

PH. W. DENNIS

Phillip Wayne Dennis II

Ph.D. (ABD) in Biblical Theology, concentrating in New Testament at Fordham University in New York City

Experienced teacher of undergraduate Introduction to the New Testament and Faith and Critical Reason (apologetics, contemporary culture, and western intellectual history emphasis)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biblical theology: the continuity and development of theological themes within the Christian biblical canon; nascent Christianity in relation to the history, culture, and theology of Second Temple Judaism; the historical circumstances of the origin and spread of Christianity in the first century; exegesis of difficult passages throughout the New Testament; Galatians; Acts of the Apostles; New Testament eschatology and theologies of the law (Mosaic covenant); Pauline chronology; Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls; text linguistic or discourse analysis of New Testament texts; everything else imaginable

TEACHING INTERESTS

Any and all undergraduate courses (lower or upper division, required or elective) related to any of the following: New Testament, whether as a whole, a canonical group of books such as the Gospels or Paul's epistles, or any particular book; introductory courses in Old Testament; Greek or Hebrew languages; hermeneutics and exegesis; history of Second Temple Judaism; history of the Christian church and doctrine; St. Augustine of Hippo; surveys of western intellectual history from antiquity to the present; introduction to world religions; faith and critical reason; apologetics; Christianity and contemporary culture

EDUCATION

Fordham University

Current Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Theology **2011 (Anticipated)**

Dissertation: *The Yoke of the Law: Moses and Gentile Believers in Jesus According to the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15*. Demonstrates that Peter and James in Acts 15 understand Israel to be threatened by God's judgment for having rejected the promised prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (i.e. Jesus) and that the Gentiles' faith, without accepting circumcision, testifies against Israel's unbelief.

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Theology **2008**

Area of Specialization: Biblical Theology (New Testament)

Comprehensive examination areas: New Perspectives on Paul, Quests for the Historical Jesus, Method in Biblical Theology, Augustine's *City of God*.

Covenant Theological Seminary

Master of Arts (M.A.), magna cum laude, in Exegetical Theology **2006**

Thesis: *Catchwords, Cohesion, and Coherence in Mark 9:33–50*. Applied discourse analytic concepts of cohesion and coherence to a difficult passage in the Gospel of Mark to argue against the accepted interpretation that it is a collection of originally unrelated sayings joined strictly on the basis of catchwords.

Mentor: Hans F. Bayer. Second Reader: David W. Chapman

University of Missouri, St. Louis

Graduate Study in Philosophy **2005**

Seminars in contemporary metaphysics and epistemology in the analytic tradition.

California State University, Northridge

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics **1999**

Coursework in general and applied micro- and macroeconomic analysis, history of economic thought, labor economics, environmental economics, economic geography, financial and managerial accounting, business law, calculus, statistics, and similar.

Defense Information School

Distinguished Honor Graduate in Electronics **1998**

Training in electronic circuit analysis and repair, specializing in television and radio recording, playing, and broadcasting equipment.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fordham University

All Courses Taught

Introduction to the New Testament (four sections over two semesters and two summers)

Faith and Critical Reason (two sections concurrently in fall 2009)

Teaching Associate

2009 – 2010

Taught *Introduction to the New Testament*; designed and taught *Faith and Critical Reason*, a core requirement for all first-year undergraduate students.

Teaching Fellow

2008 – 2009

Designed and taught *Introduction to the New Testament*, which fulfills a core requirement for all second-year undergraduate students.

Graduate Assistant

2006 – 2008

Wrote and presented lectures as often as required by supervising faculty; led undergraduate classroom discussions; proctored examinations.

Covenant Theological Seminary

Supervisor and Mentor of Distance Learning Students

2004 – 2005

Provided bi-weekly telephone and e-mail supervision and assistance to American and British students enrolled in distance learning courses such as *Life and Teachings of Jesus*, *Ancient and Medieval Church History*, and *Biblical Theology*.

PUBLICATION

Manuscripts in Development

“The Corinthian Church of Apollos and Paul”

Article for submission to a specialist journal in biblical or New Testament studies (e.g., *Journal of Biblical Literature*) on the factions in Corinth. Argues that there were neither organized factions nor faction leaders in the Corinth but that Paul’s original converts may have begun to vaunt their seniority and close connection to Paul himself in reaction to a second wave of converts won by Apollos’s preaching. This would represent a social division between different classes of people, Paul’s original converts and Apollos’s newer ones, rather than factions per se. First Corinthians 1-4 is Paul’s pastoral attempt to reconcile the two classes by both depreciating himself (stressing his subordination to God) and raising their esteem of Apollos (stressing that he is Paul’s co-laborer).

“Philosophical Pastoral Care: *Contra Academicos* and Augustine’s Use of Philosophy for Spiritual Ends.”

Article for submission to the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (primary) or *Augustinian Studies* (secondary). Argues that scholarly interpretations of Augustine’s dialogues against the skeptical philosophy of the late Academy focus too much on the content of Augustine’s philosophical argument as a character within the dialogues. A neglected aspect of the work is

Augustine's pastoral concern for his pupils, as a character within the dialogues, and, as its author, his solicitude of the spiritual wellbeing of his friend Romanianus (the father of one of his pupils in the dialogue), the person to whom they are addressed and for whom they are written in the first place.

Presentations

"A Holistic Reading of Mark 9:33–50"

Presented to the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society (2007) on the main lines of argument from the M.A. thesis.

"The Yoke of the Law: Peter's Polemic in Acts 15"

Proposed for the Mid-Atlantic Society of Biblical Literature (2010) on the main lines of argument from the dissertation proposal.

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Self Employment

Freelance Bookkeeper **2003 – 2006**

Wellpoint

Senior Financial Analyst **2002 – 2003**

Financial Analyst **2001**

Musicians' Boulevard

Staff Accountant **1999 – 2001**

Military Service

United States Naval Reserve (honorably discharged) **1999 – 2001**

United States Army Reserve **1997 – 1999**

LANGUAGES

Native fluency in American English

Reading proficiency for research purposes in Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, French, and German

Speaking ability in German at a basic level (approximately CEFR level A2)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature

Evangelical Theological Society

Catholic Biblical Association

PERSONAL

Born 15 October 1973 in Columbia, Missouri, USA

Married Allison Blake (Woolard) Dennis 4 May 2002. No children

Member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), active in lay ministry