

ROLAND J. DE VRIES

curriculum vitae 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CORE COMPETENCIES

With nearly 25 years of theological, administrative, and organizational leadership in theological education and in congregational/church life, I have developed strong management, communication, and strategic planning abilities. My creative capacities mean that challenges and opportunities are faced proactively, and with an eye for innovative solutions. I value relationships, and the building of these in the service of Christ's Body and of his mission. Recent professional experiences have taught me the value of global relationships and intercultural relationships for nurturing personal and institutional wellbeing.

EMPLOYMENT

- Principal, The Presbyterian College, June 2021 – present
(Acting Principal, Fall 2019; Interim Principal, June 2020-June 2021)
 - Provide spiritual, theological, academic, and organizational leadership to the college, while working collaboratively with affiliated institutions, including the Montreal School of Theology (MST) and the School of Religious Studies, McGill University (SRS). Working with the Board of Governors, provide leadership and support in shaping the College's vision and mission and their implementation. Serve as an ambassador for the College both within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and in relation to the broader church. Contribute to the work of our partner colleges by sitting on the Academic Committee of MST, sitting on the BTh Committee of SRS, and serving as Director of MST on a rotational basis.
- Director of Pastoral Studies, The Presbyterian College, 2015-2021
 - Teaching in the areas of Congregational Mission, Reformed Ecclesiology and Confessions, and Contemporary Theological Issues. Coordinating and providing oversight for student ministry placements and leading a Preaching Tutorial. Sharing in administration of Learning Effectiveness Assessment Program (of the M.Div. program) in the Montreal School of Theology. Chairing of the Bursary and Facilities Committees of the college.

- Affiliate and Lecturer, School of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2010 - present
 - Courses Taught: - Forgiveness and Reconciliation
 - Theology of Disability
 - Christianity in Global Perspective
 - Introduction to Systematic Theology
- Christian Minister, Kensington Presbyterian Church, Montreal, 2008 - 2015
 - Provided pastoral and imaginative leadership to a congregation in transition. Through seven years of ministry, together with the elders of Kensington, addressed and overcame numerous financial and property challenges, developed compelling and blended worship in a non-traditional worship space, launched novel mission relationships with local community organizations, and experimented with new forms of ministry through jazz vespers and faith/arts events.
- Lecturer and Adjunct Faculty Member, The Presbyterian College (and Montreal School of Theology), 2009-2013
 - Courses Taught: - The Presbyterian Tradition
 - Christian Ethics
 - Reformed Confessions
- Interim Director of Field Education, The Presbyterian College, Fall 2007.
 - Responsibilities included the supervision of placements for students in Masters-level program, teaching in practical theology, and administration of final-year program.
- Minister, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pierrefonds Quebec, 2001-2004. Part-time.
- Customer Service Agent and Customer Relations Specialist, CIBC Finance, 1994-1997.
 - Customer support for representatives of CIBC branches in relation to student loan processing and repayment. Resolution of customer concerns and complaints through interface with branches, payment processing department, and document center.

EDUCATION

- PhD, 2009 – Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Master of Divinity (with distinction), 2001 – The Presbyterian College, Montreal
- Master of Sacred Theology, 2000 – Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Bachelor of Arts, 1994 – Faculty of Arts, University of Guelph

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 'Pastoral Ministry as Unfinished,' (Forthcoming) in *A Festschrift* in honour of the Rev. Dr. Stuart Macdonald (Knox College), edited by Ernest van Eck and John Vissers.
- 'Creation, Sacrament, and Poetry, with Charles Taylor' (Forthcoming) in a volume celebrating the 150th anniversary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, edited by Sarah Travis and Robert Revington.
- 'Rûah and Pneuma in Judeo-Christianity,' in *Handbook of Critical Respiratory Studies: Breath and Air in Humanities and Social Sciences*, Springer Nature, Switzerland, (2026)
https://link.springer.com/rwe/10.1007/978-3-031-75780-8_40-1
- 'In the Interest of Theological Education', in *Journal of Council for Research on Religion* Vol. 4 No. 2 (2023), 96-99. <https://creor-ejournal.library.mcgill.ca/article/view/93>
- 'Becoming a Guest: Christology and Ecclesiological Identity,' *Revue Théologique*, Vol. 25 No. 2 (2017), p. 163-182. https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/08_de-vries-1.pdf
- Becoming Two in Love: Kierkegaard, Irigaray and the ethics of sexual difference*, (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications), 2013.
- 'With Irigaray: Toward a Theology of Hospitality,' *L'Ésprit Créateur*, H. Bostic (special ed.), Vol. 52 No. 3 (Fall, 2012), 52-65. <https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/with-luce-irigaray-hospitality.pdf>
- 'Sharing Air: Becoming Two in the Spirit' in Luce Irigaray and Mary Green (eds), *Luce Irigaray: Teaching* (London: Continuum, 2008), 142-155.
- 'Wonder Between Two: An Irigarayan Reading of Genesis 2:23,' *Modern Theology*, Vol. 24 No. 1 (January, 2008), 51-74. <https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/wonder-between-two.pdf>

ACADEMIC and ECCLESIAL PRESENTATIONS

- "Preaching through Interculturality" — Lecture to PhD class in preaching at Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary, Seoul, South Korea, November 2024.
- "Forgiveness and Reconciliation – Between Taiwan and Canada," Yu-Shan Theological Seminary Annual Conference for Indigenous Pastors, November 2022.
- "The Ground of Encounter: Becoming a Guest/Host," Taiwan Theological Consultation of the PCT and PCC, Yu-Shan Theological Seminary, May 2016.
- "Physician-Assisted Death: Dying as we Live," Conference of The Presbyterian College, Physician-Assisted Death: Faithfulness in a new Landscape, February 2016.

“*Sola Scriptura: A sacramental defense*,” The Committee on Church History of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation, October 2015.

“Spiritual Practices and *Found Theology: Quash and Coakley in Conversation*,” Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) Biennial Conference, Theology and the Visual Arts Track, June 2015.

‘Mind the Gap! Luce Irigaray and Søren Kierkegaard on Mediation between Woman and Man, Man and Woman,’ Doktorklub Meeting of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, October, 2006.

‘Becoming Two in Love,’ presented at University of Nottingham, Seminar and Conference with Luce Irigaray, June, 2006.

Review of William Schweiker, *Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics: In the Time of Many Worlds*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2004. In *ARC*, Vol. 34 (2006), 307-309.

‘Toward a Reformed Theology of Mission for Canadian Presbyterians,’ (with John A. Vissers) Presented to the Presbyterian Church in Canada Conference on Active Evangelism, 2002.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS (selection)

<i>Christian Courier</i>	Sculpture Selfies	https://www.christiancourier.ca/sculpture-selfies/
<i>Christian Courier</i>	Life in Translation	https://www.christiancourier.ca/life-in-translation/
<i>Christian Courier</i>	Nutty Idiots	https://www.christiancourier.ca/nutty-idiots/
<i>Christian Courier</i>	Breath and Breathless	https://www.christiancourier.ca/breath-and-breathless/
<i>Christian Courier</i>	A Boy’s Lot and Luck	https://www.christiancourier.ca/a-boys-lot-and-luck/
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	God is good, all the time?	April 2016
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	National Immigration Day?	October 2015
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	Travelling Together, in Suffering	October 2014
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	Change in the Church	May 2014

OTHER ACADEMIC AND ECCLESIAL INVOLVEMENT

- Member, Committee on Church Doctrine, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2013-2019, 2021-present.
- Board Member, Action Réfugiés, Montréal, 2017 – 2024.

- Columnist, *The Christian Courier*, January 2017 – 2023.
- Convener, Assets Committee, The Presbytery of Montreal, June 2016 – January 2020.
- Lecturer, Taiwan Graduate School of Theology – teaching an M.Div. and M.A./Ph.D. course in Forgiveness and Reconciliation, May 2017.
- Moderator, The Presbytery of Montreal, June 2014 – June 2016.
- Member (Alumni Representative), Academic Committee, The Presbyterian College 2009 – 2013.
- Counselor, Presbyterian Church in Canada Guidance Conference, August 2010 and April 2013.
- Supervisor of In-Ministry-Year (pastoral internship) students of The Presbyterian College, in 2012-13, 2010-11, and 2009-10.
- Convener, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Presbytery of Montreal, June 2009 – 2012; also, in 2003-2004.
- Convener, Special Committee to Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Montreal, January – June 2011.
- Member, Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean for the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2007.
- Member, Search Committee for the Appointment of a Professor of Religion and Society, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2006.
- Member, Strategic Planning Project Group, Presbytery of Montreal, 2004-05.
- Student Representative, Senate of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, 1999 – 2000.
- Coordinator and Chairperson, West Island Ethics Series, Montreal, 2003.
Public lectures/panels, sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Direction Chrétienne, and the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill.
- Convener, Project Group on Civil Unions, Presbytery of Montreal, 2002.

AWARDS

- First Place, Features (NonFiction), Canadian Christian Communicators, 2021
- First Prize, Single Column Category, Word Guild Awards, 2020
- Principal's Dissertation Fellowship, McGill University, 2007
- Finlay Samuel Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University

- Dean's Travel Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Seminar with/by Luce Irigaray, University of Nottingham, 2006
- Dean's Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2005, 2003, 2001
- Excellence in the In-Ministry-Year, Presbyterian College (2001)
Johnston Prize in Presbyterian Church History, Presbyterian College (2001)
Hobus Prize for Progress in Preaching, Presbyterian College (2001)
G. Deane Johnston Prize in Mission, Presbyterian College (2001)
- Kydd Prize for Excellence in STM 2, Presbyterian College (2000)
Anderson Prize in New Testament, Presbyterian College (2000)