*

Editor and contributing author: Welcome to the Church: A Primer on Christian Faith (Presbyterian Church in Canada, forthcoming)

Contributing author: A Catechism for Today (Montreal: Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2006)

Contributing author: Together in Ministry: The Theology and Practice of Ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Toronto: Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2004).

Principal author: '*The Laity*,' Acts and Proceedings of the 120th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1998, 342-348.

Principal author: '*The Ruling Elder*,' Acts and Proceedings of the 122nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (1996): 350-362.

'Sincere Work and Spiritual Improvement: Principal Caven's Emphases in Theological Education,' Presbyterian History: A Newsletter of the Committee on History, 40/1 (May, 1996): 1-4.

(v) *Book Reviews*

The Gospel of John and Christian Theology, edited by Richard Bauckham and Carl Mosser, in Toronto Journal of Theology (forthcoming 2009).

The Neo-Orthodox Theology of W.W. Bryden, by John Vissers, in The Presbyterian Record (October, 2006).

'*Delving into the Depths of Theology, An Appreciation of Mere Christianity*,' by C.S. Lewis, in The Presbyterian Record (December, 2005): 23.

Hans Frei and Karl Barth: Different Ways of Reading Scripture, by David Demson, in the Canadian Theological Society Newsletter (March, 1998).

Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology, by Daniel Migliore, in Toronto Journal of Theology 10/1 (Spring, 1994): 107-109.

Insight (University of Toronto Edition, 1992), by Bernard Lonergan, in ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 21 (Spring, 1993): 96-98.

God, Creation, and Providence in the Thought of Jacob Arminius by Richard A. Muller, in The Baptist Review of Theology 2/1 (Spring, 1992): 70-74

Aspects of Christian Integrity, by Alan P.F. Sell, in The Baptist Review of Theology 1/1 (Fall, 1991): 85-86.

Return to Reason, by Kelly James Clark, in Toronto Journal of Theology 7/1 (Spring, 1991): 146-150, and in The Baptist Review of Theology 1/1 (Fall, 1991): 55-57.

The Freedom of a Christian, by Eberhard Jüngel, in Toronto Journal of Theology 6/2 (Fall, 1990): 316-319.

(vi) *Editorial Work*

Assistant Guest Editor with Profs. John Webster and David Demson, '*Hans Frei and the Future of Theology*,' papers from the 1990 meeting of the Karl Barth Society in Modern Theology 8/2 (April, 1992).

(vii) *Sermons*

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 77/7 (May/June, 2001): 73-80.

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 76/7 (May/June, 2000): 47-54.

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 75/7 (May/June, 1999): 118-124.

Preaching on the Lessons, The Clergy Journal 75/1 (October, 1998): 41-50.

'*The Ascension*,' Pulpit Digest (July/August, 1997): 63-68.

#### **4. INVITED LECTURES/ADDRESSES**

2008                      Guest Speaker: *Biblical Interpretation: When Revelation and Hermeneutics Meet*, Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University:  
Respondent: Dr. André Gagné, Assistant Professor

2008                      Knox Summer Fellowship 2008, '*Great Nights of the Bible*,' Knox  
Presbyterian Church, Toronto

2008                      Keynote Address: *Getting a Grip: Theology and Church Life*, and  
*Temptations for City Churches*, St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of  
Theology, Best Practices Conference for Presbyterian Clergy and Church  
Leaders

2007                      *Ministry: Catching up with what God is Doing*, Student and Faculty  
Retreat, Presbyterian College, Montreal

- 2007 *The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Knox College/St. Andrew's King Street, Toronto, Sponsored Lectures: *The Church in the Present - Tense and The Gospel and our Situation* (currently being edited for publication)
- 2004 *War and Peace: Restraining Evil without Committing It*, October Series of Lectures, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal
- 2003 Graduate Lecture, *The Perils of Relevance*, and Convocation Address, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec, McGill University
- 1998/1999 *The Point of Preaching*, Presbyterian, Anglican and United Church Colleges, McGill University
- 1998 *Reading the Bible as Scripture*, Student and Faculty Retreat, Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec
- 1991 *The Canon and the Truth: Brevard Childs and James Barr on the Canon and the Historical-Critical Method*, (Canadian Theological Society, Queen's University)
- 1988 *Is Intratextual Theology Fideistic?*, Canadian Evangelical Theological Association, Tyndale Theological Seminary

## **5. TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### *(i) Courses*

- 2008 'Principles of Preaching,' Montreal School of Theology, Montreal
- 2007 'Worship in the Reformed Tradition,' Presbyterian College, Montreal
- 2007 'Ministry Today: Problems and Prospects,' Lay Education Program, Presbyterian College
- 2006-2008 'Church, Ministry and Sacraments,' Presbyterian College
- 2006-2007 'Orientation to Ministry,' Presbyterian College
- 2005-2006 'Introduction to Biblical Interpretation,' Lay Education Program, Presbyterian College
- 1999 Lecturer: 'Elders and Deacons' and 'The Priesthood of All Believers,' Presbyterian College
- 1998 Lecturer: 'Church, Ministry and Sacraments' and 'Theology and Practice of Ministry,' Presbyterian College, Montreal

- 1992 'Introduction to Philosophy,' Sheridan College, Brampton
- (ii) *Teaching Assistant*
- 1990-1992 Teaching Assistant to Professor Reginald Stackhouse 'Basic Christian Ethics,' 'Theodicy,' 'Existential Concerns in Theology,' 'Religion and the Gospel,' and 'Eschatology' at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto
- 1990 Teaching Assistant to Professor David Demson 'Introduction to Systematic Theology' at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto
- 1988-1990 Teaching Assistant to Professor John Webster 'Introduction to Systematic Theology,' 'Atonement and Sanctification' and 'Christology' at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

## **6. MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

### *(i) Congregational Service*

- 2000-2008 Senior Minister, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, Quebec
- 1997-1999 Assistant Minister, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, Quebec
- 1993-1996 Minister, Knox and Zion Presbyterian Churches, Port Carling and Torrance, Ontario (acknowledged for significant growth in Reginald Stackhouse, Alive Again: Recession and Recovery in the Churches [Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1999], 21-24).
- 1993 Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Brampton, Ontario

### *(ii) Denominational Service*

- 2008 World Alliance of Reformed Churches and Presbyterian Church in Canada Delegate to the 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress of the Roman Catholic Church, Quebec City, Canada
- 2007 Delegate to World Alliance of Reformed Churches Pastor's Conference, Geneva, 'The Mission of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church Worldwide and You' and 'Preparations for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Calvin's Birth'

- 2007-2008 Executive, Academic and D.D. Committees, Presbyterian College, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
- 2006-2008 Board of Governors, Presbyterian College, Montreal
- 2005-2008 Mentor, Second Year Divinity Students, Presbyterian College
- 2005-2006 Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, Presbyterian Church
- 2005-2006 Moderator, Special Commission of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly
- 2005/2008 In Ministry Year Supervisor, Presbyterian College, Montreal
- 2003-2007 Presbytery Representative, Christian-Jewish Dialogue
- 2000-2008 Convener, Ministry/Personnel/Candidates Committee, Presbytery of Montreal
- 1998-2006 Member of the National Task Force for the Development of Catechisms for Children and Adults, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Convener, The Reverend Dr. William Klempa
- 1993-2003 Member of Task Force on the 'Theology and Practice of Ministry,' The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Convener, The Reverend Dr. James Thomson
- (iii) *Community Service*
- 2005-2008 Vice-Chair of the Board, Trafalgar School for Girls, Montreal
- 2000-2008 Governor, Trafalgar School for Girls, Montreal
- 1997-1999 Member of the Board of Directors and Convener of Christian Education Subcommittee, Tyndale-St.Georges' (A Presbyterian-Anglican inner-city educational mission to new immigrants, Montreal)
- 1997-2005 Associate Chaplain, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec

## **7. RESEARCH INTERESTS/AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Systematic (Reformed) Theology  
 Theological Hermeneutics/Biblical Theology  
 Philosophy of Religion

## **8. SOCIETIES**

American Academy of Religion  
Canadian Theological Society  
Society of Biblical Literature

## 9. REFERENCES

Dr. Shuling Chen, Chaplain and Director of Educational Programs, Presbyterian College, 3495 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2A2 (514-288-5256) [layeducation@presbyteriancollege.ca](mailto:layeducation@presbyteriancollege.ca)

Dr. David Demson, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1K7 (416-585-4539) and Sessional Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Regis College, 15 St. Mary Street, Toronto Ontario, M4Y 2R5 (416-922-5474) [leslie.chisholmdemson@utoronto.ca](mailto:leslie.chisholmdemson@utoronto.ca)

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Farris, Professor of Homiletics and Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver School of Theology, 6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6T 1L4 (604-822-9721) [sfarris@vst.edu](mailto:sfarris@vst.edu)

The Reverend Dr. William Klempa, Principal Emeritus, Presbyterian College, 3495 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2A8, (514-288-5256), [wklemp@po-box.mcgill.ca](mailto:wklemp@po-box.mcgill.ca)

The Reverend Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland (+41 22 791 6240) [sn@warc.ch](mailto:sn@warc.ch)

The Reverend Principal John Vissers, Presbyterian College, 3495 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A8 (514-288-5256) [jvissers@presbyteriancollege.ca](mailto:jvissers@presbyteriancollege.ca)

The Reverend Dr. John Webster, \*Dissertation Supervisor, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Aberdeen, Divinity and Religious Studies, School of Divinity, King's College, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB24 3UB (01224 273120) [jwebster@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jwebster@abdn.ac.uk)

Bishop William H. Willimon, United Methodist Center, 898 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL., U.S.A., 35204, (205-226-7992) [wwillimon@northalabamaumc.org](mailto:wwillimon@northalabamaumc.org)

The Reverend Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, Professor of Homiletics, Director of Advanced Degree Program, Emmanuel College, 75 Queen's Park Crescent E., Toronto ON, M5S 1K7, (416-585-4545), [paul.wilson@utoronto.ca](mailto:paul.wilson@utoronto.ca)