

CURRICULUM VITAE

Branson Parler

Director of Theological Education &
Professor of Theology, The Foundry
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DEGREES

- Ph.D., 2010, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.
Ph.D. Focus: Systematic Theology
Dissertation: “Things Hold Together: John Howard Yoder’s Trinitarian Theology of Culture.”
Dissertation Readers: John Bolt, James K. A. Smith, and Richard Mouw.
- M.A. (Philosophy), 2005, Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, ON.
Focus: Philosophy of Religion & Theology
- B.A., 2002, Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI.
Major: Religion
Minor: Ancient Languages, English Literature

EMPLOYMENT & COURSES TAUGHT

The Foundry, 2021-present

- Contemporary Cultural Stories
- Interpreting the Bible
- Preaching & Teaching the Old Testament
- Preaching & Teaching the New Testament
- A Practical Theology of Sabbath
- Telling Our Stories
- Cultivating Character
- Fruitful Thinking

Professor of Theological Studies, Kuyper College, 2008-2021

- PH232 Introduction to Philosophy
- PH241 History of Philosophy I
- PH242 History of Philosophy II
- PH360 Philosophy for Understanding Theology
- TH344 Principles and Practices of Reformed Worldview
- TH240 Christian Doctrine I
- TH241 Christian Doctrine II
- TH433 Christ and Culture
- TH434 Male and Female: Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and Ministry
- TH458 Creeds and Confessions
- TH521 Mission of the Church (Graduate course)
- BI101 Introduction to Biblical Interpretation
- BI111 Old Testament Survey
- BI112 New Testament Survey

Adjunct Professor, Kuyper College, 2007-2008

- BI111 Old Testament Survey
- BI112 New Testament Survey

Adjunct Professor, Calvin College, 2008

- Christianity and Politics

Adjunct Professor, Cornerstone University, 2005-2008

- Christian Theology
- Prophetic Literature
- Religious Communities and Culture
- Freshman Rhetoric
- Foundations of Inquiry

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Intersection of philosophical, theological, and biblical engagements with contemporary issues of gender and sexuality
- Theology of culture
- Ecclesiology and political theory
- Theological education and ministry formation

PUBLICATIONS

Every Body's Story: 6 Myths about Sex and the Gospel Truth about Singleness and Marriage. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2022.

“Polyamory: The Next Sexual Frontier.” *Christianity Today Leader's Journal*, Sept. 25, 2019. Co-authored with Preston Sprinkle.

“The Bible, Polyamory, and Monogamy.” The Center for Faith, Gender & Sexuality. *Pastoral Paper* 13. <https://www.centerforfaith.com/resources>.

“Worlds Apart? James Brownson and the Sexual Diversity of the Greco-Roman World,” *Trinity Journal* 38, no. 2 (2017): 182-200.

“Organic in the Bedroom: The Fertile Vision of Wendell Berry and *Humanae Vitae*.” *Christian Scholar's Review* 47, no. 1: 17-30.

“Hair Length and Human Sexuality: The Underlying Moral Logic of Paul's Appeal to Nature in 1 Corinthians 11:14.” *Calvin Theological Journal* 51, no. 1 (2016): 112-136.

“The Emperor's New Clothes: Peter Leithart's Constantine,” in *Constantine Revisited*, ed. John D. Roth (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2013).

“Two Cities or Two Kingdoms?: The Importance of the Ultimate in Reformed Social Thought,” in *Thy Kingdom Come: Neo-Calvinism and the Two Kingdoms Perspective*, ed. Ryan McIlhenny (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2012).

Things Hold Together: John Howard Yoder's Trinitarian Theology of Culture. Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2012).

“Overcoming Lamech: Lament as an Antidote to Violence.” *The Other Journal*, Vol. 20 (May 1, 2012).

The Forest and the Trees: Engaging Paul Martens' The Heterodox Yoder. Englewood Review of Books, 2012. Ebook.

“Spinning the Liturgical Turn: Why Yoder is Not an Ethicist,” in *Radical Ecumenicity: Unity and Continuity after Yoder*, ed. John C. Nugent (Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press, 2010).

“John Howard Yoder and the Politics of Creation,” in *Power and Practices: Engaging the Work of John Howard Yoder*, ed. Jeremy M. Bergen and Anthony Siegrist (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2009).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Going Public: Returning Theological Education to the Church.” Kuyper Conference. Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI. April 5-7, 2022.

“B.S. Versus Intellectual Virtues: Inviting Students into the Intrinsic Teleology of Teaching and Learning.” Kuyers Institute for Teaching and Learning. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Oct. 5-7, 2017.

“Missing Voices: James Brownson’s Failure to Address the Diversity of Greco-Roman Sexuality.” Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, Nov. 17-19, 2015.

“The Body and the Earth: The Agrarianism of Wendell Berry as *Praeparatio Evangelica* for *Humanae Vitae*.” Ecclesia and Ethics Conference. Online. March 21, 2015.

“Coexist: Religious Polemics and the Myth of Religious Violence.” Kaufman Interfaith Institute West Michigan Academic Consortium Conference on Religious Polemics, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI, Oct. 15, 2013.

“Restless Until We Rest in Thee: Teaching Philosophy, the Virtue of Humility, and Sabbath-Keeping.” Kuyers Institute for Teaching and Learning on Virtues, Vices, and Teaching, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Oct. 3-5, 2013.

“Pioneering Culture: John Howard Yoder, the Church, and the Common Good.” Christian Scholars' Conference, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, June 6-8, 2013.

“The Naked Public Square? A Neo-Calvinist Critique of the Reformed Two Kingdoms Conception of Democracy.” Kuyper Center for Public Theology conference on Neo-Calvinism and Democracy, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, April 19-21, 2012.

“Which Natural Law? The First Command and the Deconstruction of Reformed Two Kingdoms Thought.” Midwest Evangelical Theological Society Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 2012.

“Spinning the Liturgical Turn: Why Yoder is Not an Ethicist,” John Howard Yoder and the Stone-Campbell Churches, Indianapolis, IN, March 13-14, 2009.

“Putting the Church to Work: An Augustinian Critique of the Kuyperian Concept of Vocation,” Kuyper Center for Public Theology conference on Civil Society and Sphere Sovereignty, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, April 17-19, 2008.

“Heirs of Schleiermacher: John Williamson Nevin’s Critique of Evangelical Ecclesiology,” Evangelical Theological Society Regional Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 28-29, 2008.

“The Politics of Jesus and the Power of Creation.” Inheriting John Howard Yoder: A New Generation Examines His Thought, Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, Toronto, ON, May 25-26, 2007.

“John Howard Yoder’s Augustinian Ecclesiology: The Church as Public Square.”
Evangelical Theological Society National Meeting, November 15-17, 2006.

SELECT OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

“Scripture, Theology, and Human Sexuality.” Lecture presented at Gordon College, March 21, 2018. Available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_PsTVfn5GU.

“Christian Perspectives on End of Life: Holding On and Letting Go.” A panel discussion hosted by Kuyper College, Spectrum Health, and Hospice of Michigan. Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Feb. 11, 2014. Available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvYeGNA8JsY>

“The Reformed-Anabaptist Dialogue: Confusion and Convergence.” Lecture presented at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Oct. 2013.

SELECT ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

ThinkChristian - I have written over 70 articles for *ThinkChristian* from 2012-present on the intersection of contemporary concerns and Christian faith, which are archived at <https://thinkchristian.reframedia.com/contributors/branson-parler>.

Front Porch Republic

- [“Social isolation as the fruit of liberalism”](#)
July 18, 2018

The Twelve blog

- [“The Jesus flag”](#)
July 13, 2015
- [“While you’re at it...a syllabus of issues to address regarding marriage and sexuality”](#)
June 15, 2015
- [“Taunts or pledges: reflections on the loss of a son, eight years later”](#)
May 4, 2015
- [“Let not many of you become bloggers”](#)
June 7, 2014

The Banner

- [“Sabbath Rest”](#)
Aug. 21, 2014

Missio Alliance Blog

- [“Conquest, Exile, and Cross: Replacing Projection with Reality”](#)
Feb. 24, 2014

MINISTRY AND CHURCH EXPERIENCE

Director of Faith Formation, Fourth Reformed Church (RCA), Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-present

- Preach on a regular basis.
- Oversee and coordinate the small groups at Fourth.

- Coordinate with the lead pastor to provide pastoral oversight and leadership to the consistory and congregation.
- Oversee and teach the adult Christian education time on Sunday mornings.
- Developed and oversee the mentoring program connected with people (especially young people) making profession of faith.
- Coordinate and lead the Faith Formation Team.

Church affiliation and service

- Serve in a variety of ministries, including children’s worship, teaching adult Christian education, leading a small group, and serving in the nursery.
- Member at Fourth Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, since 2009.
- Ordained and served as elder, beginning 2012.
- Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, 2017.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS/LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERSHIPS

[The Center for Faith, Gender and Sexuality](#) 2017 – present
 Serve as part of the collaborative team leadership, including writing and speaking.

[Regional Synod of the Great Lakes Executive Committee](#) 2015 – 2019
 Served as Vice President from 2015-2016 and President in 2016-2017.