

# JOSEPH D. BLOSSER

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## Education

### **Doctor of Philosophy, in progress since 2005**

The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Constructive Studies in Religious Ethics  
Advisor: William Schweiker

*Comprehensive Examinations* (scheduled for Spring 2008):

Theological Ethics, William Schweiker  
Philosophical Ethics, Franklin I. Gamwell  
Ethics and Political Life, Jean Bethke Elshtain  
Anthropology and Sociology: Religion and Class, Robert Fogel and Martin Riesebrodt

*Languages:*

German  
French

### **Master of Divinity, 2005**

The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee  
Thesis: Ritual Revival for Playful Protestant Preaching  
Advisor: Victor Anderson

### **Bachelor of Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2002**

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas  
Majors: *Honors* in Economics and *Honors* in Religion  
Thesis: Exploring the Conversation: Inquiry into the Nexus of Religion and Economics  
Advisors: Robert Garnett and C. David Grant

## Articles

“Ritual Revival for Playful Protestant Preaching,” *Encounter* 67.3 (2006): 245-272.

“Modeling God: Preaching in Process Theology,” *Homiletic* 31.2 (Winter 2006): 1-11.

“The Table’s Edge: Exploring the Historical Boundaries of the Lord’s Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” *Encounter* 65.3 (2004): 243-266.

“The Deflowering of Hawaii,” *The Spire* 25.1 (Fall 2004): 29-32.

“Agitator of Identity: The Effect of the Campbell Institute on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” *Discipliana* 64.3 (Fall 2004): 67-77.

Sermon: “Do You Want to Go to Dinner?” Luke 14:16-24, *Preaching On-Line* (July 2005): <<http://www.preaching.com/preaching/index.shtml>>

## Papers and Conferences

Presenter, “*Homo Economicus* Reconsidered,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. November 2007.

Presenter, "The Deflowering of Hawaii," Office of Women's Concerns, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. October 2003.

Presenter, "Exploring the Conversation: An Inquiry into the Nexus of Religion and Economics," Chi Delta Mu, TCU, Fort Worth, TX. April 2002.

Presenter, "Liberating Society: An Inquiry into the Nexus of Religion and Economics," Southwest Regional Commission on Religious Studies (AAR), Dallas, TX. March 2002.

Presenter, "Adam Smith's Self-Correcting Systems," Southwest Social Science Association, New Orleans, LA. March 2002.

Presenter, "Economics and Religion: Uniting for Freedom and Compassion," Southwest Social Science Association, Fort Worth, TX. March 2001.

## **Ministry**

**Ordination** by the Mid-American Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO. May 22, 2005.

**Worship Associate**, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago: Perform pastoral duties, including preaching twice a month and leading worship once a month. 2007-2008.

**Supply Preacher**, Tennessee and Western Kentucky Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Occasional preaching responsibilities. 2004.

**Interim Minister**, Bellevue Christian Church, Nashville, TN: Weekly preaching and worship responsibilities, pastoral duties, and resource for the search committee. 2004.

**Ministerial Intern**, Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville, TN: Served this 500 member congregation during an interim period. I assumed monthly preaching responsibilities, weekly worship leadership, aided in rewriting the By-Laws, taught Christian history and the development of Disciples theology to the Elders, and performed other pastoral duties. 2003-2004.

**Chaplain**, Pacific Health Ministries, Honolulu, HI: Served at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children with a concentration in OB-GYN, pediatric intensive care, and neo-natal nurseries during this unit of clinical pastoral education. 2003.

**Interim Youth Minister**, University Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX: Ministered to the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade members at this 5,000+ member congregation. Oversaw 15 adult sponsors, \$50,000 budget, led two mission trips for over 45 youth and several retreats, and transitioned the program for new leadership. 2001-2002.

**North-East Area Youth Minister**, Arkansas Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Conducted a weekly youth gathering at each Disciples Church in Trumann, Jonesboro, Wiener, West Memphis, and Newport, attended camps, and aided in worship and preaching. Summer 2000.

**Professional Experience**

**Copy-Editor and Bibliographic Assistant** for Amy-Jill Levine, Dale C. Allison, Jr., and John Dominic Crossan, eds., *The Historical Jesus in Context*, Princeton Readings in Religion, ed. Fred Appel. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2006.

**Ethics Consultant**, Illinois Department of Child and Family Services Training Day: Spring 2006.

**Chair of Honor Council**, Vanderbilt Divinity School: 2004-2005.

**Dean's Office Student Assistant**, Vanderbilt Divinity School: 2004-2005.

**Cannon/Benoit Intern**, Disciples of Christ Historical Society: 2003.

**Student Assistant**, Dr. C. David Grant, Associate Professor of Religion, TCU: Assisted in grading and introductory courses, performed administrative tasks, conducted an oral history of the Religion department, and researched for Grant's book, *A Theology of God's Grace*. St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 2004. 1999-2002.

**Head Resident Assistant**, Residential Services, TCU: Oversaw resident assistant staff of seven, managed office staff of eight, responsible for programming and community development of a 200+ member residence hall. 2000-2002.

**Teacher's Aid**, Jefferson City Public Schools, MO: Worked with autistic and ADHD elementary school students. 1999.

**Honors**

**Disciples Scholar**, Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago: Combines with a University merit award for full scholarship, housing, and stipend. 2005-2010.

**William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship**, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries: Awarded to one full-time PhD student who is ordained and plans to offer leadership to the church. 2007.

**Founder's Medalist**, Vanderbilt University: Awarded by the Chancellor to the one student in each school with the highest grade point average. 2005.

**Wilbur F. Tillet Prize**, Vanderbilt Divinity School: Awarded to the student with the greatest accomplishments in the study of ethics. 2005.

**Carpenter Scholar**, Vanderbilt Divinity School: One of two matriculating students awarded the Divinity School's highest academically competitive scholarship honoring students who show an interest in and active commitment to issues of social justice and ministry. Full scholarship and stipend. 2002-2005.

**Brown Scholar**, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries: One of two Disciples of Christ Master of Divinity students in the nation to receive this annual financial award for leadership, scholarship, and ministerial promise. 2004-2005.

**Lockridge Ward Wilson Award**, Disciples Historical Society: Awarded annually for the best student essay on Stone/Campbell movement history. 2003.

**Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa Scholar**, TCU: Awarded to the one student initiated into PBK with the highest achievements in the liberal arts. 2002.

**Boller Award**, TCU: Awarded to one student with the best presentation of a senior honors thesis at the University. 2002.

**Honors Program Senior Scholar, Economics, Religion**, TCU: Awarded by the faculty to the top student in each major. 2002.

**Senior Man in Religion**, TCU: Awarded to the senior man with the highest GPA in religious studies. 2001.

**Mortar Board National Honors Society**, TCU: Awarded to approximately 20 students across the University as selected by fellow students based on leadership and scholarship. 2001.

**Leadership Fellow**, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Part of the original group selected for this award, intended to recognize and encourage ministry in the church. 2001-2002.

**Theta Alpha Kappa**, TCU: National Religious Studies Honors Society. 2001.

**Omicron Delta Epsilon**, TCU: National Economics Honors Society. 2001.

**Chancellor's Scholar**, TCU: One of twenty-five incoming students awarded with the University's highest academic scholarship. 1998-2002.

**Valedictorian**, Jefferson City High School: 1998.

## **Professional Associations**

**Disciples Leadership Institute**, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Founding member and planning team leader for this group of 40 Disciples ministers between the ages of 25 and 35, half of whom are non-Anglo, and half of whom are from new church starts. Intended to create conversations and fellowship among emerging leaders around congregational and larger church issues. Since 2005.

**Academy of Homiletics**, since 2005

**American Academy of Religion**, since 2004.

**Disciples of Christ Historical Society**, since 2003.