

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

- 2024-present Instructor, Certificate in Contemplative Spiritual Direction
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

2025 Nurturing Heart, co-designed a foundations course introducing principles of discernment in systems and structures and exploring Western and non-Western models of spiritual accompaniment

2024 Awakening Heart, designed a foundations course introducing fundamentals of spiritual direction and Ignatian, Carmelite, and Quaker spirituality

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
Nov 2023 Accreditation Visitor for Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Evaluation Committee Comprehensive Visit

Consultancies, Virginia Theological Seminary

March-Dec 2023 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 fellowship, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA
2017	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

"The Spiritual Lives of Leaders: What is Ours to Do?," a leadership retreat exploring Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA, Apr 27, 2024 (postponed)

"Spiritual Centering for the New Year," Women's Winter Gathering, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, VA, Jan 3, 2024

"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

"From Preaching to Pedagogy: Why Black Churches Need to Create Justice-Centered Curriculum." By Marc Antoine Lavarin, Sr., Doctor of Ministry Program, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2024.

"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. Havercamp. Doctor of Ministry Program, Washington Theological Union, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Spiritual Directors International