

Christian Faith and Academic Vocation: Reading List and Prompts for Initial TTP Review

Instructions: In response to each prompt, please compose an essay that could be understood by an interdisciplinary audience of Christian faculty members. Each response (1-2 pages in length but not to exceed 1,000 words) is expected to have a clear focus and to interact with material from the reading list.

Part One: The Academic Vocation at Messiah University

A. Reflection on Institutional Mission:

- * [No Longer Invisible](#) (Chapter 1) and [The History of Religion in American Higher Education](#) (Chapter 2) from *No Longer Invisible*
- * [Types of Church-Related Colleges](#) from Robert Benne, *Quality with Soul*
- * [The Ideals and Diversity of Church-Related Higher Education](#) (chapter 5) from *The American University in a Postsecular Age*
- * [On to the 21st Century](#) from William C. Ringenberg, *The Christian College*
- * [Prologue](#) by Rodney Sawatsky from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*
- * [Epilogue](#) by Kim Phipps from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*

➤ **PROMPT:** In your view, how should Christian higher education be similar to and/or different from American higher education generally?

B. Reflection on the Role of the Teacher

- * [Clubbing the Baby Seals](#) by Randy Basinger
- * [Convictions](#) (Chapter 9) from *No Longer Invisible*
- * [Practices, Faith, and Pedagogy](#) from David I. Smith and James K. A. Smith, *Teaching and Christian Practices*
- * [Knowing in Community](#) from Parker Palmer, *The Courage to Teach*
- * [Otherness](#) (Chapter 10) from David G. Benner, *Soulful Spirituality*

➤ **PROMPT:** How does Christian faith influence your practices and aspirations as a teacher?

Part Two: The Vocation of Christian Scholarship

A. Reflection on the connections between faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on the identity of Messiah University):

- * *Gracious Christianity* (A Commentary on the Messiah University Statement of Faith)
[Professing Understanding and Professing Faith](#) by Lee Shulman from *The American University in a Postsecular Age*
[Scholarship in the Anabaptist Tradition](#) by David Weaver-Zercher from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*
[Reconceiving the Christ-Centered College: Convertive Piety and Life Together](#) by Roger Olson from *The Pietist Vision of Christian Higher Education*
[The Wesleyan Quadrilateral](#) by Albert C. Outler
[What Can the Wesleyan/Holiness Tradition Contribute to Christian Higher Education?](#) by John E. Stanley and Susie C. Stanley from *Models for Christian Higher Education*

- **PROMPT:** What opportunities and challenges derive from an institutional identity that is welcoming of scholars from a broad range of Christian churches yet remains rooted in the Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan traditions?

B. Reflection on the connections of faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on personal scholarly perspectives):

- * Chapters [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#) and [5](#) from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*
[The Power of Christian Traditions](#) from Richard T. Hughes, *The Vocation of the Christian Scholar*
- **PROMPT:** How does your perspective on Christian scholarship interact or align with models exemplified in the readings (for example: social justice, incarnational, Christ above Culture, Anabaptist, Reformed, or Catholic)?

* Assigned reading in Provost's Seminar.