

**Tony Stiff, DMin, PhD Candidate**

tonystiff@abdn.ac.uk

**EDUCATION**

- 2017-**        **Ph.D. in Disability Theology**, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK  
Proposed Thesis Title: “Friendship at the Table: Toward a Theology of Food-Related Disabilities”  
Supervisor: Prof. John Swinton
- 2014-2017**    **D.Min. in Spiritual Formation**, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI  
Thesis Title: “Worship as Public Truth: Toward a Liturgical-Missional Ecclesiology for Evangelical Congregational Leaders”  
Supervisor: Prof. Chuck DeGroat
- 2003-2007**    **M.Div. in Urban Missiology**, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA
- 1999-2003**    **B.A. in Pastoral Studies**, Clearwater Christian College, Clearwater, FL

**EMPLOYMENT**

- 2018-Present** **Senior Pastor**, Christ Presbyterian Church, Goodyear, AZ  
Nature of Church: A 450 person Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterian Churches congregation located in the Phoenix area.  
Position Responsibilities: weekly preacher and liturgist, Head of Staff, Moderator of Session.
- 2017-2018**    **Pulpit Supply**, Church of Scotland, Aberdeenshire Presbytery  
Position Responsibilities: 4-8 times a year I construct the liturgy, lead the worship service, and offer a homily in different Church of Scotland congregations across the Aberdeenshire Presbytery.
- 2010-2017**    **Associate Pastor**, Centerpoint Community Church, Roseville, CA  
Nature of Church: A 1,200 person Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation located in the Sacramento area.  
Position Responsibilities: weekly worship leader, Director of Adult Education Ministries (overseeing 14 teachers, 20 classes a year, 2 weekend seminars, and 1 annual teacher training), Pastor over Local and Global Missions, Pastor over Student Ministry staff and departments, Pastor over young adults and marrieds
- 2009**        **Pastor in Residence**, Grace Christian Fellowship, Largo, FL  
Nature of Church: A 600 person non-denominational congregation located in the Tampa Bay area.  
Position Responsibilities: weekly leadership over a seeker-oriented outreach called Theology on Tap which met at a local pub, creator and director of their young marrieds ministry, frequent adult education teacher and pulpit assistant.

- 2007–2008**    **Assistant Pastor**, East Lanier Community Church, Flowery Branch, GA  
 Nature of Church: A 200 person Presbyterian Church of America congregation located in the Atlanta area.  
 Position Responsibilities: weekly worship leader, Director of Adult Education Ministries (overseeing 4 teachers, 8 classes a year, and 1 annual teacher training), Creator and Director of Mercy Ministry, Director of Small Group Ministry, Pastor over Student Ministry, and Pastor over young adults and marrieds
- 2003–2007**    **Pastoral Intern**, New Life Dresher Presbyterian Church, Glenside, PA  
 Nature of Church: An 800 person Presbyterian Church of America congregation located in the Philadelphia area.  
 Position Responsibilities: interim High School Ministry Director, creator and leader of a post-college ministry, quarterly adult education teacher, intern in adult spiritual formation under Pastor Mike Hollenbach
- 1999–2003**    **Pastoral Intern**, Grace Christian Fellowship, Largo, FL  
 Nature of Church: A 300 person non-denominational congregation located in the Tampa Bay area.  
 Position Responsibilities: assisted in leading High School ministry, quarterly adult education teacher, intern in young adult ministries under Pastor Heath Watson
- 1998–1999**    **Pastoral Intern**, Countryside Christian Center, Countryside, FL  
 Nature of Church: A 2,500 person non-denominational congregation located in the Tampa Bay area.  
 Position Responsibilities: assisted in leading High School ministry, creator and director of a youth-oriented spiritual formation program, creator and director of a youth-oriented mercy ministry, intern in youth ministries under Pastor Glen Davis

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Christ Presbyterian Church**, Goodyear, AZ

Role: Senior Pastor

Courses: A Study on the Book of Acts: Acts of the Holy Spirit; A Study on the Letter to Philemon: Runaway; A Study on the Book of Job: Hope in Uncertain Times

### **Centerpoint Community Church**, Roseville, CA

Role: Associate Pastor, Director of Adult Education Ministry

Courses: A Biblical Study of Social Justice; The Life & Theology of the Martin Luther King, Jr.; Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace; The Life & Spirituality of St. Augustine; Toward a Missional Reading of Scripture; Following the Call: Your Place in God's Mission; An Introduction to Presbyterianism; A Study of the Westminster Standards; An Introduction to the Missional Church; The Life & Spirituality of Henri Nouwen; Understanding the Parables; The Epistle of Jude; A Study of the Intertestamental Period; Spiritual Gifts; A Study of Philemon; A

Study of Colossians; A Study of the Apostles Creed; A Study of Ecclesiastes; A Study of Systematic Theology; A Study of I John; A Study of Proverbs

**East Lanier Community Church**, Flowery Branch, GA

Role: Assistant Pastor, Director of Adult Education Ministry

Courses: Evangelism: Reasons of the Heart; Faith & Culture; The Gospel in the Public Square;

Psalms: Songs for the King, Poetry of the Kingdom; Mercy & The Identity of the Church; A

Study of Union with Christ; The Story of the Bible

**New Life Drescher Presbyterian Church**, Glenside, PA

Role: Pastoral Intern Teacher

Courses: Christian Spirituality; History of the Reformation

**Grace Christian Fellowship**, Largo, FL

Role: Pastoral Intern Teacher

Courses: The Lord's Prayer in Second Temple Context; A Study of Hermeneutics; A Study of the Book of Acts; A Study on Religions in America

## **THEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**2019–2021**     **Task Force Member**, National Theological Task Force Team, for the denomination, ECO. One of seven members committed to designing theological papers for the use of the denomination's theological standards.

**2015**            **Chair of Standing Theology Committee**, General Assembly, for the denomination, EPC. A one year committee to Moderating the theological concerns of the denomination at the national General Assembly meeting.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Anthony J. Stiff, "The Abiding Value of Calvin's Eucharistic Theology for Disability Theology," *Calvin Theological Journal* Vol. 54.1 (2019), 129-145.

Anthony J. Stiff, "Breaking Bread or Being Broken by Bread?: How Climate Change is Reshaping the Modern Life of Food Production, the Human Body, and the Religious Practice of Shared Meals," *Granite Journal* Vol. 2.1 (2018), 31-37.

Contributing author to J.R. Woodward, ed., *Viral Hope: Good News from the Urbs to the Burbs (and Everything in Between)* (Los Angeles: Ecclesia Press, 2010).

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Benjamin T. Conner, *Disabling Mission, Enabling Witness: Exploring Missiology Through the Lens of Disability Studies* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2018), reviewed for *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, 2019

Harvie M. Conn, *Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace* (Philipsburg: P & R Publisher, 1992), reviewed for *Reformation and Revival Journal*, 2006.

## ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

“Keeping the Feast: The Socializing Dynamics of the Eucharist, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and the Enabling of Boundaries for Individuals with Disabilities.” In consideration with the *Journal of Religion and Disability*.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Disabling the Table, Enabling Presence: A Disability Theology Approach to the Eucharist,” European Academy of Religion conference, “Theologies of Disability: A Driving Force for Change?” August, 2021

“Toward a Liturgical-Missional Ecclesiology: Wisdom from Case Studies with Four Congregations in North America,” Durham University conference, “Ecclesiology and Ethnography,” September 2019.

“Keeping the Feast’: The Socializing Dynamics of the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and the Enabling of Boundaries for Individuals with Disabilities in the Church,” University of St. Andrews conference, “Atonement: Sin, Sacrifice, and Salvation in Jewish and Christian Antiquity,” June, 2018.

“The Abiding Value of John Calvin’s Eucharistic Theology for Disability Theology,” Society for Reformation Studies conference, “Reformation and the Reformed,” Westminster College, Cambridge, April, 2018.

“Breaking Bread or Being Broken by Bread? How Climate Change is Reshaping the Modern Life of Food Production, the Human Body, and the Religious Practice of Shared Meals,” paper presentation, Granite Symposium, University of Aberdeen, 2017.

“Lost in Reception: Recovering the Rest of What it Means to be Missional,” D.Min. public thesis presentation, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, 2017.

“Befriending the Stranger at the Boundaries of Disability: Seeing the Disorientation of a Person with a Food-Related Disability,” workshop presentation, Summer Instituted of Theology & Disability 2017 Conference, Los Angeles, CA, June 18, 2017.

“Exploring the Life & Theology of the Father of the Missional Church: Lesslie Newbigin,” a weekend seminar for several congregations in Tampa Bay, FL, July 17, 2014.

“An Introduction to the Emerging Church,” workshop presentation, Emerging Churches Conference, Westminster Theological Seminary, October, 2005.

## **SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES & ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Paper Responder at “Theology, Medicine, and Embodiment,” A seminar organized by Practical Theology and Theological Ethics departments, hosted at the University of Aberdeen, May 14, 2018

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “Romans for Everyone: Getting a Grip on Paul’s Gospel,” by David Timms, Dean of Biblical Studies at William Jessup University, hosted in Roseville, CA, January 28, 2017

Host for a lecture from the Center for Bible Study and William Jessup University called, “Reconciliation in a Fractured World,” by Miroslav Volf, Founder and Director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture and Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology, hosted in Roseville, CA, March 19, 2016

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “Living in Exile,” by Merilyn Copland, Professor of Old Testament at William Jessup University, hosted in Roseville, CA, January 20, 2016

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “Managing Finances God’s Way,” by Chuck Bentley, CEO of Crown Financial Ministries, hosted in Roseville, CA, October 3, 2015

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “Understanding the Gospels,” by Dan McCartney, Professor of New Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary, hosted in Roseville, CA, October 5, 2013

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “In Search of Deep Faith,” by Jim Belcher, President of Pasadena Bible College, hosted in Roseville, CA, July 21, 2013

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “The Rest of the Story: Exploring the New Testament in Context,” by J.R. Daniel Kirk, Professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary, hosted in Roseville, CA, February 22 & 23, 2013

Organizer and host of a weekend seminar called, “The Rest of the Story: Exploring the Old Testament in Context,” by Merilyn Copland, Professor of Old Testament at William Jessup University, hosted in Roseville, CA, October 6, 2012

Organizer and host of the symposium on the Emerging Church at Westminster Theological Seminary, “Contemporary Issues Conference on the Emerging Church,” hosted at Westminster

Theological Seminary, Glenside, PA, October 26-28, 2006. Speakers include Scot McKnight, Michael Horton, John Franke, Dan McCartney

President of Student Missions Association at Westminster Theological Seminary, Glenside, PA, 2006-2007

## **LANGUAGES**

Ancient Languages: Biblical Hebrew, Hellenistic Greek

Modern Languages: English

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. John Swinton  
Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies  
Master of Christ College  
University of Aberdeen  
Kings College  
AB24 3FX  
Scotland, UK  
j.swinton@abdn.ac.uk

Dr. Chuck DeGroat  
Professor of Pastoral Care  
Western Theological Seminary  
101 E 13<sup>th</sup> St  
Holland, MI, 49423  
chuck@westernsem.edu

Dr. Daniel Ebert  
Professor of Theology & Bible  
Clearwater Christian College  
drdanebert@hotmail.com

Dr. Jim Barstow  
Senior Pastor  
Centerpoint Community Church  
515 Sunrise Avenue  
Roseville, CA, 95678  
jbarstow@centerpointroseville.org

Rev. Nancy Duff  
Associate Pastor

Centerpoint Community Church  
515 Sunrise Avenue  
Roseville, CA, 95678  
[nduff@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:nduff@centerpointroseville.org)