

**SUZANNE WATTS HENDERSON, PH.D.**  
**DEAN OF BELK CHAPEL**  
**PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION**  
**QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

1900 Selwyn Ave.  
Charlotte, NC 28274  
704.688.2848  
[hendersons@queens.edu](mailto:hendersons@queens.edu)

504 E. Worthington Ave.  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
704.996.7286 (mobile)  
[henderson.suz@gmail.com](mailto:henderson.suz@gmail.com)

**EDUCATION**

- 2004 Duke University, Ph.D., New Testament (minors: Hebrew Bible and History of Interpretation)
- 1990 Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div., Biblical studies emphasis
- 1987 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, A.B., English (with distinction)  
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Eta Sigma; Honors Program

**OTHER CREDENTIALS AND DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Ordained Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Member, Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA), Charlotte, NC

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Books*

- 2019 *New Testament Conversations: A Literary, Historical, and Pluralistic Introduction* (Abingdon).  
This textbook introduces students to New Testament texts in animated conversation with one another, with their own world, and with readers across place and time. Its premise is that this sacred collection is inherently pluralistic and so provides an ideal testing ground for fostering appreciative inquiry across theological and worldview difference.
- 2017 *The Cross in Contexts: Conversations on Redemptive Suffering* (co-authored with Mitri Raheb; Orbis).  
Winner of the Catholic Publishers Association Scripture Award (second place), this study combines historical with contemporary biblical analysis to reconsider the redemptive significance of Jesus' death. Anchored in both the first and the twenty-first centuries, this conversation highlights God's vulnerable power as a life-affirming response to violent power.
- 2015 *Christ and Community: The Gospel Witness to Jesus* (Abingdon).  
This thematic exploration of Jesus' messianic career and identity examines the close correlation the NT Gospels forge between Jesus' own mission and the mission entrusted to his followers.
- 2006 *Christology and Discipleship in the Gospel of Mark* (Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas Monograph Series; Cambridge University Press).  
This revised dissertation combines historical with literary study demonstrate that the disciples' incomprehension in Mark concerns both Jesus' messianic mission and, by extension, their own.

*Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals*

- 2016 “The ‘Good News’ of God’s Coming Reign: Occupation at a Crossroads.” *Interpretation* (70:2) 145–58.
- 2012 “What Is Old? What Is New? A Reconsideration of Garments and Wineskins.” *Horizons in Biblical Theology* (34:2) 118–38.
- “Discipleship After the Resurrection: Scribal Hermeneutics in the Longer Ending of Mark.” *Journal of Theological Studies* (63:1) 106–24.
- 2009 “Jesus’ Messianic Self-Consciousness Revisited: Christology and Community in Context.” *Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus* (7) 168–97.
- 2008 “1 Corinthians 1:3–9: From Text to Sermon.” *Interpretation* (62) 426–28.
- 2007 “God’s Fullness in Bodily Form: Christ and Church in Colossians.” *Expository Times* (118) 169–73.
- 2006 “Taking Liberties with the Text: The Colossians Household Code as Hermeneutical Paradigm.” *Interpretation* (60) 420–32.
- 2002 “‘If Anyone Hungers . . .’: An Integrated Reading of 1 Corinthians 11.17–34.” *New Testament Studies* (48) 195–208.
- 2001 “‘Concerning the Loaves’: Comprehending Incomprehension in Mark 6:45–52.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* (83) 3–26.

*Selected Works in Edited Volumes*

- 2019 “Breathing Well: Romans 8:12–30.” *Preaching Romans: Four Perspectives*. Eds. Scot McKnight and Joseph B. Modica (Eerdmans).
- 2018 “Was Mark A Supersessionist? Two Test Cases from the Earliest Gospel.” *The Ways that Often Parted: Essays on Judaism and Christianity in Honor of Joel Marcus*. Eds. Lori Baron, Jill Hicks-Keeton, and Matthew Thiessen (SBL Press).
- “Mark: Introduction and Notes.” New Oxford Annotated Bible, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Oxford).
- “Damascus Document and Mark 8.1–26.” *Reading Mark in Context: Jesus and Second Temple Judaism*. Eds. Ben C. Blackwell and John K. Goodrich (Zondervan).
- 2016 Various Entries. Women’s Common English Bible (Abingdon).
- 2014 “Discipleship.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Bible and Theology*.
- 2013 “Mark: Introduction and Notes.” Common English Bible (Abingdon).
- 2011 “Mark, Gospel of.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible*.
- 2010 “1 Corinthians.” New International Bible One Volume Commentary (Abingdon).

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE AND COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS**

- 2016 “Taking Up a Cross: Resisting Occupation Then and Now.” SBL Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX.
- 2013 “Christ and Community: Messianic Power-Sharing in the NT Gospels.” Duke University New Testament and Judaic Studies Colloquium. Durham, NC.
- 2013 “Messianic Message: ‘God’s Reign Has Drawn Near.’” Society of Biblical Theologians Annual Meeting. Princeton, NJ.
- 2012 “Christ Died for Us? Substitutionary Atonement or Corporate Christology?” Creation, Conflict, and Cosmos: A Conference on Romans 5–8. Princeton, NJ.
- 2011 “The Final Antinomy? Reconsidering the ‘Otherness’ of Christ.” Paul, Jewishness and Otherness after the Holocaust. Center for Jewish Studies, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
- 2009 “Transgressing Borders: Insights from the Interdisciplinary Classroom.” SBL Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2006 “Teaching the Bible in the Bible Belt.” SECSOR Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

- 2019 Faculty Member, AAC&U’s Institute for Interfaith Excellence (Atlanta, GA)
- 2018–present Member, SBL Ethics and Biblical Interpretation Steering Committee
- 2011–present Member, Society of Biblical Theologians
- 2015–present Editorial Board Member, *Interpretation* journal
- 1999–present Member, Society of Biblical Literature (Member no. HS097549)
- 2012–16 Steering Committee Member, Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Group
- 2005 Scholar-in-Residence, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2008–present *Queens University of Charlotte*, Charlotte, NC
- 2019–present Dean of Belk Chapel
- 2018–present Professor of Religion, Chair of Department
- 2012–2018 Associate Professor of Religion
- 2008–2012 Assistant Professor of Religion

Courses taught (\* denotes hybrid or online format):

Introduction to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible\*; Introduction to New Testament\*; Introduction to the Bible; Religion in a Global Context\*; Paul’s Life and Letters; Women in the Bible; Introductory Greek; Apocalypse Then and Now; Jesus in the Gospels and Film; Holy Land, Holy People: Peacemaking in Palestine and Israel\*; Better Together Honors Seminar\*; Spiritual Storytelling\*

- 2004–2008            *Salem College*, Winston-Salem, NC  
                           2006–2008            Assistant Professor of Religion  
                           2004–2006            Instructor
- 2003–2006            *Other Institutions*  
                           2006                    Wake Forest University Divinity School: New Testament  
                           2004                    Duke University: The Gospel of Mark  
                           2003                    University of North Carolina at Greensboro: New Testament

**TEACHING RECOGNITION AND INVITED COLLOQUIES**

- 2018            Interfaith Pedagogies Working Group, Interfaith Youth Core and Wabash Center
- 2015            “Teaching Interfaith Understanding” Workshop, Interfaith Youth Core and CIC
- 2014–15        “The Bible and the Big Questions at PC (USA) Liberal Arts Colleges: Professors and Chaplains Exploring Vocational and Pedagogical Issues,” Wabash Center
- 2013            Joseph B. Grier, Jr. Distinguished Professor, Queens University of Charlotte:
- 2008            Omicron Delta Kappa Professor of the Year, Salem College
- 2007–2008    Wabash Center’s Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty

**GRANTS AWARDED**

- 2020            Bridge Builders Charlotte grant, The Gambrell Foundation  
                           Launched Charlotte-area network of campus-community partnerships to strengthen non-profit responses to pandemic-related need by enhancing interfaith engagement.
- 2017–2018    “Strategic Planning” grant, Interfaith Youth Core  
                           Led campus-wide work group to create a strategic plan entitled “Presbyterian and Pluralist” designed to enhance curricular and co-curricular interfaith engagement.
- 2016–2017    “Curriculum Development” grant, Interfaith Youth Core  
                           Revised and shared syllabi for several courses related to interfaith competency.
- 2013–2014    “Holy Land, Holy People” grant, Covenant Presbyterian Church  
                           Funded and led student study tour to Israel and Palestine that featured different narratives related to religion and justice.
- 2009–2011    “Teaching the Bible” grant, PC (USA)  
                           Co-wrote grant to establish the Covenant-Queens Scholars program, which combined student internships in non-profit organizations with Biblical reflection
- 2008–2009    “Program Review” grant, Wabash Center  
                           Secured a grant to conduct departmental program review with the help of a Wabash consultant.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

*Queens University of Charlotte*

2019–present Dean of Belk Chapel

- Provide visionary, strategic, public leadership for religious and spiritual life at Queens
- Interpret the Presbyterian tradition as central to the campus's welcome of people from all faith and philosophical traditions
- Oversee Chapel staff as it implements programming and care for students, faculty, and staff
- Build collaborative efforts across academic and co-curricular units to strengthen religious and spiritual life at Queens
- Lead Interfaith Committee as it implements our 2018 Presbyterian and Pluralist Plan

2018–present Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion

- Currently overseeing program review, including realignment of pedagogy and assessment in light of emerging learning outcomes
- Collaborating with Belk Chapel to strengthen ties between students' academic and spiritual life experiences
- As department member, led initiative to “rebrand” Religion major as an Interfaith Studies major, leading to a dramatic enrollment increase

2012–present Director, Center for Ethics and Religion

- Led advisory committee to identify a focus on interfaith understanding and dialogue in the Charlotte community
- Brought various speakers to campus to promote this focus, including Interfaith Youth Core founder and president Eboo Patel and *On Being* host Krista Tippett
- Hosted various on- and off-campus events for the University community and the wider public, including a Discovery Place viewing of the IMAX film, *Jerusalem*; an on-campus screening and interfaith discussion of *The Line*; a performance of the *Hijabi Monologues*; and a series of Interfaith Text Talks
- Built relationships with individuals, faith communities, and organizations in Charlotte working across faith traditions to foster mutual understanding in our community

2017–2018 Chair, Presbyterian and Pluralist Work Group

- Led campus-wide work group through a deliberate strategic planning process to identify and address strategic areas of concern
- Wrote Presbyterian and Pluralist strategic plan that anchors efforts to strengthen interfaith understanding and collaboration in our Presbyterian heritage

2014–16 Director, Honors Program

- Led major revision of Honors Program curriculum and initiative to enhance recruitment
- Engaged students, faculty, and staff to build comprehensive Honors experience, leading to a more than 100% increase in Honors students over two years

2010–2012 Co-Founder and Facilitator, Covenant-Queens Scholars

- Worked with outreach director at a local church to guide Queens students through an internship that combined service in non-profit and parish settings
- Led bi-weekly studies of Luke to frame reflection theologically
- See more information [here](#)

- 2011–12 Team Leader, First Year General Education Course (Noble Lives)
- Led 15 faculty members from different disciplines teaching a common syllabus
  - Oversaw meaningful curriculum revision and thorough reworking of the course material
  - Taught seminars to equip faculty to teach the Bible in a humanities course

#### **OTHER RELATED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

- 1994–1996 Pastor, Covenant Community Church, Winston-Salem, NC (house church)
- 1993–1994 Interim Pastor, Faith Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC
- 1992–1993 Parish Associate for Education, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Stone Mountain, GA

#### **SERVICE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

##### *Selected Church-Based Presentations and Programs*

- 2017 *The Cross in Contexts* book talk, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX
- 2015 Frank P. Hall Spiritual Enrichment Speaker, First Presbyterian Church, Belmont, NC
- 2015 Speaker, “Marriage in the Bible,” First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
- 2015 Bible Leader, Bold Word Preaching Conference, Mo-Ranch Assembly, Hunt, TX
- 2014 Author and Presenter, [\*Jesus Christ Incorporated\*](#)
- 2012–2014 Author and Leader, IMPACT Bible Study, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
- 2008–present Preaching and teaching at various area churches, including the following:
- Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC
  - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC
  - South Park Christian Church, Charlotte, NC
  - Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
  - First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NC
  - Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
  - Myers Park Methodist Disciple Bible Study Leaders retreat (Camp Kanuga)
  - St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC
  - St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC
  - Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
  - Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, Charlotte, NC

##### *Selected Presentations and Service to the Wider Community*

- Speaker, Kiwanis Club
- Speaker, Charlotte Senior Scholars
- Contributor, *Charlotte Observer* op-ed
- Board Member, Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Board Member, Pilgrims of Ibillin
- Baccalaureate Preacher, Salem College
- Convocation Speaker, Wake Forest University Divinity School

#### **ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

- Married since 1988 to Bob (a PCUSA minister)
- Parent to three young adult children: Abbie (b. 1992), Hannah and Will (both b. 1995)
- Somewhat hyperactive runner, yoga practitioner, hiker, sometimes-biker, and snow skier
- Book club fanatic
- Quiet subversive who marches for justice, writes selected [op-ed pieces](#), and pesters Congressional staff workers
- Occasional [blogger](#) and non-academic writer (in progress: *The Mother-in-Law Book*)