

# Ordination Standards Study Fall 2015

Information  
and  
Seminar Schedule

**valley presbyterian church**

[myvalleychurch.org](http://myvalleychurch.org)

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## schedule

### **Speaker Seminar Series**

All seminars take place in Landes Center

Video will be posted at: [myvalleychurch.org/resources](http://myvalleychurch.org/resources)

Wednesday, September 23, 6:30-8:30pm

Saturday, October 17, 10am-noon

Sunday, October 18, 1:30-3:30pm

### **Relevant Book Selections**

Currently available at Valley Presbyterian Church  
Front Desk for checkout.

### **Bibliography and Videos**

Available in this publication and online.

### **Elder Availability**

Each Sunday in October (4, 11, 18, 25) in the  
Valley Presbyterian Church Library from 9am-noon.

# governing principles

We, the sitting Elders on the Session of Valley Presbyterian Church, are seeking to discern God's will and direction for our congregation on the issue of ordination standards for ruling and teaching Elders and Deacons.

According to the Book of Order (the constitution of the Presbyterian Church-USA), the ruling Elders are "chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life." These will be the primary guidelines we seek to follow as this decision is considered (G-2.0301).

As part of this effort, we are inviting the congregation to study the issue and provide input to our decision making process. We will present all views as fully and fairly as we can. We expect this to be a process in which we listen carefully and speak in love to each other, as fellow disciples of Christ.

The final decision will be the result of a vote of sitting members of the Session, which will take place later in the year. While congregational input is valued, the congregation will not vote on this issue, per the Book of Order, which spells out the functions of the congregation as a whole in section G-1.0503\*.

After a decision is made, we will remain a congregation of Christian disciples who have been blessed by God with many resources and talents to carry out Christ's work in this world.

\*Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall be limited to matters related to the following: electing ruling Elders, Deacons, and Trustees; calling a pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor; changing existing pastoral relationships; buying, mortgaging, or selling real property; requesting the Presbytery to grant an exemption; approving a plan for the creation of a joint congregational witness, or amending or dissolving the joint congregational witness.

# seminar one

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

6:30-8:30pm

Landes Center



## Mark Achtemeier, Ph.D.

From the Westminster John Knox Press website:

Mark Achtemeier, Ph.D., has served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) since 1984 as a pastor, writer and theologian. He taught theology and ethics for 15 years on the faculty of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

Formerly a conservative church activist and opponent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) inclusion, over a period of years he underwent a change of heart not in spite of the Bible's message but because of it. He is now an outspoken advocate of LGBT inclusion. He makes the case that embracing gay marriage and LGBT inclusion represents a true and faithful application of the Bible's teaching on marriage and sexuality rather than its contradiction. In this advocate role, he has testified before Congress on gay rights and been a leading voice for a more inclusive church. He is married to the Rev. Katherine Morton Achtemeier, and together they have three grown children.



## Marianne Meye Thompson, Ph.D.

George Eldon Ladd Professor of New Testament

From the Fuller Theological Seminary website:

Marianne Meye Thompson, the George Eldon Ladd Professor of New Testament, joined the School of Theology faculty in 1985.

Thompson has been instrumental in developing advanced-level interdisciplinary courses that integrate biblical interpretation with other disciplines of the theological curriculum. She is author of 1-3 John (IVP New Testament Commentary, 2011), *A Commentary on Colossians and Philemon* (The Two Horizons Commentary, 2005), *The God of the Gospel of John* (2001), *The Promise of the Father* (2000), and co-author of *Introducing the New Testament* (2001). She has also published numerous articles and reviews in scholarly journals. She is currently working on a commentary on the Gospel of John.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

10am-Noon

Landes Center



## Dr. Robert A. J. Gagnon

Associate Professor of New Testament Pittsburgh  
Theological Seminary

From [robgagnon.net](http://robgagnon.net):

Gagnon's main fields of interest are Pauline theology and sexual issues in the Bible. He is a member both of the Society of Biblical Literature and of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas [Society of New Testament Studies]. He is also an ordained elder at a Presbyterian Church (USA) in Pittsburgh. He is an author and provides a large amount of free material on the web dealing with Scripture and homosexuality. In addition, he has been quoted in, or has written for, the New York Times, National Public Radio, CNN, U.S. News and World Report, Christianity Today, Christian Century, and other news outlets and popular magazines.



## J. R. Daniel Kirk, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of New Testament, School of Theology

From the Fuller Theological Seminary website:

Daniel Kirk joined Fuller in 2008 as a faculty member at the Northern California regional campus in Menlo Park, having previously taught at Biblical Seminary and Duke Divinity School, as well as several undergraduate institutions.

A member of the Society of Biblical Literature, Kirk's primary academic interests revolve around reading Jesus and Paul in their Jewish and Roman contexts as a first step toward understanding Scripture and enriching the church. His publications include articles in *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, and *Zeitschrift für Neues Testament*. He is the author of *Unlocking Romans: Resurrection and the Justification of God* and *Jesus Have I Loved, But Paul? A Narrative Approach to the Problem of Pauline Christianity*.

# seminar three

Sunday, October 18, 2015

1:30-3:30pm

Landes Center



## Rev. Dr. Ron Hawkins

From the Horizon Presbyterian Church website:

Dr. Ron Hawkins joined Horizon in August 2007. Pastor Ron was ordained by the Presbyterian Church-USA in September 1995. Prior to joining Horizon Presbyterian Church, he was the Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Equipping at Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Lafayette, Indiana. From 1999 to 2002, Ron served as the Associate Pastor for Memorial Presbyterian Church in Montgomery Alabama, and from 1995 to 1999 was the Solo Pastor at First United Presbyterian Church in Dyer, Indiana.

Ron and his wife Linette have been married for 33 years and have five children ranging in age from 19 to 31. Ron indicates that “Over the years, one thing I’ve been told consistently is that I have a “pastor’s heart”. I love people and love to encourage their faith in the God of all Comfort.” Throughout his ministry, Ron has demonstrated a passion for the gospel and the ability to work with people of differing perspectives.



## Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer

From Sun Lakes United Church of Christ website:

Dr. Meyer is the founding director of the Arizona Center for Theological Studies, an ecumenical center for scriptural and theological learning. He is also an adjunct faculty member of Grand Canyon University and the University of Phoenix where he teaches Scripture and World Religions.

Dr. Meyer loves classical music, opera, and NPR. He is also involved with a clergy group called No Longer Silent/Clergy for Justice, a group of clergy from different denominations working to end discrimination against LGBT people in the church and in society.

# relevant book selections

Copies of these books are available at the Valley Presbyterian Church Front Desk for checkout:

Achtemeier, M. (2014). *The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press.

DeYoung, K. (2015). *What Does the Bible Teach about Homosexuality?*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway.

Gagnon, R. (2001). *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press.

Lee, P. & George, R.P. (2014). *Conjugal Union: What Marriage is and Why it Matters*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Rogers, J. (2009). *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press.

Wilson, K. (2014). *A Letter to My Congregation*. Canton, Michigan: David Crumm Media.

## videos

The following videos are pulled from lectures, sermon series, and seminars from some of our presenters and other sources:

Links to these videos can be found online: [myvalleychurch.org/resources](http://myvalleychurch.org/resources)

**Mark Achtemeier-** Four-part video series on same sex marriage and *And Grace Will Lead Me Home* (48 minutes)

**Kevin DeYoung-** *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* (1 hour)

**Robert Gagnon-** *Homosexuality & the Bible* (23 minutes), *What Does the Bible Teach About Homosexuality?* (28 minutes), *Jesus, Scripture, and the Myth of New Knowledge About Homosexual Unions* (1 hour)

**Jack Rogers-** *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality* (23 minute audio-only)

**Matthew Vines-** *The Bible and Homosexuality* (1+ hour)

**Ben Witherington-** *Homosexuality & Scripture* (7 minutes)

# bibliography

- John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), esp. pp. 61-117
- Robin Scroggs, *The New Testament and Homosexuality: Contextual Background for Contemporary Debate* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983)
- George R. Edwards, *Gay/Lesbian Liberation: A Biblical Perspective* (New York: Pilgrim, 1984)
- L. William Countryman, *Dirt, Greed, and Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988) esp. pp. 104-29
- Bernadette Brooten, *Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996)
- Martti Nissinen, *Homoeroticism in the Biblical World* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998)
- Ronald M. Springett, *Homosexuality in History and the Scriptures: Some Historical and Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality* (Washington, DC: Biblical Research Institute, 1988)
- Marion L. Soards, *Scripture and Homosexuality: Biblical Authority and the Church Today* (Louisville: Westminster, 1995)
- Thomas E. Schmidt, *Straight and Narrow? Compassion and Clarity in the Homosexuality Debate* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995)
- Donald J. Wold, *Out of Order: Homosexuality in the Bible and the Ancient Near East* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998)
- Stanley J. Grenz, *Welcoming But Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to Homosexuality* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998)
- Richard B. Hays, "Relations Natural and Unnatural: A Response to John Boswell's Exegesis of Romans 1," JRE 14 (1986) 184-215; "Awaiting the Redemption of our Bodies: The Witness of Scripture Concerning Homosexuality," Homosexuality in the Church (see below), 3-17, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics* (San Francisco: Harper 1996), ch. 16 (pp. 379-406)
- David Wright, works include "Homosexuals or Prostitutes? The Meaning of Arsenokoitai (1 Cor. 6:9, 1Tim. 1:10)," VC 38 (1984): 125-53; "Homosexuality: The Relevance of the Bible," EvQ 61 (1989): 291-300; "Early Christian Attitudes to Homosexuality," Studia Patristica 18 (1989): 329-34; *The Christian Faith and Homosexuality* (rev. ed.; Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 1994)



# bibliography, continued

Significant collections of essays on the debate include:

Jeffrey S. Siker, ed., *Homosexuality in the Church: Both Sides of the Debate* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1994; contributors are from various theological disciplines)

Robert L. Brawley, ed., *Biblical Ethics and Homosexuality: Listening to Scripture* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996; contributors are all biblical scholars, mostly Presbyterian seminary professors)

Choon-Leong Seow, ed., *Homosexuality and Christian Community* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996); a collection of essays by professors at Princeton Theological Seminary)

David L. Balch, ed., *Homosexuality, Science and the “Plain Sense” of Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000; half of which consists of essays by biblical scholars)

Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, 2001, Abingdon Press, Nashville

Dan O. Via and Robert A. J. Gagnon, *Homosexuality and the Bible – Two Views*, 2003 Fortress Press, Minneapolis

Jack Rogers, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality – Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, 2009, Westminster Knox Press

Daniel H. Helminiak, Ph.D., *What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality*, 2000, Alamo Square Press

Justin R. Cannon, *The Bible, Christianity, & Homosexuality*, 2012

Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?*, April 30, 2015

Matthew Vines, *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*, April 22, 2014

## elder availability

Sunday, October 4, 11, 18, & 25

9am-noon

Valley Presbyterian Church Library

Elders will be available to listen to any comments and concerns regarding the Ordination Standards. Individuals are invited to share their personal opinions, questions and desires for Valley Presbyterian Church along with any other thoughts relating to the process and possible outcomes.

Elders will be present to listen and relay process information, but not to engage in discussion or debate.

## session meeting dates

Session meeting dates relating to Ordination Standards will be confirmed and communicated soon.

Contact the Clerk of Session, Karen Meyer, with any questions: 480-368-6567

# members of session

## **CLASS OF 2015:**

Kathy Arner  
Dick Fawley  
Fred Fetters  
Gloria Gabler  
Lisa LaFon  
Prescott Pohl  
Shirley Polk  
John Samota  
Vicki Tatum

## **CLASS OF 2016:**

Sarah Brammer  
David Eaton  
Joan Nastro  
Richard Lockwood  
Matt Winter

## **CLASS OF 2017:**

Mary Artigue  
Ed Glady  
Lisa Keylon  
Ruth Lukian  
Darrah MacDougall  
Roy Schumacher

## **CLERK OF SESSION:**

Karen Meyer

# valley presbyterian church

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