

James Hudnut-Beumler

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Education

Ph.D. Religion, Princeton University, 1989
M.A. Religion, Princeton University, 1987
M.Div. Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, 1983
B.A. *cum laude*, History, The College of Wooster, 1980

Positions Held

Anne Potter Wilson Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Vanderbilt University, 2000 – , Chair of the Graduate Department of Religion, 2022-

Dean of the Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, 2000 – 2013

Acting President, Columbia Theological Seminary, 1998-1999

Dean of Faculty, Executive Vice President and Professor of Religion and Culture (promoted from Associate Professor, 1998) Columbia Theological Seminary, 1993 - 2000

Program Associate, Religion Division, Lilly Endowment, Inc., 1991 – 1993

Administrative Director of the Undergraduate Program and Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs (previously, The Woodrow Wilson School), Princeton University, 1988-1991

Lecturer, Department of Religion, Princeton University, 1987-1988

Selected Publications

Books and Monographs

The Story of Religion in America: An Introduction (co-author with James P. Byrd) (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2021).

Strangers and Friends at the Welcome Table: Contemporary Christianities in the American South (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018, paperback 2022).

The Future of Mainline Protestantism (co-editor with Mark Silk) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).

In Pursuit of the Almighty's Dollar: A History of Money and American Protestantism (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

The History of The Riverside Church in the City of New York (co-author with Peter Paris, Nora Tubbs Tisdale, John Cook, Lawrence Mamiya, and Judith Weisenfeld) (New York: NYU Press, 2004).

Generous Saints: Congregations Rethinking Ethics and Money (Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 1999).

Looking for God in the Suburbs: The Religion of the American Dream and Its Critics, 1945-1965 (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994).

"Conscience and Justice: Interpreting the Social Teachings of the Presbyterian Church," *Church and Society*, (single author issue) (November/December, 1990), pp. 5-128.

The Riverside Church in the City of New York: A Brief History of its Founding, Leadership and Finances, (New York: The Trustees of the Riverside Church, 1990), 31pp.

"The Social Teachings of the Presbyterian Churches," (single author issue) *Church and Society* (November/ December, 1984), pp. 3-102.

Articles and Book Chapters

"When Religion and Philanthropy Meet in America," in David P. King and Philip Goff, *Religion and Philanthropy in the United States* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press), forthcoming.

"Religious liberty has a long and messy history – and there is a reason Americans feel strongly about it" in *The Conversation* (with James P. Byrd)
<https://theconversation.com/religious-liberty-has-a-long-and-messy-history-and-there-is-a-reason-americans-feel-strongly-about-it-186613> (July 19, 2022)

"Despite Supreme Court rulings, religious liberty has always been a contentious issue" in *The Tennessean* (with James P. Byrd).
<https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2022/07/06/supreme-court-religious-liberty-has-always-been-contentious-issue/7825521001/> (July 6, 2022)

"Money | Christianity | Modern Europe and America" and "Moneylending | Christianity | Modern Europe and America" in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* [online and in print] Edited by: Constance M. Furey, Brian Matz, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Chr. Römer, Jens Schroeter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2020)

"Commentary: Second Thoughts on Biblegate." *Tennessee Lookout*.
<https://tennesseelookout.com/2020/06/08/commentary-second-thoughts-on-biblegate/> (June 8, 2020)

James Hudnut-Beumler's "Strangers and Friends at the Welcome Table" in The Page 99 Test, <http://page99test.blogspot.com/2018/05/james-hudnut-beumlers-strangers-and.html> (May 22, 2018)

"Afterword" for *The Business Turn in American Religious History*, edited by Amanda Porterfield, John Corrigan, and Darren Grem, (New York: Oxford University Press), 2017

"Why Cash Remains Sacred in American Churches" in *The Washington Post* https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/07/06/why-cash-remains-sacred-in-american-churches/?utm_term=.095906cddc45 (July 6, 2017)

"Why Cash Remains Sacred in American Churches" in *The Conversation* <http://theconversation.com/why-cash-remains-sacred-in-american-churches-79167> (June 21, 2017)

"Christianity in the United States Since 1900" in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).

"Presbyterian Church (USA) Decision Expands the Meaning and Malleability of Marriage" in *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/presbyterian-church-usa-decision-expands-the-meaning-and-malleability-of-marriage-39207>

"Suburbanization and Religion" in *The Cambridge History of Religion in America, Volume III: 1945 to the Present*, Stephen Stein, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge, 2012), pp. 106-125.

"Market Models for Understanding Religion" in *Proceedings: Second Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*, June 2011, pp. 49-50.

"Economics" in *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America*, Phillip Goff, ed. (Wiley, 2010), pp. 105-116.

"The Church in North America," "Economy and Christianity: Economic Studies of the History of Christianity in the United States." In *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 232-2, 248-9.

"Shock and Awe: Life in Mr. Rumsfeld's Neighborhood," in *Anxious About Empire: Theological Essays on the New Global Realities*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos Press, 2004), pp. 49-55.

"More Evidence of a Leaking Ship," in *How Much Should We Pay the Pastor? Pulpit & Pew Research Reports*, Becky R. McMillan and Matthew J. Price, eds. (Winter 2003), pp. 28-29.

"Drug Policy and Moral Leadership," *Let My People Go: Religious Leaders and Drug Policy*, Edwin C. Sanders, ed. (Nashville: Religious Leaders for a More Just and Compassionate Drug Policy, 2003), pp. 37-40.

"Before You Shake the Sand Off Your Sandals" in *Pastoral Formation* 4 (Spring 2002), pp. 4-5.

"Myths and Realities in the Financing of American Religion," *The Financing of American Religion*, Mark Chaves, and Sharon L. Miller, eds. (Walnut Creek, Calif.: Alta Mira Press, 1998), pp., 47-53.

"Religion and Suburbs," *Encyclopedia of Urban America: The Cities and Suburbs*. Santa Barbara, Ca.: ABC-Clio, 1998), pp. 640-644.

"Ecclesial Accountability in the Missional Church," *The Gospel and Our Culture*, 10:1 (March 1998), pp. 5-6.

"Creating a Commonwealth: The History, Ethics and Theology of Church Endowments," *Congregations*, (January/February 1997).

"A New Dean Meets a New Day in Theological Education," *Theological Education*, Autumn Supplement, 1996, pp. 13-20.

"The Tithes that Bind? Protestants and Giving," *The Cultures of Giving*, Dwight F. Burlingame, ed. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1995).

"Religion and Philanthropy," *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows, eds., (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994), pp. 1107-1109.

"The American Churches and U.S. Interventionism," *The Church's Public Role: Retrospect and Prospect*, Dieter T. Hessell, ed. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993), pp. 125-142.

"The Public Church in Retrospect and Prospect" (co-authored with Dieter T. Hessell) *The Church's Public Role: Retrospect and Prospect*, Dieter T. Hessell, ed. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1993), pp. 296-309.

"The National Organizational Structure of Protestant Denominations: An Invitation to a Conversation" (co-authored with Craig Dykstra) *The Organizational Revolution: Presbyterians and American Denominationalism*, M.J. Coalter, J.M. Mulder, L. Weeks, eds. (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992), pp. 306-30.

"Tradition and Change: Curricular Trends in the Recent History of Theological Education" in *Theological Education for Social Ministry*, Dieter T. Hessell, ed. (New York: Pilgrim Press, 1988), pp.148-68.

"Church and State at the Turn of the Century: Missions and Imperialism, Bureaucratization, and War, 1898-1920," *Church and State in America: A Bibliographic Guide, Volume 2: The Civil War to the Present Day*, John F. Wilson, ed. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1987), pp. 143-84.

"America Emerges as a World Power: Religion, Politics and Nationhood, 1940-1960," *Church and State in America: A Bibliographic Guide, Volume 2: The Civil War to the Present Day*, John F. Wilson, ed. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1987), pp. 225-62.

Reviews

Review of *Shaker Fever: America's Twentieth-Century Fascination with a Communitarian Sect*, by William D Moore in *Journal of American History*, Volume 108, Issue 4 (March 2022), Pages 858–859, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaac076>

Review of *The Puritans: A Transatlantic History* by David D. Hall in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* <https://readingreligion.org/books/puritans> (June 24, 2021).

Review of *Corporate Spirit: Religion and the Rise of the Modern Corporation* by Amanda Porterfield in *Theology Today* (forthcoming)

Review of *Norman Vincent Peale and the Remaking of American Religious Life*, by Christopher Lane, in *The Historian* September 19, 2018.

Review of *Hard, Hard Religion: Interracial Faith in the Poor South*, by John Hayes, in *Virginia Magazine*, of the *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography* vol. 126, no. 4 (2018), pp. 474-476

Review of *A History of Religion in America: From the First Settlements through the Civil War* (Vol. 1) and *From The End of The Civil War to the Twenty-First Century* (Vol 2) by Bryan F. Le Beau in *Reading Religion* <http://readingreligion.org/books/history-religion-america> (May 18, 2018)

Review of *Religion, Art, and Money: Episcopalians and American Culture from the Civil War to the Great Depression* by Peter W. Williams in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion* <http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-art-and-money> (March 13, 2018)

Review of *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity* by Darren Grem in *Church History* Volume 86, Issue 2 (June 2017) , pp. 593-595

Review of *At the Altar of Wall Street: The Rituals, Myths, Theologies, Sacraments, and Mission of the Religion Known as the Modern Global Economy* by Scott W. Gustafson in *Theology Today* 2016 Vol 73, Issue 3, pp. 295 - 296

Review of *Idols of Nations: Biblical Myth at the Origins of Capitalism* by Ronald Boer and Christina Petterson in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 2016, Vol. 70(3), p. 355.

New Books in Religious History: Hudnut-Beumler's *In Pursuit of the Almighty's Dollar* <http://www.churchhistory.org/blogs/blog/new-books-in-religious-history-hudnut-beumlers-in-pursuit-of-the-almightys-dollar/> (Author's essay on the writing of a book chosen by the editors of Church History.)

“Ecumenical Protestantism’s Battle for Hearts and Knees” “Ecumenical Protestantism’s Battle for Hearts and Knees – By James Hudnut-Beumler, (reviewing David A. Hollinger’s *After Cloven Tongues of Fire*) *The Marginalia Review of Books* <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/ecumenical-protestantisms-battle-hearts-knees/>.

Review of *Original Sin and Everyday Protestants: The Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr, Billy Graham, and Paul Tillich* (University of North Carolina, 2009) *Journal of Presbyterian History* 90.2 (Fall/Winter, 2012): p. 93.

Review of *Mrs. Russell Sage: Women's Activism and Philanthropy in Gilded Age and Progressive Era America*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006) *Journal of Presbyterian History* 87:2 (September 2009), p. 83.

Review of *Friends of the Unrighteous Mammon: Northern Christians and Market Capitalism, 1815-1860*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008) *American Historical Review*, (February 2009), p. 167-168.

Review of *Work and Faith in the Kentucky Coal Fields: Subject to Dust* by Richard J. Callahan, Jr. (Bloomington: Indiana, 2009) *Journal of American History*, 96:3 (October 2009), p. 863.

Review of *Why Politics Needs Religion: The Place of Religious Arguments in the Public* by Brendan Sweetman, in *Journal of Church & State*, 49:3 (Summer 2007), pp. 555-556.

Review of *Episcopalians and Race: Civil War to Civil Rights* by Gardiner H. Shattuck, Jr. in *American Historical Review*, (June 2001), pp. 1006-1007.

Review of *Lived Religion in America: Toward a History of Practice*, David D. Hall, editor, in *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 67:4 (December 1999), pp. 900-902.

Review of *Houses of God: Region, Religion and Architecture in the United States*, by Peter W. Williams, in *Fides et Historia*, 31 (Winter-Spring 1999), p 177.

Review of *The Fifties Spiritual Marketplace: American Religion in a Decade of Conflict*, by Robert S. Ellwood in *American Presbyterians: The Journal of Presbyterian History*, 76 (Fall 1998), p 246.

Review of *Behind the Stained Glass Window: Money Dynamics in the Church*, by John and Sylvia Ronsvalle in *Theology Today*, 55:1 (April 1998), pp. 117-118.

Review of *A Kingdom on Earth: Anglo-American Social Christianity, 1880-1940*, by Paul T. Phillips in *The Journal of American History*, (March 1997), pp. 1433-1434.

Review of *Grant Us Courage: Travels Along the Mainline of American Protestantism*, by Randall Balmer in *Theology Today*, 54:1 (April 1997), p. 142.

Review of *American Congregations, Volume 1: Portraits of Twelve Congregation and American Congregations, Volume 2: New Perspectives in the Study of Congregations*, edited by James P. Wind and James W. Lewis in *Journal for Preachers*, XIX, no. 2 (Lent 1996), pp. 37-38

Review of *Between Athens and Berlin: The Theological Education Debate*, by David H. Kelsey, in *Theology Today*, 51 (April, 1994), pp. 182-186.

Review of *Illusions of Innocence: Protestant Primitivism in America, 1630-1875*, by Richard T. Hughes and C. Leonard Allen, in *Religious Studies Review*, 16 (April, 1990), p. 172.

Review of *The United Synod of the South: The Southern New School Presbyterian Church*, by Harold M. Parker, Jr., in *Religious Studies Review*, 16 (April, 1990), p. 174.

Review of *Tradition and Transformation in Catholic Culture: The Priests of Saint Sulpice in the United States from 1791 to the Present*, by Christopher J. Kauffman, in *Religious Studies Review*, 15 (January, 1989) p. 89.

Select Papers and Addresses

"The Moral Crisis in Contemporary American Christianity" Trinity College invited lecture as the 2022 Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow, March 10, 2022.

"James Hudnut-Beumler on Religion in the Now South" Research on Religion Podcast, Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, <http://www.researchonreligion.org/christianity/james-hudnut-beumler-on-religion-in-the-now-south> (May 27, 2018)

"The Future of Mainline Protestantism," a three-hour conference presentation for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York, March 8, 2018

"James Hudnut-Beumler on the History of Church Financing in the US" Research on Religion Podcast, Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion, September 29, 2017

"Washed in the Blood in the Red States: Religion and Politics" Vanderbilt Americanist Seminar, March 16, 2016

"Religious Identity in the New Century," Vanderbilt Divinity School Community Breakfast Forum, April 10, 2013

"Faith and the Consolation of History," opening convocation address at Vanderbilt Divinity School, August 24, 2012

"Religion and Politics," Given at the Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions Religion and Politics 2012 Symposium March 30, 2012.

"Before You Shake the Dust from Your Sandals" and "Leadership as Confession," given as the Caldwell Lectures, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, March 13-14, 2006.

"The Clever and the Good," a speech on the occasion of Vanderbilt University's Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony May 8, 2003.

"A Very Large God," a baccalaureate address given May 12, 2002 at the College of Wooster.

"Do We Need a New Religion?" an installation address at Vanderbilt Divinity School, September 13, 2001.

"The Many Mansions of God's House: The Religious Built Environment as Assimilation and Differentiation," paper given at American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 8, 1999.

"Material Religion," paper given at American Academy of Religion, November 1998.

"Creating a Commonwealth: The History, Theology, and Ethics of Endowments," paper given at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Endowed Presbyterian Churches, Chicago, Illinois, October 18, 1996.

Response to Robert Wuthnow's God and Mammon, paper given at American Academy of Religion, November 1995.

Tollefson Lectures on Reformed Theology, at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa, October 29, 1995.

"Alternative Futures for Mainline Protestant Denominations," paper given at Pheasant Run conference center for NCC denominational executives, September 22, 1995.

"The Tithes that Bind? Protestants and the Ideology of Giving," paper given at the Indiana University Center for Philanthropy, August 13, 1994.

"Francis Grimke and the Black Social Gospel," paper given at the American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, Lehigh University, March 28, 1989.

Board Memberships

Association of Theological Schools, Board of Directors, 2006- (Past President, 2016-2018, President 2014-2016, Vice President 2012-14, Chair-Executive Director Search 2015-2017)

Council on Graduate Study in Religion, member 2009-2013 (chair, 2011-2013)

Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education, Research Board, 1997-2012 (Chair 2008-2012)

Union Theological Seminary, Board of Trustees, 2014-2019

Visiting Committee, Princeton University Religion Department, 2002-2008

Peer Review of Manuscripts

Brandeis University Press

Columbia University Press

Greenwood Press

Harvard University Press

Journal of Cultural Economy

New York University Press

Pittsburgh University Press

Religion and American Culture

Rutgers University Press

Westminster/John Knox

Westview Press

Honors, Fellowships and Awards

Greenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow, The Leonard E. Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, Trinity College, 2022

Religious News Association, Best Non-Fiction Book Prize, 2019 (for *The Future of Mainline Protestantism*), 2019

Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of American Religion 2019-

Distinguished Faculty Member, Honor Conferred Vanderbilt Football Game, 2003

Associated Church Press, Best Professional Article, 1991

Princeton University Fellowship, 1984-87

Leopold Schepp Foundation Fellowship, 1981-83

Union Merit Scholarship, 1980-81

Fund for Theological Education Fellow, 1980

Phi Beta Kappa, 1980

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion

American Society of Church History

Organization of American Historians

University Committees and Task Forces

Faculty Senate, 2000-2013, 2018-2021
Faculty Senate Grievance Committee (chair) 2018-19, 2020-2021)
University Deans Council 2000-2013
Graduate Education Task Force, 2002-2003
Executive Committee for the Cal Turner Program in Moral Leadership in the Professions
(chair) 2002-2013
Committee on Moral Reasoning (chair), 2004-2005
Dean of the Commons Search Committee (chair), 2006
Campus Culture Sub-committee on Honor, Integrity, and Discipline (co-chair), 2006
University Ethics Center Board, 2006-2008
Chancellor Search Advisory Committee (chair), 2007-2008
Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Advisory Committee 2014-2018
Future of the Library Committee (chair), 2014-2015
Cal Turner Chancellors Chair in Wesleyan Studies Search (chair), 2014-2015
University Librarian Search Committee, 2016-2017
University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee, 2017
Divinity Curriculum Transformation Committee (co-chair), 2015-2017
Homiletics in the African American Tradition (chair), 2018-2019
Academic Programs and Assessment Committee (chair), 2019-2021
Vanderbilt University Arts Council, 2019-2020

Personal and Ecclesial

Born February 21, 1958, Detroit Michigan
Married to Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, July 17, 1987
Father of Julia, born May 18, 1991 and Adam, born June 25, 1994

Ordained by the Prospect Hill Presbytery, 1987, member of the Permanent Judicial
Commission, Middle Tennessee Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)

References available upon request