

The Very Rev. James F. Turrell

School of Theology
University of the South
335 Tennessee Ave.
Sewanee, TN 37383

Education

- Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, History Department, 2002
Dissertation: “Confirmation, conversion, and catechizing: Patterns of incorporation in the early modern Church of England.” Supervisor: Margo Todd.
- M.A., Vanderbilt University, History Department, 1999
Thesis: “Confirmation Theory and Practice in the Early Modern Church of England.” Supervisor: Margo Todd.
- M.Div. *summa cum laude*, Yale University, 1996
Berkeley Divinity School, Diploma of Anglican Studies.
- B.A. *summa cum laude*, Yale University, History, with distinction in the major, 1991
Thesis: “Anglo-American Cooperation and the ULTRA Decryption Project in the Second World War.” Supervisor: Michael Howard.

Academic Appointments

- Dean, School of Theology, University of the South, 2020-present
- Professor of Liturgy, School of Theology, University of the South, 2014-present
- Norma and Olan Mills Professor of Divinity, School of Theology, University of the South, 2012-present [honorary named chair]
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Theology, University of the South, 2008-2020
- Associate Professor of Liturgy, School of Theology, University of the South, 2008-2014
- Assistant Professor of Liturgics, School of Theology, University of the South, 2002-2008

Book

- Celebrating the Rites of Initiation* (Church Publishing Incorporated, 2013; revised 2025).

Articles

- “Ordination Rites, Past and Present,” in Paul Bradshaw, Luis Coelho, and Ruth Meyers, eds., *Oxford Handbook of the Book of Common Prayer* [forthcoming 2025]
- “The Story So Far,” in Maggie Taliaferro, Mary Ann Patterson, and Kevin M. Goodman, eds., *Education for Ministry: 50 Years of Engaging, Responding, and Reflecting: Collected Essays* (New York: Church Publishing, 2025), p. vii-xi.
- “Episcopacy: An American Perspective,” *Scottish Episcopal Institute Journal* 2 (2018), 72-84.

- “The Baptismal Revolution of 1979” and “The 1979 Prayer Book's Baptismal Office and the Potential of Revision” in Robert Prichard, ed., *Issues in Prayer Book Revision* (Church Publishing Incorporated, 2018).
- “The Rites of Christian Initiation of 1979 and the Present-Day Episcopal Church,” *Sewanee Theological Review* 61 (2017), 162-91.
- “A Brief History of Baptism,” in Anne E. Kitch, *Preparing for Baptism in the Episcopal Church* (Church Publishing, Incorporated, 2015).
- “Anglican Theologies of the Eucharist,” and
 “Anglican Liturgical Practices” in Lee Palmer Wandel, ed., *Companion to the Eucharist in the Reformation* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).
- “Richard Baxter’s Attempt to Rehabilitate Confirmation,” *Studia Liturgica* 41 (2011).
- “A Dim Mirror: Archbishop Rowan Williams’s Reflections on the 2009 General Convention,” *Anglican Theological Review* 92 (2010), 481-97.
- “Uniformity and Common Prayer,” in Torrance J. Kirby, ed., *A Companion to Richard Hooker* (Leiden: Brill, 2008), 337-66.
- “Priest and People in the Anglican Tradition: Reflections on and a Modest Critique of *Enriching Our Worship 4: A Renewal of Ministry*” *Sewanee Theological Review* 51 (2008), 301-313.
- “Muddying the Waters of Baptism: The Theology Committee’s Report on Baptism, Confirmation, and Christian Formation,” *Anglican Theological Review* 88 (2006), 341-359.
- “Catechisms,” in Charles Hefling and Cynthia Shattuck, eds., *The Oxford Guide to the Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2006), 500-508.
- “‘Until Such Time as He Be Confirmed:’ The Laudians and Confirmation in the Seventeenth-Century Church of England,” *The Seventeenth Century* 20 (2005), 204-222.
- “Protestant Medievalisms: Confirmation in the Early Modern Church of England” in Susan J. Ridyard, ed., *Interpreting the Middle Ages: Essays on Medievalism* *Sewanee Medieval Studies* 13 (Sewanee, Tenn., 2005), 105-118.
- “A Response to Eugene Y. Lowe, ‘A Philadelphia Story: An Anglican Reinvention,’” *Anglican Theological Review* 85 (Winter 2003), 65-73.
- “The Ritual of Royal Healing: Scrofula, Liturgy, and Politics,” *Anglican and Episcopal History* 68 (March 1999), 3-36.

Conference Papers

- “Rejecting Cranmer and Reimagining Liturgy at the End of the Seventeenth Century: Edward Stephens and the Apostolic Constitutions,” Southern Conference on British Studies, November 8-9, 2019, Louisville, Kentucky.

- “Baptism and Prayer Book Revision,” Once and Future Prayer Book, October 9-10, 2017, Sewanee, TN.
- “Anglicans Eucharistic Theologies and Practices in the Reformation,” North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2-6, 2013, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- “Richard Baxter’s Attempt to Rehabilitate Confirmation,” North American Academy of Liturgy, January 7-10, 2010. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- “Uniformity and Common Prayer,” North American Academy of Liturgy, January 4-8, 2006. San Diego, California.
- “Richard Hooker on Uniformity and Common Prayer,” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, October 20-23, 2005. Atlanta, Georgia.
- “The Early Modern Church of England and Christian Initiation: Word and Rite.” Southern Conference on British Studies, November 4-6, 2004. Memphis, Tennessee.
- “Reviving Confirmation in the Late Seventeenth-Century Church of England.” North American Academy of Liturgy, January 3-6, 2004. New York, New York.
- “The Restoration of Confirmation: the resurgence of confirmation in the Church of England in the 1660s.” Western Conference on British Studies, October 4-5, 2002. Little Rock, Arkansas.
- “Confirmation and Catechizing in Elizabethan and Jacobean England.” Center for Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference, June 7-8, 2002. Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Protestant Medievalisms: Confirmation in the Early Modern Church of England.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, April 12-13, 2002. University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.
- “‘Until such time as he be confirmed:’ Laudian Enforcement of Confirmation in the Church of England in the 1630s and 1640s.” Southern Conference on British Studies, November 9-11, 2000. Louisville, Kentucky.

Contributor

- Realizing Beloved Community: Report from the House of Bishops Theology Committee* (Church Publishing Incorporated, 2022).
- Book of Occasional Services 2022* (Church Publishing Incorporated, 2022).
- Volume editor; principal drafter of rites for Preparation for Confirmation, Recognition of Ministries, Concerning the Blessing of Water, Concerning Holy Oils, Consecration of Chrism Apart from Baptism, Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows, Reception as a Priest or Deacon, Restoration to the Ordained Ministry

Web-based Resource

- episcopalliturgy.org*: documenting worship in Episcopal parishes

Honors and Grants (selected)

- Honorary canon (lifetime appointment), Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem (PA), 2013
- Conant Fund grant (Episcopal Church), 2007, 2016
- Pre-tenure sabbatical (competitive), University of the South, 2007
- Faculty development grant, University of the South, 2007, 2016
- School of Theology faculty development grant (University of the South), summer 2003
- Episcopal Church Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 2001-2

Sewanee Medieval Colloquium Prize for best paper by junior scholar, April 2002
University Graduate Fellowship, 1998-2002 (Vanderbilt University)
Thomas Phillips Memorial Award for the study of Anglican liturgy, 1996 (Berkeley Divinity School at Yale)
John A. Wade Prize for expository preaching, 1995 (Yale Divinity School)
Carpenter Foundation scholarship, 1993-96 (Yale Divinity School)
John S. Bryan Foundation scholarship, 1993-96

Professional Memberships

North American Academy of Liturgy
Societas Liturgica

Other Professional Activities (selected)

Member, Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, The Episcopal Church, 2015-2022, 2024-2027.
Theologian-Member, Theology Committee of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church, 2013-15, 2016-2022
Presenter, clergy days/conferences in Dioceses of Bethlehem, Chicago, East Tennessee, Maryland, Nebraska, Tennessee, Western North Carolina
External reviewer, Program in Theology and Practice, Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, October 2016.
Seminar convener, "Historical Research, 16th century to the present," North American Academy of Liturgy, 2011-2013
Consultant to the Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in diocesan property litigation, September 2009.
Chair/commentator, "The Practice and Politics of Prayer in Early Modern England," roundtable. Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, October 25-29, 2006. Salt Lake City, Utah.
Commentator, "Power and Patronage at the End of the Middle Age," panel. Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, April 7-8, 2006. University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.
Lecturer and chaplain, Sewanee Church Music Conference, July 2005, July 2009
Commentator, "Covenant, Contract, and Commonweal: The Ordering of Community in a Litigious Age," panel. Episcopal Church Foundation Fellows' Forum, January 23-25, 2002. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

University Service (selected)

Sewanee Volunteer Fire Department
Captain, 2024-present
Lieutenant, 2023-2024
Firefighter, 2021-2023
University Faculty Council, 2013-2020
Search committee for the university treasurer, 2014
Search committee for the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2013-14
Search committee for the director of Physical Plant Services, 2013
Search committee for the chaplain, St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, 2014
University Advisory Council, 2005-2006, 2009-2011
University Lectures Committee, 2006-2007

Sewanee Medieval Colloquium Committee, 2003-2011
Search committee for the dean of the School of Theology, 2003-4
Steering committee, Lilly Theological Exploration of Vocation grant (University of the South), 2003-4

Ecclesiastical Service

Priest Associate, All Saints' Chapel, University of the South, 2003-present
Sub-dean for the Chapel, School of Theology, University of the South, 2008-2020
Acting University Chaplain, University of the South, June-July 2006
Stated Supply Priest (part-time interim), Trinity Church, Clarksville, TN, 2000-1
Stated Supply Priest, St. John's Church, Mt. Juliet, TN, 1999-2000
Curate/Resident Intern, Cathedral Church of St. James, South Bend, IN, 1996-98

Board Service

Board of Governors, Episcopal Church at Yale, 2024-present
President, *Anglican Theological Review*, 2019-2025
Episcopal Preaching Foundation, 2022-25
St. Mary's Center-Sewanee, 2020-2025

Professional Training and Certifications

Tennessee Fire Commission Certifications (IFSAC/ProBoard accredited):
Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations
Firefighter I, Firefighter II
Fire Instructor I
Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II
Critical Incident Stress Management: Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention
FEMA, Incident Command System 100, 200, 300, 700, 800