

## Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church Faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology 2009

At the request of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, the faculty have developed an inventory of the way their research, courses and writing can contribute to the Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church:

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World
- 2) New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations
- 3) Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
- 4) Stamping Out Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally

Link to [Four Areas of Ministry Focus](#) on the United Methodist Web Site

### **Nancy R. Howell**

#### **Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion**

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

##### *Research Interests:*

Science and Religion: My research supports Christian leaders as public theologians by providing resources that offer sound descriptions of science and theological resources from the tradition so they might speak clearly and confidently on behalf of the Church in an age of science.

Liberation Theology: My research engages liberation theology so that my teaching and writing might prepare seminarians and leaders to address global concerns for the marginalized with understanding and insight.

Theological Diversity: My research includes dialogue among diverse theological perspectives with the intention of modeling humility as well as the richness of the tradition. My work often engages the dialogue between Open theology and process theology.

##### *Courses:*

Science, Theology, and Ministry (all topics)  
Introduction to Systematic Theology  
Theology and the Church's Ministry  
Introduction to Ministry (taught formerly)

##### *Writing:*

"Implications of Science for Religious Life." *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 27: 2 & 3 (May/September 2006): 154-172

“Openness and Process Theism: Respecting the Integrity of Two Views.” In *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue between Process and Free Will Theists*, ed. John B. Cobb, Jr. and Clark H. Pinnock, 53-79. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000

“In Response to David L. Wheeler.” In *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue between Process and Free Will Theists*, ed. John B. Cobb, Jr. and Clark H. Pinnock, 149-154. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000

“In Response to Richard Rice.” In *Searching for an Adequate God: A Dialogue between Process and Free Will Theist*, ed. John B. Cobb, Jr. and Clark H. Pinnock, 201-207. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000

## 2) Congregational Development:

### *Research Interests:*

Liberation Theology: My research on theological responses to marginalized persons supports development of congregations truly open and hospitable to diverse persons.

Women’s Theologies: My research intends to understand and interpret theologically the diverse experiences of women with the intention of creating a Church open to all women and active in alleviation of violence against women.

### *Courses:*

Advanced Praxis Seminar: Theology in Black and White  
Liberation Theology in Global Contexts  
Liberation Theology in the U.S.  
Feminist and Womanist Ethics  
Whiteheadian Feminism  
Process Theology

### *Writing:*

*A Feminist Cosmology: Ecology, Solidarity, and Metaphysics.* Amherst, N. Y.: Prometheus Press; Humanity Books, 2000

Guest Editor, “Feminism and Process Thought.” *Process Studies* 22:2 (Summer 1993)

“Gordon Kaufman: From Agency to Creativity.” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 29:1 (January 2008): 34-43

“Beyond *A Feminist Cosmology.*” In *Constructing a Relational Cosmology*, ed. Paul O. Ingram, 104- 120. Princeton Theological Monograph Series 62. Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick Publications, 2006

“The Importance of Difference in Science-Religion Course Pedagogy.” In *Research in the Humanities, Sciences through Buddhist Life Perspectives*, Center for Humanities, Science

and Religion, 2002-2006, ed. Ryusei Takeda, 201-215. Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 2007. [Also published in Japanese in an anthology ed. Ryusei Takeda, 144-167. Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 2008

“A Whiteheadian Case for Diversity in Science and Religion.” *CTNS Bulletin: The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences* 19:4 (Fall 1999): 3-10

“Science, Religion, and Women.” In *Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*, ed. Serinity Young et al., 873-875. New York: Macmillan, 1999

“Theism.” In *Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*, ed. Serinity Young et al., 970-71. New York: Macmillan, 1999

“Ecofeminism: What One Needs to Know.” The Teachers’ File. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 32:2 (June 1997): 231-241

“Radical Relatedness and Feminist Separatism.” Reprint in *Que(e)rying Religion: A Critical Anthology*, ed. Susan E. Henking and Gary D. Comstock, 202-213. New York: Continuum, 1997

“The Paradox of Power: An Ecofeminist Reflection upon Diversity and Value.” In *Religious Experience and Ecological Responsibility*, ed. Donald Crosby and Charley D. Hardwick, 207-224. New York: Peter Lang, 1996

“Domestic Violence Resources for the Classroom.” *Newsletter of the Women's Caucus: Religious Studies*, IV: 2 (Fall 1995): 6-7

“Feminism and Process Thought” (editor's introduction to special issue on Feminism and Process Thought). *Process Studies* 22:2 (Summer 1993): 69-70

“Marginality” (with Thomas Campbell, Roberta Brown, Patricia O'Connell Killen, Laura Klein, and Elizabeth Brusco). *Prism* V: 1 (Fall 1991): 1-4

“Radical Relatedness and Feminist Separatism.” *Process Studies* 18:2 (Summer 1989): 118-126

“The Promise of a Process Feminist Theory of Relations.” *Process Studies* 17:2 (Summer 1988): 78-87

### 3) Ministry with the Poor:

#### *Research Interests:*

Liberation Theology: My research concerning Latin American, African, and Asian particularly addresses the importance of theological response to global poverty.

Science and Religion: My research and teaching address issues of access to medical care, discrimination in medical practice and research, and environmental racism in relation to poverty. My work is especially concerned with peace and justice toward the marginalized, inclusive of animals and nature whom Sallie McFague calls “the new poor.” Justice is never partial, and my assumption is that justice toward all humans and nature is interconnected.

*Courses:*

Liberation Theology in Global Contexts  
Liberation Theology in the U.S.  
Introduction to Systematic Theology  
Science, Theology, and Ministry: Diversity, Culture, and Values  
Science, Theology, and Ministry: Love and Altruism

*Writing:*

“Uniqueness in Context.” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 28:3 (September 2007): 364-377

“Living in the Matrix: A Whiteheadian Ecofeminist Reflection on Hierarchy.” In *Research in the Humanities, Sciences through Buddhist Life Perspectives*, Center for Humanities, Science and Religion, 2002-2006, ed. Ryusei Takeda, 201-215. Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 2007

“The Importance of Difference in Science-Religion Course Pedagogy.” In *Research in the Humanities, Sciences through Buddhist Life Perspectives*, Center for Humanities, Science and Religion, 2002-2006, ed. Ryusei Takeda, 201-215. Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 2007. [Also published in Japanese in an anthology ed. Ryusei Takeda, 144-167. Kyoto: Ryukoku University, 2008

“Relations between *Homo Sapiens* and Other Animals: Scientific and Religious Arguments.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, ed. Philip Clayton and Zachary Simpson, 945-961. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006

“Implications of Science for Religious Life.” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 27: 2 & 3 (May/September 2006): 154-172

“‘Going to the Dogs’: Canid Ethology and Theological Reflection.” *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 41:1 (March 2006): 59-69

“The Promise of Buddhist-Christian Dialogue on Science and Religion: Continuing Dialogue on Ecology.” In *Buddhism and Science: Buddhism and Environmental Bioethics: Buddhist-Christian Dialogue*, ed. Ryusei Takeda, 35-45. Kyoto: Bukkyo Bunka Kenkyujo/Ryukoku University, 2005

“The Importance of Being Chimpanzee.” *Theology and Science* 1:2 (October 2003): 179-191

“Assessing Science and Religion in Dialogue with Frederick Ferré.” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 23:1 (January 2002): 29-37

“A God Adequate for Primate Culture.” *Journal of Religion and Society* 3 (2001) [journal online]. Available from <http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/2001-4a/2001.html>. Internet accessed 2 May 2001

“Generosity and Power: When It Is More Blessed to Receive.” *Creative Transformation* 4:3 (Spring 1995): 6-10

#### 4) Improving Health Globally:

##### *Research Interests:*

Science and Religion: My research concerning the Human Genome Project, cloning, and stem cell research and therapy is concerned with justice issues in relation to human and ecological health.

Liberation Theology: Research supporting my teaching includes consideration of AIDS in Africa and appropriate theological responses.

##### *Courses:*

Science, Theology, and Ministry (all topics except Love and Altruism)  
Liberation Theology in Global Contexts

##### *Writing:*

Associate Editor (with Niels Gregersen and Wesley Wildman, Associate Editors, and Wentzel van Huyssteen, Editor in Chief), *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion* (2 volumes). New York: MacmillanUSA, 2003

“Mapping Human Cloning in Science-Religion Dialogue.” *Science and Faith* 4: 18-39, 2001. (In Russian)

“Co-Creation, Co-Redemption, and Genetics.” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 20:2 (May 1999): 147-163

“Abortion and Religion.” *Advances in Bioethics: New Essays on Abortion and Bioethics*, Volume 2, ed. Rem B. Edwards, 125-149. Greenwich, Conn., and London: JAI Press, 1997