

**Daniel J. Ott**

Dean, Professor of Theology and Religion  
School of Theology, Humanities, and Performing Arts  
Eastern Mennonite University

**Education**

**Claremont Graduate University**, Claremont, CA

Ph.D. 2006 Philosophy of Religion and Theology  
Dissertation: “The Church in Process: A Process Ecclesiology,”  
Directed by Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

**Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, Louisville, KY

Master of Divinity 1996

**West Virginia University**, Morgantown, WV

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition 1993

**Professional Experience**

***Eastern Mennonite University (2022-present)***

Dean of School of Theology, Humanities and Performing Arts

Professor of Theology and Religion

***Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois (2011-2022)***

Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives, Monmouth College (2019-2022)

Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (Fall 2017, August 2018-2022)

Coordinator, Integrated Studies, Monmouth College (2017-2019)

Coordinator, Peace, Ethics and Social Justice Program, Monmouth College (2014-2022)

Co-coordinator, Reflections Course Set, Integrated Studies, Monmouth College (2013-2017)

Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

- Won Hatch Research Award for excellence in scholarship (2018).

***St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, North Carolina (2004-2010)***

Chair, Department of Religious Studies, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (2007-2009)

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (2004-2010)

### **Grant Writing and Directing**

Co-wrote and direct a grant for comprehensive general education program review and revision, funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, \$200,000 (2018-2022).

Co-wrote grant and designed summer theological institute for youth, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. \$451,000 (2016) and sustainability grant \$225,000 (2019).

Wrote Teaching of the Bible Grant: Immigration and the Hebrew Bible, funded by the Presbyterian Church (USA), \$6,000 (2017).

Co-wrote and directed curriculum development grant resulting in revision of the entry course to the major, funded by, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, \$25,000 (2015-2016).

Co-wrote grant to broaden and institutionalize vocational discernment programs and holistic advising, funded by Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, \$10,000 (2015-2016).

Directed grant activities for pursuing vocation programming campus-wide, funded by Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, \$50,000 (2014-2015).

### **Publications**

#### **Book**

*Christian Thought in America: A Brief History*, with Hannah Schell, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press 2015)

#### **Book Contributions**

“Means and Ends When the Future Is Open” in *Partnering With God*, (SacraSage Press, August, 2021)

“Leading with Faith” in *Open and Relational Leadership: Leading with Love*, (SacraSage Press, 2020)

Theological perspective essays on Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 25:31-45 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Volume 2*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)

#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“Naturalistic Fruits of the Spirit: Faith, Hope, and Love,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol 42.1 (January 2021), pp. 32-49.

“Nonviolence and the Nightmare: King and Black Self-Defense,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (January 2018), pp. 64-73

“In einem Augenblick”: Christian naturalism, death, and Brahms’s Ein deutsches Requiem,” *Theology Today*, Vol. 74, No. 2 (July 2017), pp. 138–148.

“Nonviolence and Moral Equivalency,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (May 2014), pp. 172-183.

“Toward a Realistic, Public, Christian Pacifism,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (September 2012), pp. 245-257.

“Church, Community and Democracy,” *Political Theology* 12.3 (2011), pp. 347-362.

“Process Communitarianism,” *Concrescence: The Australasian Journal of Process Thought*, (2009), pp. 67-75.

### **Review Articles**

Review of *Pragmatic Nonviolence: Working toward a Better World* by Andrew Fitz-Gibbon, *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, (forthcoming).

Review of *Healthy Conflict in Contemporary American Society: From Enemy to Adversary* by Jason Springs, *Reading Religion*, August 2018 (online at <http://readingreligion.org/books/healthy-conflict-contemporary-american-society>)

Review of *Transforming Faith: Individual and Community in H. Richard Niebuhr* by Joshua Daniel, *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology* Vol. 39, No. 2 (May 2018)

Review of *The Purposes of God Providence as Process-Historical Liberation* by G. Michael Zbaraschuk, *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (June 2016)

Review of *Expressing Theology: A Guide to Writing Theology that Readers Want to Read* by Jonathan C. Roach and Grisel Dominguez, *Reflective Teaching* (online at [www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu))

Review of *The Life and Thought of Bernard Eugene Meland, American Constructive Theologian, 1899-1993* by W. Creighton Peden, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (September, 2015)

Review of *Spiritual Bankruptcy: A Prophetic Call to Action* by John B. Cobb Jr., *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, Vol. 66, No. 3 (July, 2012)

Review of *The God Debates: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guide for Atheists and Believers (and Everyone in Between)* by John R. Shook, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (January 2012)

Review of *A Theology of the Church for the Third Millennium: A Franciscan Approach* by Kenan Osborne, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Summer, 2011)

Review of *A Passion for Christian Unity* ed. by John M. Imbler and *Ecclesiological Trends in the Catholic and Protestant Churches and Their Significance for the Church in Africa* by Dunstan M. Mbanjo, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Winter 2010)

Review of “*Follow Me*”: *A History of Christian Intentionality* by Ivan J. Kauffman, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (Summer, 2010)

Review of *Ecumenical Reception: Its Challenge and Opportunity* by William G. Rusch, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 4 (Fall, 2008)

### **Other**

“Killing,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Vol. 203, No. 15, (October 25, 2021)

“Sound Off: Recent Violence in Sacred Spaces,” *Political Theology Network*, Quick Takes, <https://politicaltheology.com/sound-off-recent-violence-in-sacred-spaces/>, (June, 2019)

Reflections on Five Peacemaking Affirmations for *A Season of Peace*, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, (Fall, 2017)

“Analysis of Presbytery Responses to the Five Affirmations for Peace Discernment” in *Risking Peace in a Violent World: Five Peacemaking Affirmations*, a report to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), (February, 2016)

“Let’s Focus on Nonviolence,” *Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice*, [www.justiceunbound.org](http://www.justiceunbound.org), (July 23, 2014)

### **Reviewing and Editing**

Editorial Advisory Board, Wildhouse Publications, 2021 - present

Editorial Board, *Studies in Open and Relational Theology*, SacraSage Press, 2020 – present

Reviewer for *Political Theology*, 2020 - present

Guest Editor with Hannah Schell, “Faith and Solidarity,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 37, No. 2, (May 2016)

Reviewer for *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, 2014 – present

Reviewer for *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 2011 - present

### **Presentations**

“Naturalistic God Metaphors, Nonviolence, and Violence,” Liberal Theologies, Open and Relational Theologies, and Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. Units, American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 2019

- “The Religious Qualities of Naturalistic God Metaphors,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2019
- “Transcendence and Death Denial: Historicizing What Is Naturalized in Terror Management Theory,” The Seventh International Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Berlin, Germany, June 2018
- “Nonviolence and the Nightmare,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2017
- “*In einem Augenblick*: Brahms, Death, and Christian Naturalism,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2016
- “Engaging Scripture as Myth: Revisiting Bernard Meland and (Re)Mythologizing Process Theology,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015
- Panelist, “Implications: The Presbyterian Church (USA) and Christian Ethics,” Social Ethics Network, October 2015
- Program director with Hannah Schell, “Faith and Solidarity,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2015
- “(Re)Making Martin Luther King Jr. an Icon of Nonviolence,” International Whitehead Conference: Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization, June 2015
- “The Reciprocal Relationship between Vocational Discernment Programming and Community Building,” Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, Council of Independent Colleges, March 2015
- “Nonviolence and Moral Equivalency”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2013
- “When God holds his assizes: A Thick Description of War”  
The Sixth International Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Pamplona, Spain, July 2013
- “At the root of all war is fear’: Thomas Merton’s Realist Account of the Spiritual Dimensions of Violence” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 2012
- “Toward a Realistic, Public, Christian Pacifism”  
The Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2011
- “Science and the Breaking of Myths”  
St. Andrews Religion and Science Roundtable, April 2010

- “Community and the Church: The Redemptive and Transformative Power of Community” 2008 Memorial Bible Lectures, Laurinburg, NC (series of three commissioned lectures)
- “Church, Community and Democracy”  
The Fifth International Conference of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Assisi, Italy, August 2008
- “Inclusive Love Beyond Inclusivism: Modeling the Church’s Mission after the Inclusive Love of the Trinity” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2006
- “Open God, Open Church”  
Co-Presented with Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki  
The Sixth International Whitehead Conference, Salzburg, Austria, July 2006
- “Pragmatism and Loyalty, Plurality and Totality, God: A Contrasting of the Pragmatic Theologies of William James and Josiah Royce”  
Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 2000
- “Toward an Ecological Christology”  
Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 1999
- “Directions for a Process Ecclesiology”  
Silver Anniversary International Whitehead Conference, August 1998

### **College Service**

#### ***Monmouth College***

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2018-2022)

Title IX Response Team (2021-2022)

Assisted VPAA with process to revise mission statement, values statements, and core competencies (2020-2021)

Right-size and Reimagine Committee (2020)

Member of Faculty Senate, Monmouth College (2016-2017)

Member of the Faculty and Institutional Development Committee, Monmouth College (2013 –2016)

Political Science Search Committee member, Monmouth College (2016-2017)

Sociology Search Committee member, Monmouth College (2015)

Art Search Committee member, Monmouth College (2015)

Political Science Search Committee member, Monmouth College (2013)

English Search Committee member, Monmouth College (2012-2013)

### ***St. Andrews Presbyterian College***

Member of Curriculum and Assessment Committee and General Education Subcommittee, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (2009-2010)

Chair of Special Events Committee, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (2006-2009)

Co-Convener of McNair Lecture in Science and Theology and St. Andrews Religion and Science Roundtables (2006-2010)

### **Professional Development**

Senior Leadership Academy, Council of Independent Colleges, American Academic Leadership Institute (Summer 2019 – 2020)

Institute on College Futures, Associated Colleges of the Midwest (Summer 2019)

Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Faculty Career Enhancement, Collaboration to Address 21st Century Challenges in Liberal Education through Inclusive Communities of Practice (Fall 2018)

Mediation Skills Training Institute, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (Spring 2018)

Diversifying the Professoriate: Pathways, Processes, and Practical Strategies for a Changing Academy, *Co-sponsored by the ACM, the Big Ten Academic Alliance, and The University of Iowa (May 2016)*

### **Community Service**

Volunteer Instructor at Hill Correctional Facility, Galesburg, IL (2017-2022)

Stated Supply Pastor (Part-time), Sugar Tree Grove Presbyterian Church, Monmouth, IL (2011 – 2021)

### **Memberships in Professional Associations**

American Academy of Religion, 2006 – present

Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, 2008 – present

- Administer \$40,000 budget including the American Journal of Philosophy and Theology
- Board Member 2012-present

Social Ethics Network – Presbyterian Church (USA), 2015 – present