

CATHERINE L. McDOWELL, Ph.D.

Professor of Old Testament
Chair, Biblical Studies
Palm Beach Atlantic University
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EDUCATION

Harvard University	Cambridge, M.A.
Ph.D., Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations	2009
M.A., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations	2005
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary	S. Hamilton, M.A.
M.A., Religion (with a concentration in Biblical Languages), <i>summa cum laude</i>	1997
M.A., Old Testament Studies, <i>summa cum laude</i>	1996
University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.
B.A., History	1990

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Palm Beach Atlantic University (West Palm Beach, FL)</i>	2024-present
Professor of Old Testament Chair, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies	
<i>Emmaus Biblical Seminary at Emmaus University (Cercaville, Haiti)</i>	starting Fall 2025
Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Chair, Biblical Studies	
<i>Séminaire Théologique Mondelus</i>	2021-2024
Associate Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament	
<i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte, NC)</i>	
Associate Professor of Old Testament	2011-2024
Adjunct Professor of Old Testament	2024-
<i>Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL)</i>	
Assistant Professor of Old Testament	2010-2011
<i>Eteachergroup.com</i>	2008-2010
Faculty, Classical Hebrew teacher	
<i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Hamilton, MA)</i>	
Adjunct Professor of Classical Hebrew	2009-2010
Assistant Professor of Old Testament	2002-2004
Departmental Hebrew Tutor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary	1994-1996
Hebrew Byington Award, an assistantship awarded to a high-ranking student to tutor in Biblical Hebrew in the Hebrew Department.	1993-1994
<i>Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Boston, MA)</i>	2002-2004
Assistant Professor of Old Testament	
<i>Harvard University</i>	
Teaching Fellow, Biblical Archaeology	2001
Teaching Fellow, History of the Ancient Near East	2001
Teaching Fellow, Classical Hebrew A	2000-2001
Teaching Fellow, Syro-Palestinian Pottery Seminar	1999, 2001
Participant in a four-part seminar for Teaching Fellows on "Teaching Foreign	1999

Languages,” sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
 Participant, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Conference, 1999, 2000
 Harvard University

Boston University

Guest Lecturer, “The Discovery of Two Phoenician Ships: the 1999 Ashkelon Deep Sea Expedition” 2000

OTHER RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Faculty Search Committee - Bennett Chair in Preaching	2023
Program Director for the MA in Old Testament, Charlotte campus	2019 - 2022
Faculty Planning and Policy Committee	2016-2021
Moderator for the Alumni Council forum, “Can Women Lead Men?” with Dr. Ben Witherington and Sharon MacWilmshurst	2017
GCTS representative, PCA General Assembly Luncheon, Greensboro, NC	2017
Distance Education Roundtable Faculty Panel (represented GCTS-Charlotte)	2017
Strategic Planning Committee (Academic Excellence subcommittee)	2016-2017
Library Committee	2016-2017
Faculty Search Committee - New Testament	2016-2017
Academic Affairs Committee, Charlotte Campus	2011 - present
Cooley Center Steering Committee, Charlotte Campus	2011-2020
BibleJourney Advisory Committee, Charlotte Campus	2011-2015
Faculty Search Committee - New Testament	2021-2022
Spiritual Life Committee, Charlotte Campus	2013
Course Scheduling Committee, Charlotte Campus	2013
Integrated Learning and Technology Committee, Charlotte Campus	2013
Faculty Self-Study Committee, Charlotte Campus	2013
Judicial Committee, Charlotte Campus	2012-2015, 2023-2024
Educational Planning and Policy Committee	2012
Biblical Languages Committee	2004
Self Study Committee, Chair	2003

Institute for Biblical Research,

Board Member - IBR Website Manager	2021 - present
<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i> , Editorial Board	2020-2023
Regional Leader (Southeast Region)	2020 - present

Hendrickson Publishers

	2009
Proofreader (Jo Ann Hackett, <i>A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew</i>)	

PUBLICATIONS

Study notes on Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Malachi and sidebars, "Is God's judgment just?" and "Is Nahum denigrating women?" for <i>Every Woman's Bible</i> , Tyndale House.	2024
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"On Being Human: Some Biblical and Theological Reflections," in <i>Dignitas</i> , a journal of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity at Trinity International University.	2023
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"The Image of God," p. 347-351 in <i>The Dictionary of the New Testament Use of the Old Testament</i> , edited by G. K. Beale, D. A. Carson, Benjamin L. Gladd, and Andrew David Naselli, Baker Academic.	2023
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"[Akkadian Cognates and Scripture](#)" in Gordon P. Hugenberger with Nancy L. Erickson, 2023

- Basics of Akkadian: A Grammar, Workbook, and Glossary*. Zondervan.
- "[Human Identity and Purpose Redefined: Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:5-25 in Context](#)," 2021
Advances in Ancient Biblical and Near Eastern Research Vol 1.3: 29-44.
- [The Rewards of Learning Greek and Hebrew: Discovering the Richness of the Bible in Its Original Languages](#), Hendrickson. Co-authored with Dr. Philip Towner, Dean of the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society. 2021
- "[What Isaiah Knew: the LORD is God and there is No Other](#)," in 2021
Southeastern Theological Review Vol. 12. No. 1.
- "Canaanites and Canaanite Religion," "Philistines," and the study notes for 1-2 Kings 2020
[Baker Illustrated Bible Background Commentary](#).
- Introductions and Study Notes for 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, and 1-2 Chronicles in the 2018
[ESV Archaeological Study Bible](#), Crossway. Winner of the ECPA Book of the Year Award for Bibles (2019).
- [In the Image of God He Created Them: How Gen 1:26-27 Defines the Divine-Human Relationship and Why It Matters](#)," p. 29-46 in *The Image of God in an Image Driven Age: Explorations in Theological Anthropology*, InterVarsity Press. 2016
- [The Image of God in the Garden of Eden: The Creation of Humankind in Gen 2:5-3:24 in Light of the mis pi/pit pi and wpt-r Rituals of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt](#), 2015
Eisenbrauns.
- "I AM and they are not" for "Opening the Word," *Contact Magazine*, Gordon-Conwell 2013
Theological Seminary.
- "Idols and Idol Making" in *NIV Archaeology Study Bible*, Grand Rapids, MI: 2005
Zondervan.
- "Exegetical Insight: What a Difference a Pronoun Makes" and "Exegetical Insight: A Word is Worth a Thousand Pictures" (under the author's former name, Catherine Beckerleg) in Gary D. Pratico and Miles Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew*, Zondervan. 2001
- "[Tombs I, II, and III of Tell Dothan's Western Cemetery](#)," 1995
Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research, Vol. 298: 75-76.

SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Lifeway CSB Women's Study Bible*, Introductions and Study Notes for Genesis and 2024
1-2 Kings.

CURRENT WRITING PROJECTS

- Idolatry* (Title TBD) in the [Essential Studies in Biblical Theology](#) series, 2025
InterVarsity Press (under contract, due Spring 2025)
- The Hebrew Construct Chain*, in a new series entitled *Advancing in Biblical Hebrew*, 2025
Miles Van Pelt, ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan (under contract).
- Commentary on Nahum in the new *Reformed Exegetical and Theological Commentary on Scripture* series (under contract) 2027

PAPERS PRESENTED

- "Created in God's Image and According to His Likeness: What it Means and Why it Matters," [Abila Lecture](#) at John Brown University 2023
- "The Image of God and the Divine-Human Relationship," Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, San Antonio, T.X. 2023
- Review of H. H. Hardy II and Matthew McAfee, *Going Deeper with Biblical Hebrew: an Intermediate Study of the Grammar and Syntax of the Old Testament*, B&H Academic. Presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, Denver, C.O. 2022
- The Rewards of Learning Greek and Hebrew: Discovering the Richness of the Bible in its Original Languages*, Hendrickson. Presentation at the German Bible Society's session at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature *cancelled due to COVID 2021
- "Human Identity and Purpose Redefined: Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:5-25 in Context" Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Faculty Colloquium 2021
- "Created in God's Image: Humanity as Royal Children of God," Biblical Theological Seminary, Cap-Haïtien, Haiti 2021
- "Human Identity and Purpose Redefined: Genesis 2:5-25 In Context," American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting (online) 2020
- "The Image of God in the Kingdom of God: Israel as Image and Son" Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, FL 2019
- "The Image of God in the Kingdom of God: Israel as Image and Son" *Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar* at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in San Antonio, TX 2016
- "In the Image of God He Created Them: How Gen 1:26-27 Defines the Divine-Human Relationship and Why It Matters," *Wheaton Theology Conference*, Wheaton, IL 2015
- "Created in God's Image: The meaning of *selem* and *demut* in Genesis 1" *Institute of Biblical Research* Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD 2013
- "The Presence of God in the Garden of Eden," *Divine Presence Conference in Honor of Dr. Gary D. Pratico*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, MA 2013
- "There's No Place like Home: the Image of God in the Garden of Eden" *Cooley Lecture*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 2011
- "Man as the Image of God in Light of the Mesopotamian Mouth-Washing and Opening Ritual," *Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature*, Boston, MA 2008
- "New Light on Genesis 1-3 and Man as the Image of God," *Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting*, Providence, RI 2008
- "In the Image of Yahweh Elohim: Humanity as the 'Royal Son' of Yahweh in Genesis 1-3 in Light of the Mesopotamian *mis pi* and *pit pi* Ritual," Hebrew Bible Workshop, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University 2008
- "The Creation, Animation and Enthronement of ha-adam in Genesis 2:7-25," 1999

Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA
“Born from Above: The Creation of Divine Images in Mesopotamia and Ancient Israel,” 1999
Mesopotamian and Ancient Near Eastern Religion Workshop, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

“Image of Yahweh or Icon of Israel? The Israelite High Priest as a Royal-Divine Figure” 1999
Problems in the History and Literature of Ancient Israel Seminar, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

BLOG POSTS

[Why Biblical Archaeology Matters](#) 2017

[Why do Christians Care about Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls?](#) 2017

PODCASTS

Edenverse: Exploring the Bible through the Lens of the Original Audience
[What's the Deal with Gardens?](#) 2023
[We're a Bunch of Statues](#) 2023

The Stone Chapel Podcasts (with Dr. David Capes) 2022
[On the Rewards of Learning Greek and Hebrew: Discovering the Richness of the Biblical Languages](#)

Hebrew Bible Insights with Matthew Delaney 2022
[Episode 25: The Rewards of Learning Biblical Hebrew](#)

Exegetically Speaking 2022
A weekly podcast hosted by Dr. David Capes, "Exegetically Speaking" features language experts who discuss the importance of learning biblical languages.
[How to Insult with a Consonant](#)
[Hebrew Word Order and Boaz's Generosity](#)

Bite-Size Seminary with J.C. Schroder 2021
[The Rewards of Learning Greek and Hebrew](#)

Guest Speaker in a short documentary on the authors of the Bible, created by Dru Johnson, Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies and Director of [The Center for Hebraic Thought](#) 2021

[Conversation on the Imago Dei](#) on *The Charge with Dennis Metzler* 2021

LAY PRESENTATIONS

John Brown University, Siloam Springs, A.R., Faculty Colloquium 2023
"Puns, Sarcasm, Insults, and Emphasis: Literary Features in the Hebrew Old Testament and How to Translate Them"

North Carolina Study Center, Chapel Hill, N.C. 2018-2020
Genesis 1-2 Oct 2018
The Temple and the Presence of God Nov 2019
The Return of the King: Redemption Completed April 2019, April 2020

Redeemer School Parent, Teacher, and Staff Luncheon, Winston-Salem, N.C. 2017
“The True Story of the Whole World: Understanding the Metanarrative of Scripture”

Redeemer School Staff and Faculty Training, Winston-Salem, NC 2016

“The Good News About Jesus: the Formative Power of God’s Word”

National Conference on Preaching, Charlotte, N.C. 2013
“How Biblical Archaeology Informs the Task of Preaching: a Case Study in the 8th c. Prophets”

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

John Brown University, Siloam Springs, A.R., Chapel Speaker 2023
“Our True Identity”

Calvary Day School, Winston-Salem, N.C. Chapel Speaker 2022
“Who is Jesus? Colossians 1:15-23”

Keynote Speaker, "Created in the Image and Likeness of God" 2024
Women's Ministry at Rutgers Community Christian Church, Somerset, NJ.
Chinese and Chinese-American congregation.

Women's Retreat Speaker: "Brokenness, Beauty, and the Image of God" 2023
Trinitarian Congregational Church, Wayland, MA
Kenwood Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH (planned for 2023, date TBD)

First Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC 2020 - 2022
Teacher - Sunday Adult Education Equipping Hour
12 week class on the Old Testament using Sandra Ritcher, *The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament* (Fall 2022)
12 week class on the Book of Job (Fall 2021)
8 week class on M. Goheen and C. Bartholomew, *The Drama of Scripture* (Fall 2020)
10 week class on Exodus (Winter/Spring 2021)
Advent Devotional, Contributor ("A Carpenter’s Courage; Matthew 1:18-25")

Calvary Day School, Winston-Salem, NC
Substitute High School Swim Coach 2020
Guest Speaker - Western Civilization course for 9th grade 2020

West Winston Ladies Book Club, Winston-Salem, NC 2019
Host and Leader of a bi-monthly book club/outreach

Westwood Pool and Tennis Club, Winston-Salem, NC 2016 – 2022
Board Member, Swim Committee

Redeemer School, Winston-Salem, NC 2016 – 2017
Board Member
Bi-weekly Teaching and Training for Middle School Bible Teachers
Staff Development Speaker
Guest Speaker at the Parent Luncheon

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC
Adult Education (Curriculum Development and Teaching) 2006, 2012–2018
Biblical Hebrew Language Instructor 2004–2006

Park Street Church, Boston, MA
Deacon (of Christian Education) 2002–2004
Adult Education Teacher 2000–2002, 2010
Courses taught: Old Testament Survey, Amos, Nahum, Bible Study Methodology, Genesis 1–3

Vision New England, Acton, MA

Conference Speaker	2001, 2002
Topics presented:	
You are What You Worship: Wrestling with the Idols of Our Age	
Unlocking the Scriptures	
Consultant for Leadership Training Curriculum Development	2000–2002

HONORS AND AWARDS

<i>Institute for Biblical Research - Women Summer Writing Retreat Award Recipient</i>	2022
Selected from among female biblical scholars in the US and Canada to attend a 5-day writing retreat at Shaker Village in Pleasant Hill, K.Y.	
<i>Green Scholars Initiative (GSI) Scholar-Mentor</i>	2013
<i>Faculty Development Grant, Wheaton College (IL)</i>	2010
<i>Graduate Student Council Fall Conference Grant, Harvard University</i>	2008
An extremely competitive prize to cover expenses incurred while attending an academic conference. Awarded by a committee of deans, faculty and graduate students of Harvard University.	
<i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, awarded by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education for excellence in the teaching of undergraduates in Harvard College.</i>	2001–2002
<i>Website Grant, Harvard University's Instructional Computing Group, for the creation and implementation of a website for a graduate seminar in Syro-Palestinian Pottery.</i>	2001
<i>The Women's Travel Club Award, Women's Travel Club, Boston, M.A.</i>	1999
A scholarship awarded to an exceptional female student for study abroad in her field of academic expertise.	
<i>Phi Alpha Chi, the academic honor society of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.</i>	1995–1997
<i>Biblical Studies Award, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary</i>	1997
Given to one graduating student for overall excellence in Biblical Studies.	
<i>Old Testament Award, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary</i>	1996
Given to one graduating student for outstanding work in Old Testament studies.	
<i>Pew Younger Scholar Award, Recipient of a five-year, \$36,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trust for Ph.D. studies. Awarded based on academic excellence and scholarly promise.</i>	1996
<i>Merit-Based Full Tuition Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University.</i>	1996–1998
<i>Byington Scholar Award, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.</i>	1992–96
A teaching and research assistantship awarded to a high-ranking student to work within one of the divisions of the seminary. Responsibilities included tutoring students in Hebrew exegesis, lecturing in an introductory archaeology course, and conducting primary research on archaeological material from a Late Bronze Age II-Early Iron I tomb from Tell Dothan, Israel.	
<i>Distinctive Honors for M. A. thesis, "Burial Practice at Tell Dothan: Was Tomb I a byt mrzh?," Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.</i>	1995
<i>Kerr Scholarship, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.</i>	1994–1995
<i>Lois Bennett Scholarship, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.</i>	1994–1995

- Research Fellow*, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, Israel. 1994
Conducted primary research on archaeological material from a Late Bronze Age II-Early Iron I tomb from Tell Dothan, Israel.
- Dothan Research Fellowship*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Awarded for the purpose of conducting primary research on the pottery collection from the Tell Dothan excavations. 1994
- Women's Council Scholarship*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. For students demonstrating excellence in character, leadership, and academics. 1993–1994
- Lois Bennett Scholarship*, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. 1994–1995
- Endowment for Biblical Research Travel Grant*, American Schools of Oriental Research, awarded to participate in Harvard University's excavations at Ashkelon, Israel. 1992
- Douglas Young Scholarship*, an award for study at Jerusalem University College, Jerusalem, Israel given on the basis of need and academic excellence. 1992
- Associated Schools Scholarship*, an award given on the basis of need and academic excellence for students from schools associated with Jerusalem University College to study in Jerusalem, Israel. 1992

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

- The Harvard Expedition to Ashkelon, Israel*
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Square Supervisor | 1999 |
| Assistant Square Supervisor | 1998 |
| Volunteer excavator | 1992 |
- The Deep Sea Archaeology Project, joint expedition of Harvard University and the Institute for Exploration*
- | | |
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| Staff member | 1999 |
|--------------|------|
- Tel Miqne-Ekron Excavations, Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (Jerusalem) and Hebrew University*
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Object and Material Culture Registrar | 1995 |
| | 1996 |
- The Tel Beth Shan Excavations*
- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| Volunteer excavator | 1992 |
|---------------------|------|
- The Joint Expedition to Caesarea Maritima (University of Maryland, University of Haifa)*
- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| Volunteer excavator | 1989 |
|---------------------|------|

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Institute for Biblical Research
Society of Biblical Literature

REFERENCES

Dr. Gary Pratico
Emeritus Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
gmpratico@gmail.com
(978) 325-0201 (cell)

Dr. Don Fairbairn
Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity, former Academic Dean
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
dfairbairn@gordonconwell.edu
(803) 992-5260

Shannon Miller
Co-Founder of Foundation Pierre Smith Mondelus and Séminaire Théologique Mondelus
Graduate Teaching Assistant in Hebrew and Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
smiller7@gordonconwell.edu
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Dr. Tom Petter
Associate Professor of Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Senior Pastor, Trinitarian Congregational Church in Wayland, MA
tdpetter@gmail.com
(978) 473-4939