

Rebecca Abts Wright
School of Theology
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Education

1969 B.A. (Religion), The American University, Washington, DC
1976 M.Div., *summa cum laude*, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC
1989 Ph.D. (Old Testament), Yale University

Ecclesiastical History

1974 Ordained Deacon, Baltimore Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
1977 Ordained Elder, Baltimore Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Until May 12, 2024 Full member of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference under Appointment
Beyond the Local Church to the School of Theology
May 12, 2024- Confirmed into the Episcopal Church at St. Timothy's, Signal Mountain, TN
present Working toward eventual priestly ordination in the Episcopal Church
January 2025 Postulant in the Diocese of East Tennessee
May 24, 2025 Ordained transitional Deacon in the Diocese of East Tennessee at COTA.

Related Employment

1976-78 Minister, Sleepy Creek Charge (United Methodist), Sleepy Creek and Cherry Run, WV
1978-81 Minister, Wesley United Methodist Church, Hampstead, MD
1980-81 Supervising Pastor (Candidacy program), Baltimore Northwest District
1979-present Teacher, Course of Study School, Wesley Theological Seminary
First year course [required]: "The Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible"
Fourth year course [required]: "Word of God: Old Testament -- Genesis, Jeremiah, Deutero-Isaiah, Job, Psalms"
Supervisor for the Enrichment Program in years 3, 4, and 5
1980-81 Field Education Staff Supervisor, Wesley Theological Seminary
1982-85 Teaching Assistant, Yale Divinity School
1982-84 Introduction to the Old Testament
1984-85 Elementary Biblical Hebrew
Intermediate Hebrew: Poetry
1983-84 Interim Co-Minister: Windham County Country Parish [5 UM Churches], North Grosvenordale, CT
1985-88, 90-91 [Unofficial] Co-Minister: Portland and Moodus United Methodist Churches, Portland and Moodus, CT
1988-90 Co-Minister: Portland and Moodus United Methodist Churches, Portland and Moodus, CT
1989-90 Adjunct Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT
1990-94 Assistant Professor of Old Testament, School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN
1994-2001 Associate Professor of Old Testament, School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN
2001-2024 Professor Old Testament, School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN
2024-present Professor of Old Testament, Emerita School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN

Publications

1989 *Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook* New Haven: Yale University Press. With Vicki Hoffer, based in part on work with Bonnie Pedrotti Kittel.
1989-95 Exegetical essays for *Exegetical Review* --2 to 4 each quarter.
1990 Review of Paul Hanson, *The People Called: The Growth of Community in the Bible*, in *Exegetical Resource* 18.
1992 "Inclusive Language: Why Does it Matter Now?" *INCITE Journal* 1: 60-2.
1993 "The Holiness of the Ordinary," *Sewanee Theological Review* 36:391-5.

1994	"A Jewish and Christian Reading of Jonah: How (Dis)Similar?" <i>Sewanee Theological Review</i> 37:144-150. With Vicki Hoffer.
1994	<i>Journey Through the Bible</i> . Vol 2: Exodus-Deuteronomy. Nashville: Cokesbury. Adult education curriculum: student's book and leader's guide.
1994-95	Interim editor, <i>Exegetical Resource</i> .
1995-98	Exegetical section [continuation of <i>Exegetical Resource</i>] editor, <i>Australian Ministry Digest</i>
1995-98	Exegetical essays for <i>Australian Ministry Digest</i> -- 2 to 5 each quarter: 15-25,000 words per year.
1998	"History, Remembrance, and God's Future: Reinvigorating the Hebrew Bible Lessons for Lent," <i>Quarterly Review</i> 17:407-427.
1998-2019	Founding editor, <i>Tuesday Morning: A Journal of Bible and Church</i> 2 to 5 exegetical essays per quarter
1999	Revision study, "Hebrew Bible," Year 1 of <i>Education for Ministry</i>
1998-99	<i>International Lesson Annual</i> , Abingdon Press. 13 lessons: "In the Beginning."
1999-2000	<i>International Lesson Annual</i> , Abingdon Press. 13 lessons. "From Slavery to Conquest."
2019	3 exegetical essays in <i>Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship</i> . Louisville: Westminster/John Knox. Pp. 60-62, 77-79, 93-95.
2020	6 exegetical essays in <i>Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship</i>
2022	4 exegetical essays <i>Working Preacher</i> (Luther Seminary)

Public Lectures and Teaching (selected; preaching and celebrating Eucharist not listed)

October 1991	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN 3 sessions: "Psalms"
December 1991	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 2 sessions: "Psalms"
March 1992	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN 3 sessions: "Creation"
1992-present	Weekly lay Bible study group, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN
1998-present	A second weekly group was added at St. Paul's
2012-present	Weekly lay Bible study group, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mount Mountain, TN
2013-present	Weekly lay Bible study group. Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN
Lent 1992	Thorne Sparkman School of Religion, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 5 sessions: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
May 1992	St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN "Creation"
August 1992	Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY (Religion Lecturer) 5 lectures: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
October 1992	Franklin District, Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, United Methodist Annual Clergy Study Day "Preaching and Teaching from the Minor Prophets"
November 1992	Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN "Homosexuality and the Bible"
December 1992	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN 2 sessions: "Old Testament Lessons for Advent"
December 1992	St. John's Episcopal Church, Marion, NC Quiet Day: "Old Testament Lessons for Advent"
February 1993	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 3 Sessions: "Creation"
March 1993	Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 3 sessions: "Creation"
March 1993	Diocese of Nebraska Education for Ministry Weekend, Omaha, NE 4 sessions: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
March/April 1993	Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN

2 sessions: "Old Testament Lessons in Lent"

November 1993	School of Theology, University of the South, Ministry Weekend "Form Criticism in the Old Testament"
December 1993	Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, TN 3 sessions: "Isaiah and Jesus"
February 1994	St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL 5 sessions: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
Lent 1994	Thorne Sparkman School of Religion, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 5 sessions: "Modern Marcionites: Christians and the Old Testament" St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN 2 sessions: "Psalms"
March 1994	Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN: "Homosexuality in the Bible"
March 1994	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN 3 sessions: "Old Testament Lections for Lent"
April 1994	Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of East Tennessee, Spring Conference "Biblical Leadership: Learning to Trust"
June 1994	Brainerd United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, TN 2 sessions: "Job"
September 1994	Brainerd United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, TN 4 sessions: "The Ten Commandments"
Sept/Oct 1994	Theology PM, School of Theology, University of the South 2 sessions: "Biblical Hebrew for Non-Language Majors"
October 1994	Diocese of Alabama, Senior High Weekend 2 sessions: "The Apocrypha"
October 1994	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Montevallo, AL 2 sessions: "The Ten Commandments"
October 1994	Sewanee Elementary School 6th grade classes "Ancient Languages"
November 1994	School of Theology, University of the South, Ministry Weekend "Form Criticism in the Old Testament"
November 1994	St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL ECW Fall Retreat 3 sessions: "Genesis 1-3"
December 1994	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Montevallo, AL 2 sessions: "Old Testament Lessons for Advent"
December 1994	St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL "Old Testament Lessons for Advent"
January 1995	Alabama Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Pastors' Study Week 5 half-day sessions: "Preaching and Teaching the Old Testament Lessons for Lent"
February 1995	College of Preachers, Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC Conference Leader: "Preaching the Familiar Stories of Genesis"
March 1995	Church of the Ascension, Episcopal, Knoxville, TN 4 sessions: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
March 1995	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Newport, AR 5 sessions: "Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament"
January 1996	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN 2 sessions: "Jesus' Use of the Old Testament"
February 1996	St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Fort Payne, AL "Christians and the Covenant"
March 1996	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Montevallo, AL; St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and Church of the Apostles, Birmingham, AL "Christians and the Covenant"
Spring 1996	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Co-taught 10 weeks on Ched Myers, <i>Who Will Roll Away the Stone?</i>
April 1996	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN: ECW

“St Paul, Flesh, and the World”

May 1996	Diocese of Atlanta, ECW groups “Christians and the Old Testament”
Fall 1996	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Co-taught 10 weeks on John Spong, <i>Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism</i> (The class moved to a weeknight so that the sessions could be 90 minutes each.)
Sept/Oct 1996	St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN 5 sessions: “Insiders and Outsiders in the Old Testament”
November 1996	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN: ECW “Judaism”
November 1996	The Sewanee Emeritus Association, Sewanee, TN “Jesus as Exegete”
December 1996	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN 3 sessions: “The Three Horizons of Advent”
Spring 1997	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Co-teaching 10 weeks on Genesis. (Weeknight 90 minute sessions.)
Lent 2002	Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville, AL 5 sessions “Creation and Liberation in the Old Testament”
Fall 2007	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
Spring 2008	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Fall 2010	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
Spring 2011	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Spring and Fall 2011	“Bible Breakfast” St. Mary’s Sewanee, Weekly 90 minute sessions
October 2011	Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, TN 3 sessions on “Families in the Old Testament”
November 2011	Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville, TN Adult Forum: “The Biblical Passages Concerning Homosexuality”
October 2012	Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, TN 2 session on “The Bible, the Land, and Food”
November 2012	St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN 2 session on “Why Should Christians Bother with the Old Testament?”
Lent 2013	Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville, AL 5 sessions “Old Testament Backgrounds of Jesus’ Parables”
Fall 2013	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
Spring 2014	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
February 2014	Thankful Memorial Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 2 sessions on Job
February 2014	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN 2 sessions on Matthew 5
Lent 2014	Christ Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 5 Sundays “Old Testament Lections for Lent”
October 2014	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN 2 sessions “Reading the Bible with Social Science Helps”
October 2014	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Franklin, TN “How Many Creations Stories?”
Fall 2014	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
November 2014	St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN 3 sessions “Old Testament Prophets Then and Now”
December 2014	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN

2 sessions “The Prophet Micah”

Spring 2015	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Lent 2015	Thorne Sparkman School of Religion, St. Paul’s Chattanooga, TN 5 sessions: “Enough: Limits and the Old Testament”
Lent 2015	Christ Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 5 Sundays on The Creeds of the Church
March 2015	Women of St. Timothy’s Signal Mountain, TN 3 day retreat “Praying the Psalms”
April 2015	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 2 Sundays “Two Creation Stories and a Third”
Fall 2015	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
January 2016-May 2024	Grace Fellowship Church, Garnertown Rd UMC Rite Eucharist once each month
January 2016	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN 2 Sundays “Sabbath/Sabbatical”
February-March 2016	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 2 Sundays adult ed.
Spring 2016	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Fall 2016	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
October 2016	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain, TN Adult ed. “St. Francis”
November 2016	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN Adult ed. “The Old Testament in One Hour”
Spring 2017	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
March – April 2017	Christ Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 7 weeks Adult ed “What do you want to ask about the Old Testament?”
Fall 2017	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
November 2017	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Adult Forum “The Theology of Walter Brueggemann”
December 2017	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN Adult Forum 2 sessions: “The Poor You Will Always Have With You”
Spring 2018	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Spring 2018	NDTS Class: Old Testament and Preaching
December 2018	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Adult Forum: Isaiah 40
Fall 2019	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: Old Testament
Lent 2019	Thorne Sparkman School of Religion, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN 5 Wednesdays/ 2 classes each week
January 2020	Otey Episcopal Church, Sewanee, TN Adult Forum: Isaiah 49
Spring 2020	Diocese of East Tennessee Lay Ministries Training Program 6 Saturdays: New Testament
Spring 2020-2021	STEM weekday Bible Study, weekly meetings in person (at Trinity), then on Zoom
Lent 2020	Ecumenical Lenten Study – 5 sessions – Mentone, AL
[Note: Starting in the fall of 2020, many appearances switched from in person to Zoom. It’s how I could be three Sundays in a row in Aptos, CA, for instance.]	
May 2020	Diocese of E TN Lay Ministry Conference presentation
Fall semester 2020	COVID testing site volunteer, 8-20 hours per week
Sept/October 2020	Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Knoxville, TN Adult Forum:

	2 sessions: "The God of the Old Testament"
March 2021	St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, FL Adult Forum
Summer 2021	ADP class team-taught w/Andrew Thompson "People of the Land"
September 2021	Church of the Nativity, Fort Oglethorp, GA Adult Forum
	2 sessions "Creation"
Sept/Oct 2021	Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Aptos, CA Adult Forum
	3 sessions "All you ever wanted to know about the OT"
February 2022	St. Mark & St. Paul, Sewanee, TN Adult Forum "First Fruits"
February 2022	Good Samaritan, Knoxville, TN Adult Forum
	2 sessions: "Exodus"
February 2022	Good Samaritan, Knoxville, TN Women's Bible Study "Jeremiah"
May 2022	Confirmation Class, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN
	2 sessions – "How to Read the Bible"
September 2022	St. Mark&St. Paul's (formerly Otey) Episcopal Church, Sewanee
	"The Concept of Community in Ancient Israel"
May-June 2023	Confirmation Class, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN
	2 sessions – "How to Read the Bible"
March 2024	Adult Education, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Murphreesboro, TN
May 2024	Adult Education, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN
Sept – Oct 2024	Rector's Forum, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN
	5 sessions on The Book of Amos
January 2025	Adult Education, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Murphreesboro, TN
February 2025	St. Mark&St. Paul's (formerly Otey) Episcopal Church, Sewanee
	"Can we Learn from the Prophets about Our Environment?"
March 2025	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, TN
	Adult Forum "Justice in the Old Testament"
April 2025-present	Preaching monthly at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, TN

Other Professional Duties

1990-	Member, various School of Theology Committees, including Curriculum and Program, Admissions, Committee for a New Day, and Library.
1993-95	Member, University Grievance Committee, University of the South.
1994-95	Chair, University Grievance Committee.
November 1995	Member of ATS Evaluation Committee
	Notre Dame Seminary
	New Orleans, LA
1995-2001	Member, University Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee, University of the South.
1996-2009	Member, Center for Teaching Advisory Committee, University of the South.
2020	Member, Search Committee, Dean of the School of Theology
2020-2021	Volunteer at the University's COVID testing site 8-30 hours/week

Honors

1982-83	Dempster Graduate Fellowship, United Methodist Church
2006	Fortress Press Graduate School and Seminary Teacher of the Year for the United States and Canada