

## ALDEN LEE BASS

Koonce Distinguished Professor of Bible and Ministry  
Hazelip School of Theology  
Lipscomb University  
Nashville, Tennessee  
alden.bass@lipscomb.edu

### EDUCATION

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- 2014      **Saint Louis University**, Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Theology  
  
                 *Certificate in University Teaching Skills*, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, Saint Louis University (2014)  
  
                 *Certificate in Christian Community Development*, Christian Community Development Association (2011)
- 2007      **Vanderbilt University**, Master of Theological Studies
- 2005      **Yale University**, Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

### APPOINTMENTS

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- 2024-      **Lipscomb University**, Koonce Distinguished Professor of Bible and Ministry
- 2022-24    **Oklahoma Christian University**, Associate Professor (with tenure) of Bible and Theology
- 2020-22    **Oklahoma Christian University**, Program Chair, Division of Bible
- 2017-22    **Oklahoma Christian University**, Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology
- 2015-17    **Saint Louis University**, Assistant Visiting Professor of Theology
- 2011-15    **Kenrick-Glennon Seminary**, Adjunct Professor of Latin
- 2011        **Saint Louis Christian College**, Adjunct Professor
- 2007        **Lipscomb University**, Adjunct Professor

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- 2022-23      Christ and Being Human Syllabus Development Grant, **Yale Center** for Faith and Culture

2022-23	Vital Worship Grant, <b>Calvin Institute</b> of Christian Worship
2022	Racial Equity and Interfaith Cooperation Award, Institute on <b>Interfaith Excellence</b>
2021-22	Development of Undergraduate Vocational Discernment, <b>NetVUE</b>
2021	Vocational Ministry Development, <b>Tulsa Christian Foundation</b>
2014	Prize in Patristic Exegesis, <b>Institute for Classical Christian Studies</b>
2012-13	Christian Scholarship Foundation Award
2008-12	Presidential Fellowship, <b>Saint Louis University</b>
2005-07	Gregory-Patterson Scholarship, <b>Vanderbilt</b> Divinity School
2005	Honors in Religious Studies, <b>Yale</b> University

## COURSES TAUGHT

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\*Taught in traditional classrooms, online, and on-site in hospitals, prisons, and study abroad programs

Beginning New Testament Greek

Beginning and Intermediate Latin

Introduction to World Religions

Introduction to the New Testament

History of Early Christianity

Jesus and Salvation

Death and Suffering

Love and the Human Condition

Theology and Writing

Green Discipleship: Ecology, Food, and Faith

Theology, Technology, and Digital Culture

Story of the Old Testament

Life of Jesus

Women in the Mission of the Church

Race and Religion in America

History of the Bible

Paul: Life and Writings

Acts of the Apostles

Hebrews

Romans

Paul: Life and Writings

Paul Among the Philosophers

Social Justice in Biblical Perspective

Contemporary Theology

Introduction to Christian Theology

Jesus, Politics, and the Life of Faith

Beauty, Art, and Theology

History and Theology of Worship

Calling, Career, and the Ethics of Everyday Life

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Publications in Progress

Editor, *Reception of the Bible in Early Christianity, vol. 3: The Latin West* (The Bible in Ancient Christianity Series). Leiden: Brill (projected 2026).

Translator, *Augustine: Newly Discovered Sermons, vol. 2. Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century*, vol. III/13 Hyde Park: New City Press (in progress).

Co-editor with Jesse Hoover, *Augustine: The Donatist Controversy, vol. 2. Works of Saint Augustine, A Translation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, vol. 1/22. Hyde Park: New City Press (projected 2025).

“Seeing with Eyes Asquint: A Re-visionist Reading of Augustine’s Teaching on Original Sin,” in *Hermeneutics and Unity in and after Scripture*, edited by Daniel Oden and David Stark. Lexington Books (projected 2025).

Editor, *Devotion and Dissent: The Collection Works of Maureen Tilley on North African Christianity*. Catholic University of America Press (projected 2025).

### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Collected Works

“Pre-Baptismal Catechesis in Roman North Africa,” *Religious Life in Carthage, 200-700 CE*, edited by Jane Merdinger. Leiden: Brill (forthcoming).

“Between Donatus and the Devil: Readings of Ezekiel’s ‘Prince of Tyre’ in Fourth-Century North Africa,” *Colors and Textures: Essays in Honor of Maureen Tilley*, edited by Zachary Smith and Elizabeth Clark. Studies in Early Christianity. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2024.

“Scripture in Anonymous African Sermons,” *The Reception and Interpretation of the Bible in Christian North Africa*, vol. 2 edited by Jonathan Yates and Anthony DuPont. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2023.

“Contemporary Historiography of Christianity in North Africa,” *Revista de Historiografia* 36 (2021): 341-358.

“Augustine and Optatus of Milevis,” *Augustine and Tradition: Influences, Contexts, Legacy*, edited by Jonathan Yates and David Hunter. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021.

“Biblical Interpretation of Optatus of Milevis,” *The Reception and Interpretation of the Bible in Christian North Africa: Commencement to the Council of Carthage (180 to 397 C.E.)*, vol. 1 edited by Jonathan Yates and Anthony DuPont. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2020.

“Radical and Restorationist: Stone-Campbell Resources for Christian Intentional Community,” *Missio Dei: A Journal of Missional Theology and Praxis* 92 (Summer-Fall 2018).

- “Ecclesiastical Controversies: Donatism,” *Augustine in Context*, edited by Tarmo Toom. Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- “Dissident Preaching in Africa: Was it Distinctive?” *Ministerium Sermonis III, An International Colloquium on North African Patristic Sermons*, edited by Shari Boodts, pp. 397-414. Turnhout: Brepols, 2017.
- “Preaching in the Patristic Era,” *A Handbook for Catholic Preaching*, edited by Ed Foley, Catherine Vincie, Richard Fragomeni and James Wallace, pp. 51-61. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2016.
- “Biblical Exegesis of Junillus Africanus,” co-authored with Peter Martens, *Patristic Theories of Biblical Interpretation: The Latin Fathers*, edited by Tarmo Toom, pp. 133-59. Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- “*Justus sibi lex est*: Donatist Interpretation of Romans 2:14 and Roman Civil Law,” *Secular Struggles and Sacred Scripture*, edited by David Meconi, pp. 162-178. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
- “‘Bringing it to Completion’: American New Monasticism and the Benedictine Tradition,” *American Benedictine Review* 66 (2015): 352-363.
- “*Critica Criticorum*: Historical Certainty and the Written Word in the Works of Richard Simon,” *Allegorica* 31 (2015).
- “An Example of Pelagian Exegesis in the Donatist Vienna Homilies (Ö.N.B. lat. 4147),” in *The Uniquely African Controversy: Studies on Donatist Christianity. Proceedings of the International Donatist Studies Symposium*, edited by Matthew Gaumer, Antony Dupont, and Mathijs Lamberigts, pp. 197-210. Late Antique History and Religion Series 9. Leuven: Peeters, 2015.
- “The Passion of Cyprian in the So-Called ‘Donatist Dossier’ of Würzburg M. p. th. f. 33,” in *Text and Meaning: Textual Criticism and Theological Interpretation*, edited by Kenneth Steinhauser and Scott Dermer. Lewiston: Mellen Press, 2012.

### **Encyclopedia Articles**

- “Christian Intentional Community,” *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Christian Theology*, edited by Joel Looper (forthcoming).
- “Optatus of Milevis,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.
- “Donatus the Great,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.
- “Marculus,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.

“Traditor,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.

“Collatio cum Donatistis,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.

“Deo Laudes,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, edited by Paul J.J. van Geest, David Hunter, Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte.

### **Other Publications**

“The Way: A History of Intentional Christian Communities,” in *Called to Community: The Life Jesus Wants for his People*, edited by Charles Moore. Walden: Plough Publishing, 2016.

### **Selected Book Reviews**

*Tyconius’s Book of Rules: An Ancient Invitation to Ecclesial Hermeneutics* by Matthew Lynskey. *Augustinian Studies*. (forthcoming).

*Rhetoric and Scripture in Augustine’s Homiletic Strategy: Tracing the Narrative of Christian Maturation* by Michael Glowasky. *Augustinian Studies* 53.1 (2022): 104-107.

*The Bible in the Early Church* by Justo González. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 26.2 (Fall 2023).

*Early North African Christianity* by David Eastman. *Review of Biblical Literature* (4 April 2023).

*Love, Technology, and Theology* edited by Scott Midson. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 29.3 (2022): 158-60.

*Agamben, Arendt and Dark Arts of Civilization* by Peter Iver Kaufman. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 28.1 (2021): 74-76.

*Becoming What We Sing: Formation through Contemporary Worship Music* by David Lemley. *Englewood Review of Books* (28 July 2021).

*Baptists and the Catholic Tradition* by Barry Harvey. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 24 (Spring 2021).

*Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire, Demanding Justice* by Sylvia Keesmat and Brian Walsh. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 23.3 (2020): 310-11.

*The Latin New Testament* by H.A.G. Houghton. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26 (2019): 653-55.

*The Donatist Church in an Apocalyptic Age* by Jesse Hoover. *Journal of Ecclesiological History* 70 (2019): 594-95.

*Transhumanism and the Image of God* by Jacob Shatzer. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 22.2 (2019).

*Modern Technology and the Human Future* by Craig Gay. *Englewood Review of Books* (31 May 2019).

*The Donatist Schism: Texts and Contexts*, ed. by Richard Miles. *Augustiniana* 68.2 (2018): 340-43.

*The Benedictine Option* by Rod Dreher. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 21.1 (Spring 2018).

*I Want You to Be: On the God of Love* by Tomáš Halík. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 25 (2018).

*Together: Community as a Means of Grace* by Larry Duggins. *Englewood Review of Books* (26 October 2017).

*Empire Baptized: How the Church Embraced What Jesus Rejected, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Centuries* by Wes Howard-Brook. *Englewood Review of Books* (31 March 2017).

*Augustine, the Trinity, and the Church: A Reading of the Anti-Donatist Sermons* by Adam Ployd. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 25.1 (2017): 163-65.

*Maximus the Confessor: Jesus Christ and the Transfiguration of the World* by Paul Blowers. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23.4 (2016): 442-45.

*Augustine Deformed: Love, Sin and Freedom in the Western Moral Tradition* by John Rist. *Heythrop Journal* 57.4 (July 2016): 734-35.

*At the Altar of Wall Street: The Rituals, Myths, Theologies, Sacraments, and Mission of the Religion Known as the Modern Global Economy* by Scott Gustafson. *Englewood Review of Books* (12 February 2016).

*Contesting Catholicity: A Theology for Other Baptists* by Curtis Freeman. *Stone-Campbell Journal* 18.1 (2015).

*Tolkien's Sacramental Vision: Discerning the Holy in Middle Earth* by Craig Bernthal. *Englewood Review of Books* (20 February 2015).

*The World of Saint Patrick* by Philip Freeman. *Englewood Review of Books* (21 November 2014).

*God's Presence: A Contemporary Recapitulation of Early Christianity* by Frances Young. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 21.4 (2014).

*Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence* by Shai Held. *Englewood Review of Books* (21 March 2014).

"A Disciplined Hope": A Review of *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith* by Fred Bahnson. *Englewood Review of Books* 3.4 (2013).

*Christ Meets Me Everywhere: Augustine's Early Figurative Exegesis* by Michael Cameron. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 20.3 (2013).

*Christianity in the Greco-Roman World: A Narrative Introduction* by Moyer Hubbard. *Heythrop Journal* 54.1 (2013): 123.

*The Church for the World: A Theology of Public Witness* by Jennifer McBride. *Political Theology* 14.5 (2013): 692-94.

*Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line* by Christopher Pramuk. *Englewood Review of Books* (19 July 2013).

*Francis of Assisi: The Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint* by André Vauchez. *Englewood Review of Books* (14 December 2012).

*The Church and the Kingdom* by Giorgio Agamben. *Englewood Review of Books* (17 August 2012).

*Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology* by Richard Bauckham. *Englewood Review of Books* (10 February 2012).

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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### Professional Conferences

“Tears of Ps.-Fulgentius: Emotive Scripts in Late Ancient North African Preaching,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, 20 November 2023.

“Augustinian Deification: Review of Ron Highfield’s *New Adam: What the Early Church Can Teach Evangelicals (and Liberals) about the Atonement*,” Christian Scholars Conference, Houston, 8 June 2023.

“Serious Play: Review of Brad East’s *The Doctrine of Scripture*,” Christian Scholars Conference, Nashville, 8 June 2022.

“Spiritual Combat in the Escorial Sermons,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 26 May 2022.

“Seeing with Eyes Asquint: A Re-visionist Reading of Augustine’s Teaching on Original Sin,” Christian Scholars Conference, Nashville, 11 June 2021.

“Did Augustine’s Anti-Donatist Arguments Evolve Over Time?: the Sermon at Caesarea Mauretania as a Test Case,” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 2019.

“Biblical Interpretation in Optatus of Milevus: New Sacramentology, New Hermeneutic,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 26 May 2017.

“The Mighty Deeds of Elijah and Elisha in Donatist Exegesis,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, 22 November 2016.

“Abraham’s African Offspring: John 8 between Donatists and Catholics,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 27 May 2016.

- “Biblical Study Aids in the Donatist Tradition,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 20 November 2015.
- “Dissident Preaching in Africa: Was it Distinctive?” *Ministerium Sermonis III*, An International Colloquium on North African Patristic Sermons, Malta, 8 April 2015.
- “Between Marriage and Celibacy: Orphan Care as a Christian Vocation,” *Ecclesia and Ethics III*, 21 March 2015.
- “Historical Certainty and the Written Word in the Works of Richard Simon,” Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis, 17 June 2014.
- “Donatist Exegesis in the Early Fifth Century: A Look at the Vienna Homilies of Ö.N.B. lat. ms. 4147,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, 24 November 2013.
- “One Holy and Roman Emperor: Constantine and the Imperial Eschatology of Jonathan Edwards,” “*For the Good of Many*”: *Constantine and the Edict of Milan on Its 1700th Anniversary*, St. Louis, 21 September 2013.
- “Modeling Intentional Community: Exploring the Alternatives,” Christian Scholars Conference, Nashville, 7 June 2013.
- “Dissident Preaching in Africa: A Brief History of Donatist Homiletics,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 25 May 2013.
- “Donatist Catechesis in the Early Fourth Century: New Evidence from ÖNB lat. ms. 4147,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, 25 May 2012.
- “An Example of Pelagian Exegesis in the Donatist Vienna Homilies (Ö.N.B. lat. 4147),” International Donatist Studies Symposium, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 18 May 2012.
- “*Justus sibi lex est*”: The Role of Civil Law in the *Liber Regularum*,” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 2011.
- “The Paranoid Style of Christian Apologetics: Apologetics Press and the Role of Science in the Churches of Christ, 1980-2005,” Christian Scholars Conference, June 2011.
- “Tragic Beauty in *No Country for Old Men* as the Exposure of Human Limitation,” Christian Scholars Conference, June 2010.
- “Retelling ‘the fairest of stories’: The Yusuf Motif in the Lives of Muhammad and Contemporary Extra-Islamic Sources,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2009.
- “On the Separation of Church and Church: The Politics of Donatist Dissent in the Works of Parmenian and Tyconius,” North American Patristics Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 2009.

#### **Invited Lectures**



“The Consolation of Conversation: An Introduction to Job,” Crowley’s Ridge College Lectureship, 3 April 2023.

“Reviving the Ancient Church: Intentional Community and the Missional Future of Restorationists Churches,” CHARIS Lecture, Abilene Christian University, 16 April 2019.

“The Christian University as Intentional Community,” Abilene Christian University, 16 April 2019.

“Discerning the Spirit: Preaching as a Communal Act,” Kerygma, Oklahoma Christian University, 1 April 2019.

“Considering Dreher’s ‘Benedict Option’,” Theology on Tap, St. Louis, 4 August 2017.

“American New Monasticism and the Orthodox Tradition,” talk given for FOCUS at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, St. Louis, 24 September 2015.

“Why Ferguson? Race and Residential Segregation in St. Louis,” presentation given to several local churches in St. Louis, Fall 2014.

“‘Bringing it to Completion’: American New Monasticism and the Benedictine Tradition,” Keynote Address at the American Benedictine Association meeting, Conception Abbey, 25 July 2014.

“Flesh Becomes Word: Theological Implications of Giorgio Agamben’s Theory of Language,” Saint Louis University Humanities Forum, 18 September 2009.

## **SERVICE TO THE GUILD**

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2023-25 Chair of SBL Group, “Contextualizing North African Christianity”

2019-25 Steering Committee for SBL Group, “Contextualizing North African Christianity”

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

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### **Lipscomb University**

#### **Oklahoma Christian University**

2023-24 OC Faculty Association, Representative for College of Bible

2023-24 OC Honors Faculty Council

2018-23 Faculty Sponsor, Black Student Union

2018-23 Academic Affairs Sub-Committee on Faith and Learning, Chair

2019-22 Celebration of Excellence, Co-Director

2019-22 Academic Affairs Sub-Committee on Writing Across the Curriculum

2018-22 Academic Affairs Sub-Committee on Academic Honesty

2019-21 Faculty Sponsor, Women in Theology

### **Saint Louis University**

2016-17 Learning Communities Faculty Affiliate

2013-14 Member of the Advisory Board, Reinhart Center for Teaching Excellence

2008-13 Member of the Department of Theological Studies Graduate Student Advisory Council

2008-12 Representative for Department of Theological Studies, Humanities Forum

2008-10 Representative for the Graduate Students in the Humanities, Graduate Council Board

### **SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

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Ongoing *Regular Teacher and Preacher in Local Churches* (more info available upon request)

2014-24 Nurturing Communities Network, Steering Committee

2014-15 Committee for Racial Reconciliation, St. Louis Area Christian Ministers Association

2011-15 Minister, North City Church of Christ, St. Louis

2009-15 Co-director, Mark Twain After-School Tutoring Program

2009-15 Director of Adult Education, North City Church of Christ, St. Louis

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

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North American Patristics Society

Society of Biblical Literature