

Vanessa L. Lovelace, PhD

Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Chief Academic Officer and Seminary Dean
- Administrative acumen in curriculum design, faculty development, and review, and effectiveness assessment of educational programs
- Astute adherence to and preparation of cyclical accreditation reports
- Effective communicator in writing, public speaking, and instruction
- Intentional and commendable rapport with students, staff, faculty, trustees, alumni/ae, church and community leaders effective

EDUCATION

PhD in Bible (Hebrew), Culture, and Hermeneutics

2012

Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL

Dissertation Title: “Deborah and Huldah: Symbolic Border Guards
in the Deuteronomistic History”

Advisor: Ken Stone, PhD

External Reader: Linda Thomas, PhD, Lutheran School of Theology

External Reader: Esther Menn, PhD, Lutheran School of Theology

Master of Divinity

2000

McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL

BA in Radio & Television

1985

San Francisco State University in San Francisco, CA

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Certificate in Online Teaching

2017

University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI

ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Associate Dean

July 2021—Present

Vice President of Academic Affairs *and* Dean
Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA

July 2019—July 2021

- Manage faculty deployment for effective course scheduling; hire adjunct professors; assist with hiring faculty.
- Assure adherence to accreditation standards and preparation of periodic reports.
- Assist with departmental budget preparation and management.
- Supervise student services support staff including registrar, admissions and financial aid personnel, field education coordinator, and chaplains.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees.
- Support the Board of Trustees as liaison to the Education and Student Life Committee of the Board.
- Supervise online learning management system and virtual meeting platforms personnel in training and use by faculty, staff, and students.
- Develop and implement with senior staff "scenario planning" for fiscal and educational responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

Master of Divinity Degree Program Coordinator **July 2016—May 2019**
Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA

- Assisted with preparing accreditation reports and Quality Enhancement Plan.
- Assisted with budget preparation and management.
- Provided academic advising and support to assigned students.
- Coordinated classes and instructors to align with curriculum course schedules.
- Recruited and hired adjunct faculty to complement our full-time faculty to offset course load limits.

Institutional Service **2012—2019**
Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA

- Master of Divinity Degree Program Coordinator (2017–2019)
- Chair, Curriculum Review and Revision Task Force Committee (2015–2018)
- Chair, Admissions Committee (2013–Present)
- Faculty Status, Tenure, and Welfare Committee (2015–2019)
- Curriculum and Educational Policies Committee (2015–2019)
- Ministry and Context Director Search Committee (2016–17)
- Biblical Studies Faculty Search Committee (2015, 2017–2018)
- Safety Planning Ad-Hoc Committee (2014)
- Chapel Committee (2013–2014)
- IE/QEP Committee (2012–2015, 2016–2019)

TEACHING

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament **July 2019—Present**
Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA

- Collaborate with biblical studies colleagues teaching Interpreting the Bible and Old Testament and New Testament courses on a rotation basis.
- Remain current in literature, trends, standards, and methods of delivery in teaching and learning in the classroom.

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament **July 2016—June 2019**
Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA

- Tenured April 2019
- Developed courses that met degree and course learning outcomes and assessed student learning experiences.
- Used backward design and assessment methods appropriate for achieving student progress towards learning outcomes.
- Adapted pedagogical tools and approaches for online, synchronous, asynchronous, and in-person student learning experiences.
- Guided Doctor of Ministry students in developing their project proposals.

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

July 2012—June 2016

Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA

- Developed courses that met degree and course learning outcomes and assessed student learning experiences.
- Taught online courses through Moodle in the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, and Doctor of Ministry programs.
- Guided Doctor of Ministry students in developing their project proposals.
- *MDiv Residential Courses*
 - Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
 - Introduction to Biblical Hebrew I & II
 - Deuteronomy, Exodus, Judges, The Psalms
 - Womanist Biblical Interpretation
 - Bible, Race, Gender, Sexuality and Pastoral Care
- *MDiv Distance Learning Courses*
 - Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
 - Lamentations
 - Books of Joshua, 1 Kings, Jeremiah
 - Prophets and Prophecies in Ancient Israel
- *DMin Seminar*
 - Biblical Reflections

Adjunct Professor

October 5–6 and 19–20, 2018

Mississippi Course of Study School at Millsaps College in Jackson, MI

- Course: Bible II: Torah and Israel's History

Co-Facilitator

Fall 2018

Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MI

- Directed Study, Online: Readings in Womanist Religious Thought

Adjunct Professor

August–May 2003–2012

Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, IL

- *BA Courses*
 - Biblical Studies and Contemporary Issues
 - Women in Biblical Literature
 - Theologies of Liberation

Adjunct Professor

Spring 2011

Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, OH

- *MDiv Course*

- Introduction to Womanist and Feminist Theology

PUBLICATIONS

- **Scholarly**

“What I’ve Learned.” In *Black Scholars Matter: Visions, Struggles and Hopes in Africana Biblical Studies*. Edited by Hugh Page and Gay L. Byron, 109–112. Atlanta: SBL Press, in-press, anticipated October 2022.

“Feminist/Womanist Interpretation of Hosea Then and Now.” In *Oxford Handbook of the Book of Hosea*. Edited by Brad Kelle. New York: Oxford University Press, accepted.

“Psalm 100: Worship the Lord with Rousing Acclamation!” In *Psalms. Texts@Contexts*. Edited by Athalya Brenner-Idan and Archie Lee. New York: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, accepted.

Outsiders Within: A Womanist Reading of Hebrew Bible Narratives as the Politics of Belonging. Completed; under contract with Lexington Books.

“Jonah.” In *Oxford Handbook of the Minor Prophets*. Edited by Julia O’Brien, 449–460. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

“Hagar in Nineteenth-Century Southern Women’s Novels.” In *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible*. Edited by Susanne Scholz, 389–405. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

“Working in a Religious Context.” Biblical Scholarship in North America. In *Women and the Society of Biblical Literature*. Edited by Nicole Tilford, 285–296. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

Bachmann, Mercedes L. García, and Vanessa Lovelace. “Contributing Voices: Deborah in the African American Tradition.” In *Judges. Wisdom Commentary Series*, vol. 17, edited by Ahida Pilarski, 70–74. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2018.

“The Deuteronomistic History: Intersections of Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality, and Nation.” In *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*. Edited by Gale A. Yee, 75–104. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018.

Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse, co-edited with Gay L. Byron. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2016.

“‘We Don’t Give Birth to Thugs’: Family Values, Respectability Politics and Jephthah’s Mother.” In *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*, edited by Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace, 239–261. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2016.

“This Woman’s Son Shall Not Inherit with My Son: Towards a Womanist Politics of Belonging in the Sarah-Hagar Narratives.” *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* 41 (2015): 63–82.

“Religious Leaders: Hebrew Bible.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies*, Vol. 2 – PAT - WOM. Edited by Julia M. O’Brien. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, 167–173.

"*Leaving Church: a Memoir of Faith.*" Chicago Theological Seminary Register, 94 no 2-3 Sum-Fall 2007, 57–58.

"Introduction to the African Presence Notes." In *NIV Aspire: The New Women of Color Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006, xii.

- **Reviews**

Susanne Scholz, ed., *Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Retrospect II: Social Locations, Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>] (2019).

Wilda C. Gafney, *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 40, no. 2 (2018): 212–215.

Nyasha Junior, *An Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79, no. 4 (October 2017): 684–685.

Mark McEntire, *A Chorus of Prophetic Voices: Introducing the Prophetic Literature of Ancient Israel* and James D. Nogalski, *Interpreting Prophetic Literature: Historical and Exegetical Tools for Reading the Prophets*. *Biblical Interpretation* 26, no. 3 (2018): 421–427.

David Watson, *The Question of Conscience: Higher Education and Personal Responsibility*. Wabash Center for Teaching Religion and Theology *Reflective Teaching* website, March 5, 2015, https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/book_reviews/the-question-of-conscience-higher-education-and-personal-responsibility/.

Naomi Steinberg, *The World of the Child in the Hebrew Bible*. *Biblical Interpretation* 22, no. 5, (2014): 217–219.

Jennifer L. Koosed, *Gleaning Ruth: A Biblical Heroine and Her Afterlives*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 74, no. 3 (July 2012): 577–578.

- **Popular Contributions**

"Toward a Model of Mutual Relationship in African American Marriages" in *Mutuality*, vol. 23, no. 2, Summer 2016, 21–23.

- **Web-Based**

"Hagar in Fiction." In *Oxford Encyclopedias of the Bible*, edited by Vanessa Lovelace. *Oxford Biblical Studies Online*. <http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t998/e49>.

Contributing Author, Commentary on Working Preacher website, https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2_lovelace_vanessa.

- **Lecture**

"Race, Gender and Nation, and the Politics of Belonging." Genevieve Staudt Intercultural Lecture at Elmhurst University, March 16, 2022.

- **Webinars and Workshops**

Anti-Racist Pedagogies in the Undergraduate Bible Class: De-Centering Whiteness Online Workshop. "Reading Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Narratives as an Exercise in Anti-Racism." July 29, 2021.

Association of Theological Schools, Women in Leadership Mentoring. “Navigating the interlocking impact of Gender, Race, and Class in the Workplace.” June 30, 2021.

The Wabash Center Dialogue on Teaching Podcast. Episode 107: “Student Preparation.” February 11, 2021.

United Church of Christ webinar. “Lessons from the Hebrew Bible: The Enduring Resilience of African-descended Women.” March 21, 2021.

St. Mary’s Ecumenical Institute Online. “Outsider Within: A Womanist Reading of the Hebrew Bible Narratives as the Politics of Belonging.” November 18, 2020

#BlackScholarsMatter Symposium, Society of Biblical Literature. “Lessons and Hopes.” August 13, 2020.

Association of Theological Schools Webinar. “What Do We Do About Commencement? How Schools Are Responding Amidst COVID-19.” April 9, 2020.

First Reading: The Old Testament Lectionary Podcast. “Isaiah 43:16-2.” April 7, 2019, <https://firstreadingpodcast.com/podcast/isaiah-4316-21-with-vanessa-lovelace/>.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, *by Invitation*

“Rethinking Christian Identity, Reframing the Chosen People and Reclamation of ‘The New Negro,’” Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Section, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Atlanta, GA, November 23, 2015.

“Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Jacquelyn Grant’s *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus*,” Joint Session with African-American Biblical Hermeneutics, Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible, Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation, Women in the Biblical World, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), San Diego, CA, November 22, 2014.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Review of *Womanist Interpretation of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*, Joint Session of the Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible and Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation sections; Respondent, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2016.

“From White to Black to White: The Depiction of the Biblical Figure Hagar in Nineteenth-Century Southern Women’s Novels,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2015.

“Twenty-Five Years after *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus*: ‘We’ Still Means White Feminists and Womanist Still Matters,” 2015 Charles B. Copher Annual Faculty Lecture, Atlanta, GA, March 26, 2015.

“Essays on Bible and Gender Studies,” Discussion, 2015 Celebration of AUC (Atlanta University Center) Faculty Achievements, Atlanta, GA, March 19, 2015.

“Anti-Racism, Multiculturalism, and Pedagogy”; “Connecting Research to Teaching.”
Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Pre-Tenure Theological School
Faculty, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, June 27, 2014.

Joint Session of the Disputed Paulines and Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible sections,
Respondent, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, MD,
November 24, 2013.

“People, Power, and Politics: Preaching Jeremiah in Year C.” The Main Event, Presbytery of
Sheppards & Lapsley, North Alabama Presbytery, Birmingham, AL, August 10, 2013.

“Diary of a Mad Black Woman: Intersectionality, Divine Revelation and the Institutionalization
of Black Women,” RHAW (Religious Heritage of the African World) Brown Bag Lecture,
Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, March 20, 2013.

“Female Honor in Genesis 16:1–5,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature,
Philadelphia, PA, November 22, 2005.

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & CONSULTATIONS

Association of Theological Schools 2019 Roundtable Seminar for Midcareer Faculty,
April 5–6, 2019.

UNCF/Mellon 2017 Faculty Domestic Seminar: New Directions in Gender and Sexuality
Studies, October 12–14, 2017.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop for Theological
School Faculty Teaching Online, 2016–17.

Sisters with Sons in the Wilderness: A Womanist Roundtable Discussion, Chicago Theological
Seminary, April 7–9, 2016.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Workshop for
Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty, 2013–2014.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Summer Fellowship
“Integrating Theory of Gender and Nation into Biblical Studies: Teaching and Learning for
Inclusion,” Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 2014.

Publish or Perish? An Academic Writing Institute for Atlanta University Center Junior Faculty.
Participant, December 15–16, 2014.

Forum for Theological Exploration Doctoral Alumni Consultation, 2015 and 2012.

Fund for Theological Education Doctoral Fellows Conference, University of Notre Dame,
June 11–13, 2004.

AWARDS & HONORS

35th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. International College

April 2021

of Ministers and Laity Collegium of Scholars Inductee	
International Society of Theta Phi Inductee Interdenominational Theological Center	Spring 2017
Student Christian League Faculty Member of the Year Award Interdenominational Theological Center	2016—2017
The Fund for Theological Education North American Doctoral Fellowship	2004
United Church of Christ Make A Difference! Doctoral Award	2002, 2004, 2006
Dr. Manford Byrd, Jr. Scholarship Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago	2003, 2004, 2006
Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Theological Students	2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, *since 2004*
 Society of Biblical Literature, *since 2003*
 Society for the Study of Black Religion, *since 2015*
 Ordained Minister, United Church of Christ, *since 2001*
 Lancaster Association, Penn Central Conference

VOLUNTEERISM

Association of Theological Schools	2020—Present
Committee on Race and Ethnicity (CORE) in Theological Education Co-Chair African American CEOs and CAOs Editorial Board, <i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>	2021—Present 2017—Present
Society of Biblical Literature Program Unit Co-Chair, Women in the Biblical World Section On-Campus Student Representative	2015—2020 2007—2010
American Academy of Religion Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession	2019—Present

WORK EXPERIENCE, *Other*

Freelance Writer. <i>Urban Ministries, Inc.</i> , Calumet City, IL Researched and wrote adult Sunday School curriculum with cultural relevance and contemporary issues to Bible lessons.	1998—2015
Editor/Reviewer. <i>Aspire: The New Women of Color Bible Study Bible</i> , Grand Rapids, MI Reviewed Hebrew Bible footnotes for linguistic, theological, historical,	2007

and cultural accuracy.

Student Intern. DEPTH Youth Program September 2002—June 2003

Discover, Explore, Partner, where Transformation Happens, Chicago, IL

Student coordinator for immersion service weekend pairing youth from diverse backgrounds interested in ministry as a vocation with community agencies that addressed homelessness, hunger, affordable housing, economic justice, and environmental justice.

Assistant Pastor and Director of Youth Ministries February 2000—June 2002

Immanuel United Church of Christ, Evergreen Park, IL

Assisted adolescents in Christian formation through confirmation classes, Bible study, community service, and social activities. Provided pastoral support, including preaching, worship planning, visiting members, pastoral care, and counseling.

Media Development Director July 1993—December 1996

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Corporate Office, Chicago, IL

Managed a staff of three in reviewing, editing, publishing, and mailing of the organization's main communication organ, *Ivy Leaf* magazine. Designed and printed documents for biennial meeting committees and special events.