

Don Thorsen

Curriculum Vitae

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Azusa Pacific University, Azusa Pacific Seminary,
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Current Academic Position

1988-	Professor of Theology, Azusa Pacific University
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Professor: 1994-present• Doctoral Faculty: 2005-present (e.g., teaching, mentoring doctoral projects)
2009-2016	Chair, Department of Theology and Ethics, Azusa Pacific Seminary
2005-2010	Chair, Advanced Studies, Graduate School of Theology

Education Background

1984-1988	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	Drew University, Theological and Religious Studies
1982-1984	Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)	Drew University, Theological and Religious Studies
1981-1982	Master of Theology (Th.M.)	Princeton Theological Seminary, Systematic Theology
1977-1980	Master of Divinity (M.Div.)	Asbury Theological Seminary, Theology and Philosophy Concentration
1973-1977	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Stanford University, Religious Studies, Honors Program

Past Academic Positions

2018-2020	Ph.D. Reader	London School of Theology for Middlesex University
1996	Adjunct Professor	Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California
1986-1987	Visiting Instructor	Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky
1984-1985	Adjunct Professor	Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, New Jersey
1984-1985	Teaching Fellow	Drew University, Madison, New Jersey
1982-1983	Warden	Bicentennial Consultation on Methodism and Ministry, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

Editorial Positions

2011-present	Executive Team Member	Aldersgate Press
2008-2011	Co-editor, with Mitzi Budde	Unity in Mission Study Group, Faith and Order Commission, National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2004-2008	Co-editor, with Kevin Mannoia	Wesleyan Holiness Study Project
1997-2001	Contributing Editor	<i>Light and Life: An Interactive Magazine for Earnest Christians</i>
1996-2005	Trustee	<i>Christian Scholar's Review</i>
1993-2001	Associate Editor, Theology and Ethics	<i>Christian Scholar's Review</i>
1993-2010	Advisory Editor	<i>Christianity Today (Consulting Editor 1993-2006)</i>

Scholarly Society Positions

2009- 2015	Executive Committee (President 2011-2014)	Christian Theological Research Fellowship
2008- 2010	Executive Committee	Society of Evangelical Scholars
2007-present	Executive Committee (Vice Chair 2010-)	Wesleyan Holiness Consortium
2003-2007	Executive Committee	Wesleyan Holiness Studies Project
2002-2008	Executive Committee	The Word Made Fresh, American Academy of Religion
1993-1996	President (Second Vice President, First Vice President)	Wesleyan Theological Society

Ecumenical Positions

2024-present	Co-Chair, Faith and Order	Theological Dialogue on Matters of Faith and Order, National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2018-present	Co-Convener, Hindu-Christian Dialogue	Subcommittee of the Commission on Interreligious Dialogue and Collaboration, of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2017-present	Representative, Wesleyan Theological Society	Theology Task Force, National Council of Churches (Subcommittee of Interreligious Dialogue and Collaboration)
2014-2015	Chair, Theology Subcommittee	Subcommittee of the Convening Table on Theological Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order, of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America

2012-2014	Co-Chair, Theology Study Group	Commission on Interreligious Dialogue and Collaboration, of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2010	Delegate, Azusa Pacific University	3 rd Lausanne Congress, Cape Town, South Africa
2008-2011	Co-Chair, Study Group: Unity in Mission	Commission on Faith and Order, of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2008-present	Representative, Wesleyan Theological Society	Commission on Interfaith Relations, of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America (Renamed 2014: Convening Table on Interreligious Relations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish-Christian Dialogue • Muslim-Christian Dialogue • Hindu-Christian Dialogue • Buddhist-Christian Dialogue
2005- 2018	Representative, Azusa Pacific University	Commission on Faith and Order, of the Southern California Ecumenical Council (known after 2017 as the Southern California Christian Forum)
2003-2015	Representative, Azusa Pacific University	Wesleyan Holiness Consortium (Executive Board Member, 2006-2015)
2003-present	Representative, Wesleyan Theological Society	Convening Table on Theological Dialogue and Faith and Order (previously known as Commission on Faith and Order), of the National Council of Churches of the United States of America
2002-2014	Chair of Ecumenical Studies, Program Committee	Wesleyan Theological Society

Awards

2023	J. Irwin Miller Award for Excellence in Ecumenical Leadership	Awarded by the National Council of Churches, U.S.A., for a layperson who has demonstrated a commitment to church unity, and who, by living out this commitment through action in the world, has been a witness to justice and other values affirmed by Christians' common faith in Jesus Christ. (See <a data-bbox="711 1570 1446 1644" href="https://app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&m=BVKUXR&mc=JM&s=QTUxj9&u=xcQv&z=EIDYQzD&.">https://app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&m=BVKUXR&mc=JM&s=QTUxj9&u=xcQv&z=EIDYQzD&.)
2011	Award of Merit	Awarded by <i>Christianity Today Magazine</i> , to Steve Wilkens and Don Thorsen, for their book entitled <i>Everything You Know About Evangelicals Is Wrong (Well, Almost Everything): An Insider's Look at Myths and Realities</i> (Baker, 2010).

2010	Outstanding Scholarship Award, Graduate Faculty	Awarded by Azusa Pacific University for outstanding scholarship by a member of the graduate faculty.
2002	Excellence in Faculty Teaching Award	Awarded by the Azusa Pacific University School of Theology, in the C.P. Haggard Graduate School of Theology
1999	Provost Publication Award	Awarded by Azusa Pacific University for Best Book of the Decade, for <i>The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience as a Model of Evangelical Theology</i> (Zondervan, 1990).

Scholarship

Books (Chronological Order)

1. *Confronting Racism and White Supremacy in the US: Twenty-First Century Theological Perspectives*. Edited with Michael Fisher, Jr. (Editor in Chief), Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, and Tony Kireopoulos. Washington, DC: Friendship Press, 2024. (ISBN-)
2. *I Am Who I Am: Unfolding the Biblical Understanding of God*. Cleveland, Tennessee: Aldersgate Press, (forthcoming in 2024). (ISBN-)
3. *Golden Nuggets of Truth: Christian Wisdom for Church Life and Mission*. Edited with Barry Callen (Editor in Chief) and Kevin Mannoia. Lexington, KY: Emeth Press, 2024. (ASIN-B0CW1D9NFD)
4. *Jesus' Best Friend: A Novel*. Eugene, Oregon: Resource Publications for Wipf & Stock, 2023. (ISBN-9781666772395)
5. *What's True about Christianity? An Introduction to Christian Faith and Practice*. Claremont, CA: Claremont Press, 2020. (ISBN-9781946230416)
 - a. Spanish translation: *¿Qué Hay de Cierto sobre el Cristianismo?* Claremont Press (forthcoming in 2025)
6. *An Exploration of Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020. 434 pp. (ISBN-9781540961747)
 - a. Portuguese Translation: *Uma Exploração da Teologia Cristã*. Brazil: Reflexão, 2020.
 - b. Chinese Translation: *有關出版簡體版*. Hong Kong, China: Tien Dao Press, 2021.
7. *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: An Introduction*. Lexington, Kentucky: Emeth Press, 2018. 109 pp. (ISBN-9781609471170)
8. *Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy: An Introduction to Issues and Approaches*. Co-authored with Craig Boyd. 202 pp. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. (ISBN-9780801048234)
9. *Pocket Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Pocket Dictionary Series. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2018. 143 pp. (ISBN-10: 083084967X; ISBN-13: 978-0830849673)
10. *Twelve Great Books that Changed the University, and Why Christians Should Care*. Co-edited with Steve Wilkens. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2014. (ISBN-10: 1620327392)
11. *Strength to Be Holy*. Edited by Don Thorsen. Lexington, Kentucky: Emeth Press, 2014. (ISBN-10: 1609470737; ISBN-13: 978-1609470739)
12. *Calvin vs. Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013. (ISBN-10: 1426743351; ISBN-13: 978-1426743351)
 - a. Portuguese Translation: *Calvino versus Wesley*. Sao Paulo, Brazil: Carisma, 2018.
 - b. Korean Translation: *Wesley vs Calvin*. Seoul, South Korea: Korean Methodist Church Press, 2021.

- c. Chinese Translation: *基督教神学初探*. Singapore: Methodist Church of Singapore, 2023.
13. *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*. Co-edited with Mitzi Budde. Faith and Order Commission Theological Series. Maryknoll, New York: Paulist Press, 2013. (ISBN-10: 0809148307; ISBN-13: 978-0809148301)
 14. *Heart and Life: Rediscovering Holy Living*. Co-edited with Barry Callen. Lexington, Kentucky: Aldersgate Press, 2012. (ISBN-10: 1609470354; ISBN-13: 978-1609470357)
 15. *What Christians Believe about the Bible: A Concise Guide for Students*. Co-authored with Keith Reeves. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. (ISBN-10: 0801048311; ISBN-13: 978-0801048319)
 16. *Everything You Know about Evangelicalism Is Wrong (or Almost Everything): An Insider's Look at Realities and Myths*. Co-authored with Steve Wilkens. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. (ISBN-10: 080107097X; ASIN: B004P5OQ5Q)
 17. *The Holiness Manifesto*. Co-edited with Kevin Mannoia. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008. (ISBN-10: 0802863361; ISBN-13: 978-0802863362)
 18. *An Exploration of Christian Theology*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishing, 2008. Reprint: Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. (ISBN-10: 0801047862; ISBN-13: 978-0801047862)
 19. *Inclusive Language Handbook*. Co-authored with Vickie Becker. Grantham, Pennsylvania: Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy, 1998. (Out-of-print; available online: ASIN: B0006RJEQI)
 20. *Theological Resources for Ministry: A Bibliography of Works in Theological Studies*. Nappanee, Indiana: Evangel Publishing House, 1996. (ISBN-10: 0916035719; ISBN-13: 978-0916035716)
 21. *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience as a Model of Evangelical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Francis and Taylor for Zondervan, 1990. Reprint: *The Wesleyan Quadrilateral: A Model of Evangelical Theology*. Lexington, Kentucky: Emeth Press, 2005. (ISBN-10: 0975543539; ISBN-13: 978-0975543535)
- a. Korean Translation: *웨슬리 사변형*. Seoul, South Korea: Korea Evangelical Literature Publishing Company, 2000.
22. *Theological Method in John Wesley*. Dissertation. Drew University. Madison, New Jersey. Ann Arbor: UMI, 1988. (UMI Publication Number 8817640; see <http://dissexpress.umi.com/dxweb/results.html?QryTxt=&By=donald+a.d.+thorsen&Title=theological+method+in+john+wesley&pubnum>)

Forthcoming Books

1. *Christian Formation*. So-edited with Keith Matthews. (forthcoming in 2025)
2. *Nicaea 2025*. General editor. Friendship Press. (forthcoming in 2025)

Wikipedia

Don Thorsen article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Thorsen

Book Chapters, Forewords, and Definitions

1. "Foreword." In Vinicius Couto, *Quadrilátero Wesleyano como método teológico e hermenêutico: Revisitação adaptação e renovação*. São Paulo: Editora Reflexão, 2020. iii-iv.
2. "The Revelation to John, Prisoner on the Island of Patmos." In *Thinking Theologically about Mass Incarceration: Biblical Foundations and Justice Imperatives*. Edited by Antonios Kireopoulos, Mitzi J. Budde, and Matthew D. Lundberg. Faith and Order Commission Theological Series, National Council of Churches. New York: Paulist Press, 2017. 147-157.
3. "John Wesley's Holiness Themes." With Kirsten Oh. In *the Holy River of God: Currents and Contributions of the Holiness Stream of Christianity*. Ed. Barry L. Callen. Spring Valley, California: Aldersgate Press, 2016. 21-28.
4. "Apocalyptic Spirituality." Foreword. In Brian L. Cooper, *Rethinking the End of the World: Understanding Apocalyptic Spirituality*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015.
5. "Theology: Augustine, Confessions." In *Twelve Great Books that Changed the University, and Why Christians Should Care*. Ed. Steve Wilkens and Don Thorsen. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2014. 36-49.
6. "Holiness Is What We Long For." In *Strength to Be Holy*. Ed. Don Thorsen. Lexington, Kentucky: Emeth Press, 2014. 9-18.
7. "Unity in Proclamation." In *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*. Ed. Mitzi J. Budde and Don Thorsen. Faith and Order Commission Theological Series. Maryknoll, New York: Paulist Press, 2013. 75-89.
8. "Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations, and the Lausanne Movement." In *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*. Ed. Mitzi J. Budde and Don Thorsen. Faith and Order Commission Theological Series. Maryknoll, New York: Paulist Press, 2013. 222-247.
9. "How Did Jesus Define His Ministry? A Study of Matthew 28:16-20 and Luke 4:16-21." In *Unity in Mission: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Mission*. Ed. Mitzi J. Budde and Don Thorsen. Faith and Order Commission Theological Series. Maryknoll, New York: Paulist Press, 2013. 298-310.
10. Definitions in *Global Wesleyan Dictionary of Theology*. Ed. Al Truesdale. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2013.
 - Personalism/Personalist Theology (401-402)
 - Quadrilateral, Wesleyan (443-444)
 - Sect (492-493)
 - Time and Eternity (541-542)
 - Work, Theology of (579-580)
11. "Holiness Manifesto: The Church's Great Need." In *Heart and Life: Rediscovering Holy Living*. Ed. Barry L. Callen and Don Thorsen. Lexington, KY: Aldersgate Press, 2013. 5-16.

12. "Holiness and Spiritualities: A Range of Christian Experience." In *Heart and Life: Rediscovering Holy Living*. Ed. Barry L. Callen and Don Thorsen. Lexington, KY: Aldersgate Press, 2013. 75-84.
13. "*Prima Gratia, Prima Fide, and Prima Scriptura: Reforming Protestant Principles*. In *The Continuing Relevance of Wesleyan Theology*. Ed. Nathan Crawford. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. 201-224.
14. Definitions in *Dictionary of Everyday Theology and Culture*. Eds. Bruce Demarest and Keith J. Matthews. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 2010.
 - Cross (97-99)
 - Glory of God (172-175)
 - God's Longsuffering (191-192)
 - Resurrection (335-338)
 - Righteousness (347-350)
15. Definitions in *The Wesley Study Bible*. Eds. Joel B. Green, et al. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009:
 - Fruits Meet for Repentance (1243)
 - Repentance (1143)
 - Repentance of Believers (1415)
 - Studying Scripture (576)
16. "Integrated Streams of Holiness." In *Holiness Manifesto*. Eds. Kevin Mannoia and Don Thorsen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. 73-91.
17. "Inclusive Language." In *Faith and Gender Equity: Lesson Plans across the College Curriculum*. Eds. C. Jeanne Orjala Serrão and Susie C. Stanley. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007. 167-170.
18. "The Wesleyan Quadrilateral in Contemporary American Evangelical Theology." In *Holiness as a Root of Morality: Essays in Honor of Lane A. Scott*. Ed. John S. Park. Lewistown, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2006. 47-78.
19. "*Sola Scriptura* and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral." In *The Spirituality and Leadership of John Wesley*. Ed. Ki Yang. Seoul: Qumran Press, 2005. 185-200.
20. "Interpretation in Interactive Balance: The Authority of Scripture for John Wesley." In *Reading the Bible in Wesleyan Ways*. Eds. Barry L. Callen and Richard P. Thompson. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2004. 81-104.
21. "Reuniting the Two So Long Disjoined: Knowledge and Vital Piety." In *Heart of the Heritage*. Eds. Barry L. Callen and William C. Kostlevy. Salem, OH: Schmull Publishing Co, 2001. 363-382.
22. "Inclusive Language." In *Contemporary American Religion*. Ed. Wade Clark Roof. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2000. 327-329.
23. Definitions in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 Vols. Ed. David Noel Freedman. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books for Doubleday, 1992:
 - Gethsemane (3:969-970)

- Samothrace (5:949)

24. "The Place and Function of Scripture." In *Asbury Bible Commentary*. Eds. Eugene E. Carpenter and Wayne McCown. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. 38-59.

Journal Articles

1. "Blessed Be the *Holiness* Tie that Binds," *Aldersgate Theological Journal* (forthcoming in 2024).
2. "Trinitarian Theology for Better Pastoral Care." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 55.2 (Fall 2020): 190-206.
3. "Wesleyan Catholicity and Accountability: A Retrospective and Prospective on the Work of Faith and Order." *Ecumenical Trends*. Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute. 48.5 (May 2019): 61-68, 75.
4. "TULIP vs. ACURA: Reframing Differences between Calvin and Wesley." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 50.2 (Fall 2015): 96-112.
5. "A Wesleyan-Holiness Perspective on *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 50.2 (Spring 2015): 295-298.
6. "Faith Integration, Higher Education, and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: A Personal Witness." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 49.2 (Fall 2014): 243-253.
7. "Jesus, Ecumenism, and Interfaith Relations: A Wesleyan Perspective," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 47.1 (Spring 2012): 59-71.
8. "A Tribute to Donald W. Dayton, Recipient of the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wesleyan Theological Society," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 45.2 (Fall 2010): 263-266.
9. "Unity in Mission: Introduction." Co-authored with Mitzi Budde. *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 45.2 (Spring 2010): 178-182.
10. "What Makes Theology 'Wesleyan'?" Co-authored with Sarah Heaner Lancaster, Catherine Keller, Dennis C. Dickerson, and Charles M. Wood. *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies* 1 (2009): 7-26.
11. "The Wesleyan Impulse in Teaching," *The Asbury Journal* 63.2 (Fall 2008): 49-58.
12. "Holiness in Postmodern Culture," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 43.2 (Fall 2008): 123-135.
13. "The Holiness Manifesto: An Ecumenical Document," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 42.2 (Fall 2007): 209-224. Reprinted in *Word & Deed*, 10.2 (May 2008): 5-22.
14. "*Sola Scriptura* and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 41.2 (Fall 2006): 7-27.
15. "Ecumenism, Spirituality, and Holiness: Wesley and the Variety of Christian Spiritualities," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 41.1 (Spring 2006): 189-204.
16. "Can We Talk? Interdisciplinary Studies and the Spirit of Ecumenism," *Christian Scholar's Review* 28.2 (Winter 1998): 224-225.
17. "Towards a Broader Concept of Scholarship," *Christian Scholar's Review* 26.1 (Fall 1996): 9-11.
18. "Revelation and Homosexual Experience: What Would John Wesley Have Said About This Debate in the Church?" *Christianity Today* 40.13 (November 11, 1996): 34-38.

19. "Reuniting the Two So Long Disjoined: Knowledge and Vital Piety," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 31.2 (Fall 1996): 191-209.
20. "The Future of Biblical Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition: A Theological Perspective," *Wesleyan Theological Journal* 30.2 (Fall 1995): 182-202.
21. "The Temptations of Truth," co-authored with David C. Bicker and James L. Hedges, *Faculty Dialogue*, 16 (1992): 123-128.
22. "Experimental Method in the Practical Theology of John Wesley," *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, 24 (1989): 117-141.
23. "Michael Polanyi: A Post Critical Understanding of Religious Belief," *Asbury Theological Journal*, 41.1 (1986): 79-90.