

**The Rev. Elizabeth Ford Friend, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

- 2012                    **Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality**  
Graduate Theological Union  
“The Writing Life: Narrative, Metaphor, and Emotion in the Spiritual  
Autobiographies of Teresa of Avila and Sarah Edwards”
- 2006                    **Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction**  
San Francisco Theological Seminary
- 2000                    **Master of Divinity**  
Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union Presbyterian Seminary)
- 1999                    **Licence en Théologie**  
Institut Protestant de Théologie, Montpellier, France
- 1993                    **B.A. in Religion**  
Davidson College

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Virginia Theological Seminary**

- 2017-present            Senior Lecturer, Doctoral Programs  
2015-2017              Instructor in D.Min. Studies  
2014-2015              Adjunct Instructor, Doctor of Ministry Program

*Courses*

- Contemporary Expressions of Christian Spirituality  
Interpretation and Contemplation in Christian Spirituality  
Doctoral Writing Week  
Project Thesis Proposal  
Contextual Study  
Case Study Seminar  
Visions of Transformation III-IV  
Biblical and Theological Studies I  
Spiritual Autobiography  
Christian Spiritual Traditions I: Mystical and Contemplative Traditions  
Contemporary Spiritual Traditions

### **Columbia Theological Seminary**

Fall 2022                      Instructor, Center for Lifelong Learning  
Praying with Teresa of Avila: Exploring *The Interior Castle* through Image and Metaphor

### **Washington Theological Union**

Winter 2013                  Adjunct Professor, Doctor of Ministry Program  
Method in Christian Spirituality: Pastoral Implications

### **Georgetown University**

Spring 2010                  Professorial Lecturer, Theology Department  
Desire and the Spiritual Life

### **Graduate Theological Union**

Spring 2009                  Desire and the Spiritual Life, co-taught with Elizabeth Liebert (San Francisco Theological Seminary) with a Newhall Award

Fall 2008                      Christian Spirituality, Certificate of Ministry Studies (Disciples Seminary Foundation)

Fall 2007                      Wisdom Literature and Spirituality, co-taught with John Endres (Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley) with a Newhall Award

Spring 2007                  Spiritually Informed Pastoral Care, teaching assistant with Joseph Driskill (Pacific School of Religion)

2005-2007                      Spiritual Life and Leadership, teaching assistant with Elizabeth Liebert (San Francisco Theological Seminary), five-semester course: Biblically-based Prayer (Lectio Divina); Social Discernment; Centering Prayer; Clearness Committee; Introduction to Group Spiritual Companionship (Contemplative Listening)

2006-2008                      Research assistant to Sandra Schneiders (Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley)

## **RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

### **Course Design**

2021                              Contemporary Expressions of Christian Spirituality, revised and updated a core course to align with new learning goals for the Christian spirituality track

2020                              Interpretation and Contemplation in Christian Spirituality, redesigned a core course to align with new learning goals for the Christian spirituality track

2019                              Spiritual Autobiography

2018                              Contextual Study with PJ Hobbs, redesigned a core course to address the needs of doctoral students in the three streams of the Doctoral Programs, adapted to Brightspace LMS

2018                              Christian Spiritual Traditions I: Mystical and Contemplative Traditions

Jan 2018                      Doctoral Writing Retreat with Sharon Heaney, piloted a series of writing workshops for doctoral students beginning thesis writing  
2017                              Contemporary Spiritual Traditions

### **Writing Coaching and Consultation**

2019-present                Advised master's students in writing through the VTS Academic Resource Center

### **Continuing Education**

June 2018                    Certificate in Fundamentals of Online Teaching for Theological Educators, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2021-present                Director of VTS-Ming Hua Partnership, Virginia Theological Seminary

### **Consultancies, Virginia Theological Seminary**

March 2023-present      Edited VTS Self Study in preparation for the ATS Comprehensive Visit  
Jan-Feb 2023                Prepared ATS Focused Evaluation Visit Report and represented VTS on the ATS Focused Evaluation Visit to Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong  
Oct 2021                      Assessed selections from student academic portfolios for the Doctoral Programs review  
Aug-Dec 2020                Served as Acting Director of Doctoral Programs during the director's sabbatical  
March 2018                    Advised VTS Digital Learning Team of D.Min. faculty needs for the new Brightspace Learning Management System  
Jan-Feb 2018                Drafted ATS Petition for Opening a New Extension Site at Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong  
Dec 2017                      Presented to the VTS Master's Committee a report of research into a Master of Arts or Master of Divinity Program in Chaplaincy

### **Prior experience**

March – July 2009        Interim Program Manager, Program in Christian Spirituality, San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA  
1993-96                      Smithsonian Study Tours and Seminars

## **MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

Ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Aug 27, 2000

2004-present                Spiritual Director  
2005-present                Supply Preacher  
2020-2022                    Small Group Leader for Lectio Divina  
2013-2022                    Small Group Leader supporting women's spiritual nurture and

2017	fellowship, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA Small Group Leader for Centering Prayer
2016	Volunteer Chaplain, Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington, VA
June-Aug 2012	Temporary Supply Pastor, Arlington Presbyterian Church
Feb 24, 2008	Forum Presenter, introducing “Centering Prayer” to First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2008-2009	Chaplain, Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction, San Francisco Theological Seminary Chaplain, Before the Cradle and Beyond the Cross: A Lectionary Retreat for Preachers, San Francisco Theological Seminary
Feb 2009	Retreat Facilitator, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
2000-2004	Associate Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Jenkintown, PA
1999-2000	Pastoral Ministry Intern, Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2021	William S. Conant Grant, The Episcopal Church
2008-2009	Newhall Award, Graduate Theological Union, supporting course design and co-teaching of a graduate-level theology course
2008	Student Travel Grant, Graduate Theological Union
2007-2008	Newhall Award, Graduate Theological Union, supporting course design and co-teaching of a graduate-level theology course
2005-2007	Presidential Scholarship, Graduate Theological Union
2000	C. V. Cheney Fellowship, awarded by Union-PSCE faculty for graduate study
1998-99	Montpellier Exchange Fellowship, supporting a year of academic study in France
1997-2000	Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Grant
1996-2000	Union-PSCE Friends fellowships

## PUBLICATIONS

Review of *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions*, by Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM. *Interpretation* 71, no. 3 (July 2017): 351-52.

Review of *Attending the Wounds on Christ's Body: Teresa's Scriptural Vision*, by Elizabeth Newman. *Interpretation* 68, no. 4 (Oct 2014): 449.

Review of *Silence, Solitude, and Simplicity: A Hermit's Love Affair with a Noisy, Crowded, and Complicated World*, by Sister Jeremy Hall, OSB. *Religious Studies Review* 37, no. 3 (Sept 2011): 191.

Review of *Christian Spirituality*, by Ross Thompson. *Religious Studies Review* 37, no. 3 (Sept 2011): 200.

Review of *Studying Christian Spirituality*, by David B. Perrin. *Religious Studies Review* 35, no. 3 (Sept 2009): 162.

Review of *Follow Me: Christian Growth on the Pilgrim's Way*, by Brett Webb-Mitchell. *Anglican Theological Review* 90, no. 1 (Winter 2008): 186-187.

"Between Text and Sermon: Matthew 26: 6-13." *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 59, no. 4 (2005): 400-02.

"Wisdom of the Redwoods: Insights for Spiritual Direction from Developmental Theory and Old Growth Forests." *Spirit Rustlings*, San Francisco Theological Seminary, Spring 2005.

"Baptism of the Lord" and "Third Sunday of Easter." *The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual*, Series 3 Year B. Edited by Beverly A. Zink-Sawyer. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

"Spiritual Writing as Protestant Practice: Sarah Edwards's Experience of Grace, in Her Own Words," Christian Spirituality Group and Reformed Theology and History Group, American Academy of Religion, Nov 3, 2008

"Dwelling and Delight: A Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of Metaphor in Teresa of Avila's *The Interior Castle*," Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Nov 2, 2008

## **THESIS SUPERVISION**

"Evagrius of Pontus and the Demons in the Desert: A Phenomenology of Transition in the Church." By Jason Alexander, Doctor of Ministry Program, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2022.

"Beauty, Faith, and Friendship: Building a Bridge Between the Sacred Arts Group and St. Mary's Court." By Elizabeth Orens, Doctor of Ministry Program, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2020.

"How Fostering Spiritual Practice Builds Spiritual Confidence." By Cynthia Byers Walter, Doctor of Ministry Program, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2017.

"One Lord, One Body, One Mission: A Trinitarian Vision of Receptive Ecumenism and Missional Collaboration Within the Whole Body of Christ." By Michael A. Haverkamp. Doctor of Ministry Program, Washington Theological Union, 2015.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Spiritual Directors International