

**G. Lee Ramsey, Jr.**

*Marlon and Sheila Foster Professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics*

Memphis Theological Seminary  
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Memphis, TN 38104  
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**Education**

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**Degrees**

**Ph.D.** 1998, Vanderbilt University (Homiletics, Religion and Personality,  
Nashville, TN

**Dissertation Topic**

*Preaching and the Rhetoric of Care: Forming a Pastoral Community for Care in the World*

**M. Div.** 1983, Emory University  
Atlanta, GA

(Recipient, G. Ray Jordan Award for Outstanding Promise in Ministry; John Owen  
Smith Award for Excellence in Preaching)

**B.A.** 1978, Emory University (English Major; *Magna Cum Laude*)  
Atlanta, GA

**Other Training**

Clinical Pastoral Education. 1993-94, Crawford Long of Emory University Affiliated  
Hospitals. Atlanta, GA.

**Ecclesial**

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**Ordination**

The United Methodist Church, North Georgia Annual Conference, elder, 1985

**Congregational Ministries**

Pastor, 2012-  
Elm Grove UMC, Covington, TN

Pastor, 1994-98  
Bethlehem UMC, Clarksville, TN

Pastor, 1985-94  
St. Paul UMC, Atlanta, GA

Pastor, 1983-85  
San Marcos, Iglesia Metodista Unida, Atlanta, GA

Seminary Intern, 1981-82  
Alfalit International  
Alajuela, Costa Rica

Assistant Minister, Youth Director, 1978-79  
First UMC  
Bainbridge, GA

### **Academic Appointments**

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Marlon and Sheila Foster Professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics, 1998 –  
Memphis Theological Seminary

Courses include:

*Introduction to Pastoral Care*

*Preaching and Pastoral Care*

*Preaching from the Pews*

*Preaching: The Inductive Approach*

*Pastoral Care Themes in Contemporary Fiction and Film*

*Pastoral Care in Times of Grief and Loss*

*Rituals and Pastoral Care*

*Pastoral Care and the Life Cycle*

*Models of Congregational Care*

*Healing Beyond Limitations: The Church as an Intentional Healing Community*

*Practicum in Preaching and Worship*

*Clinical Practicum in Pastoral Care*

*Teaching Assistantships*

Theology of Proclamation and Worship, Professor David Buttrick, 1997

Vanderbilt University

Theological Foundations of Pastoral Care, Dr. Bonnie-Miller McLemore, 1996

Vanderbilt University

*Other Teaching Positions*

Faculty, Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Course of Study for Part-time Local Pastors, "Personal and Social Ethics," 1999-

## **Leadership and Service**

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### **Professional Appointments/Boards/Membership**

Academy of Homiletics, Nominations Committee, 2012

Editorial Board, *Homiletic*, 2008 –

Board of Directors, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Memphis Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, 2012-2013

Board of Directors, “Center for Transforming Communities,” Memphis, TN, 2008-

Board of Southern Regional Directors, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, 2005-2010

Participant and contributing writer to “The Consultation on Narrative Leadership,” The Alban Institute, Herndon, VA, 2007-08

Advisory Board, “The Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice,” Virginia Theological Seminary, a Lilly funded project, 2003-06

Board of Directors, Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South, 2006-2009

Advisory Board, “Listening to Listeners,” a Lilly funded project to study sermon listening, 2000-06

Professional Advisory Committee, Clinical Pastoral Education Program, Veterans Administration Hospital, Memphis, TN, 1998-

Professional Advisory Committee, Clinical Pastoral Education Program, Methodist University Hospital, Memphis, TN, 1998-2011

Board of Ordained Ministry, District Committee, North Georgia Annual Conference, UMC, 1985-1994

Board, Urban Action, North Georgia Annual Conference, UMC, 1986-1990

Society of Pastoral Theology

American Academy of Religion

### **Leadership, Memphis Theological Seminary**

Chair of Department, Practice of Ministry, 2008-  
Memphis Theological Seminary

Chair, Formation for Ministry, 2008 – present  
Memphis Theological Seminary

Chair, Promotions, Tenure, and Faculty Review, 2009-10  
Memphis Theological Seminary

Chair of Faculty, 2008-09  
Memphis Theological Seminary

Chair, Educational Development Committee, 2002-03  
Memphis Theological Seminary

### **Grants**

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Principal Writer and Project Director, “Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Through Scholarship, Piety, and Justice” (SPE), grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., 2003-2010. Provided executive leadership for all aspects of this 7 year program to sustain 105 mid-south pastors and congregations for continued excellence in Christian ministry. Total grant, \$3 million.

Co-Recipient, Leadership Planning for Southern Regional Directors, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., 2005-2012

Recipient, research and writing grant, “The Clergy in Contemporary Southern Fiction: A Study in Pastoral Character, Ethics, and Identity,” The Louisville Institute, 2003-04

### **Lectureships and Addresses**

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“Shared Voices: Pastoral Care and Fiction,” Annual Lectures, *Alabama Chaplains’ Association*, Birmingham, AL, October, 2011

“Telling It On the Mountain: The Spirit Through the Eyes of Fiction,” Plenary Address, *Society for Pentecostal Studies*, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting, Memphis, TN, March, 2011

“Where Pastoral Care and Preaching Meet,” *Roland S. Boreham Lectures in Pastoral Care*, Sparks Regional Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas, May 2009

“Ministers in Literature,” *The Buechner Lectures*, King College, Bristol, TN, January 2009

“Preachers and Misfits, Prophets and Thieves: The Minister in Southern Fiction” *The Bowen Lectures*, Memphis Theological Seminary, November, 2008

“Care-Full Preaching: The Three Faces of Pastoral Preaching,” *Annual Pastor’s Conference*, Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN, September 2004

“Vocation: Hearing the Call,” *Staley Lectures*, Hiwassee College, April, 2003.

“Pastoral Care in the Roundtable Church,” Keynote Address, *Arkansas Annual Conference*, The United Methodist Church, Pastor’s School, Little Rock, AR, January, 2002

“Do We Hear the Silent Cry? Preaching and the United Methodist Episcopal Initiative on Children in Poverty,” Address, Bishop’s Seminar, *North Carolina Annual Conference*, The United Methodist Church, Raleigh, N.C. 1998

### **Professional Presentations and Papers (selected)**

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“Fiction, Creativity, and Preaching,” co-presenter with Mike Graves, The Academy of Homiletics, Chicago, IL, Nov. 2012

“Pastoral Care and the Congregation,” Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, February 2012

“The Faces of Grief in Fiction and Film,” The Meeman Center of Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, February 2012

“Pastoral Care and The General Rules of John Wesley,” Colonial Park UMC, Memphis, TN, September 2011

“The Minister in Southern Fiction,” Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN, January, 2011

“The Religious Vision of Flannery O’Connor,” The Meeman Center of Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, April 2010

“The Christ-Haunted Fiction of Flannery O’Connor,” Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, August, 2010

“A View from the Pews: Flannery O’Connor and Practical Theology,” American Literature Association, Symposium on American Fiction, 1890-Present, Savannah, GA., October, 2010

“Best Practices of Clergy Health,” The Church Health Center, Memphis, TN, Nov. 2009

“Preachers and Misfits, Prophets and Thieves: The Minister in Southern Fiction,” Millsaps College Forum, Jackson, TN, October, 2009

“Preaching in Times of Crisis,” Ministers Conference, Memphis Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, October, 2009

“The Minister and the Church in Southern Fiction,” Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, August 2009.

“Pastoral Care During Grief and Loss,” St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, April, 2009

“Seeking Sabbath: A Minister’s Retreat,” West Tennessee Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbytery Church, Oct. 2008

“Preaching from the Pews,” Ministers Conference, Memphis Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, August, 2008

“Pastoral Approaches to Family and Peace-making,” St. John’s United Methodist Church, Memphis, TN, June, 2008.

“Pastoral Preaching in Times of Disaster,” United Methodist Minister’s Orders Gathering, Memphis Annual Conference, October, 2005

“Preaching and Controversy: A View from the Pews,” Minister’s Week, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, October 2005

“Pastoral and Therapeutic Voices: The Sounds of Clergy in Southern Fiction,” Tennessee Association of Pastoral Therapists, Nashville, TN, August, 2005

“Pastoral Care and Preaching,” The Fund for Theological Education, Summer Conference on Leadership in Ministry, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, June, 2005

“Pastoral Care: The Work of the People, Holy Community Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, May 2005

“Ministry in Times of Grief and Loss,” Chaplains’ Association, Bolivar Medical Center, Cleveland, MS, March, 2004

“Pre-Marital Pastoral Care and Counseling,” Jackson District Ministers, Memphis Annual Conference, UMC, Jackson, TN January, 2004

“Preaching as Pastoral Practice,” The Fund for Theological Education, Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, June, 2004

“Gender, Homiletics, and Pedagogy,” co-presenter with Mary Lin Hudson, The Academy of Homiletics, St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 2001.

“Pastoral Care and Aging,” Germantown Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Germantown, TN, Sept. 2001

“Pastoral Care and Preaching,” Seminar for Clinical Pastoral Education Program, Methodist Central Hospital, Memphis, TN, July 2001

“Pastoral Care and Systems Theory in the Local Church,” Board of Ordained Ministry, Little Rock Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR, Feb. 2001.

“Pastoral Care in Times of Grief and Loss,” First United Methodist Church, Germantown, TN, May 2001

“Diversity of Spiritual Needs,” *Congregational Nursing Symposium*, Baptist College of Health Sciences, Memphis, TN, July, 1999.

“Conflict Management in the Congregation,” West Tennessee Cumberland Presbytery, Jackson, TN., September, 1998

“Preaching and the Rhetoric of Care,” The Academy of Homiletics, December, 1996

## **Publications**

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### **Books**

*New Proclamation Commentary, Year C, 2012, Advent Through Easter Day*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012, co-authored with Joni Sancken, Susan Shoshanna Bond, and Jonathan Linman.

*Preachers and Misfits, Prophets and Thieves: The Minister in Southern Fiction*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

*Listening to Listeners: Homiletical Case Studies*, St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004, co-authored, John S. McClure, Ronald J. Allen, Dale P. Andrews, and L. Susan Bond.

*Care-full Preaching: From Sermon to Caring Community*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000.

### **Articles in Books and Journals**

“Pastoral Care and Conversation,” in *Under the Oak Tree: The Church as a Community of Conversation in a Conflicted and Pluralistic World*, eds. O Wesley Allen, Jr., Ronald J. Allen, John S. McClure (Portland: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2013).

“The Continuous Thread of Revelation: Pastoral Memoirs and the Narrative Imagination,” in *Living our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Culture*, ed., Larry A. Goleman (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2010): chap. 2.

“Teaching Death and Dying: A Pastoral Theological Approach,” in *Teaching Death and Dying*, ed., Christopher M. Moreman (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2008): 65-78.

“Self-Disclosure in Preaching,” in *New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching*, ed., Paul S. Wilson (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008).

“Borrowing Inspiration: Pastoral Memoirs and the Narrative Imagination,” in *Congregations*, 34/1 (Winter 2008): 15-18.

“Preaching Today: Sorting it Out,” in *www.CongregationalResources.org: A Guide to Resources for Building Congregational Vitality*, ed., Richard Bass (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2005): 227-246.

“Who Cares?: The Narratives of Technology, Teaching, and the Practice of Pastoral Care,” *Memphis Theological Seminary Journal* 38 (2002): 55-76.

“The Theology and Practice of Pastoral Preaching,” *Quarterly Review*, 22/2 (Summer, 2002): 179-91.

“Pastoral Care in the Wake of Sept. 11, 2001,” *The Cumberland Magazine* (March 2002).

“Preaching to Form a Pastoral Community,” *Circuit Rider*, (July/August, 2001): 7-8.

### **Lectionary and Preaching Commentaries**

Commentaries on the Lectionary, August 7, 14, 21, 28, “Pastoral Implications,” in *Lectionary Homiletics*, 22/5 (Aug/Sept. 2011)

Commentaries on the Lectionary, Year C, May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, “Healing Word,” in *Homily Service*, 43/3 (2010)

Commentaries on the Lectionary, Year C, Day of Pentecost, May 23, 2010, “Healing Word,” in *Homily Service*, 43/2 (2010): 168-70

Commentaries on the Lectionary, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, “Pastoral Implications,” in *Lectionary Homiletics*, 20/5 (Aug/Sept. 2009).

Commentaries on the Lectionary, Year B, vol. III, Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Proper 3, “Homiletical Perspective,” in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary*, eds., Barbara Brown Taylor and David L. Bartlett (Louisville: Westminster



John Knox Press, 2008)

Commentaries on the Lectionary, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 2008, “Pastoral Implications,” in *Lectionary Homiletics*, 19/4 (June/July 2008)

### **Academic Reviews**

*Determining the Form: Structures for Preaching*, O. Wesley Allen, Jr., in *Homiletic*, 34/1 (2009): 47-48

*Claiming Theology in the Pulpit*, Burton Z. Cooper, John S. McClure, in *Quarterly Review*, 25/4 (Winter 2005): 432-34

*Pastoral Care and Social Conflict*, eds. Pamela Couture and Rodney Hunter, in *Homiletic*, 21/ 2 (Winter, 1996): 53-4

*The Gift of Anger*, Carroll Saussy, in *Homiletic* 21/1 (Summer, 1996): 51

*The Search for Meaning*, Magdalena Naylor, Thomas Naylor, and William Willimon, in *The Wesleyan Christian Advocate*, July 28, 1995

### **General and Web Based Reviews**

“Hunger for Hope and Servant Leadership,” in *The Commercial Appeal*, May 26, 2012, <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/may/26/faith-and-culture-hunger-for-hope-sated-by-like/>

“Pilgrims Seek Higher Meaning in Martin Sheen’s “The Way,” in *The Commercial Appeal*, January 21, 2012, <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/jan/21/faith-and-culture-pilgrims-seek-higher-meaning/>

“The Faith and Health Connection in Abraham Verghese’s *Cutting for Stone*, in *The Commercial Appeal*, Nov. 19, 2011, <http://faithinmemphis.com/2011/11/19/faith-and-culture-relationship-between-faith-and-health/>

“Dignity and Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help*, in *The Commercial Appeal*, October 8, 2011, <http://faithinmemphis.com/2011/10/08/faith-and-culture-the-help%E2%80%99-and-questions-of-dignity/>

“Fictional Preachers Offer Perspective on Vocation,” in *Faith and Leadership*, December 8, 2009, <http://www.faithandleadership.com/content/fictional-preachers-offer-perspective-vocation>

“The Making of a Prodigal Son: Exploring Questions of Forgiveness and Sin in Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead* and *Home*, in *ExploreFaith*, 2010,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/gilead\\_and\\_home.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/gilead_and_home.php)

“Revisiting Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, in *ExploreFaith*, 2009,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/the\\_road.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/the_road.php)

“Reluctant Homage to *The Shack*,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2009,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/reluctant\\_homage\\_to\\_the\\_shack.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/books/reluctant_homage_to_the_shack.php)

“About Schmidt,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2004,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/about\\_schmidt.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/about_schmidt.php)

“Saved,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2004, <http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/saved!.php>

“Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,” in *Explore Faith*, 2004,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/harry\\_potter\\_and\\_the\\_prisoner\\_of\\_azkaban.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/harry_potter_and_the_prisoner_of_azkaban.php)

“Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of Christ*,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2004,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/a\\_commentary\\_on\\_the\\_passion.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/a_commentary_on_the_passion.php)

“The Matrix Revolutions,” in *Explore Faith*, 2003,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/the\\_matrix\\_revolutions.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/the_matrix_revolutions.php)

“The Pianist,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2003,  
[http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/the\\_pianist.php](http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/the_pianist.php)

“Levity,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2003, <http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/levity.php>

“Seabiscuit,” in *ExploreFaith*, 2003,  
<http://www.explorefaith.org/resources/film/seabiscuit.php>

## **Sermons**

“For All the Saints,” in *Homily Service*, 43/4 (2010): 97-100

“Subject to One Another,” in *Family Ministry* 18/4 (Winter, 2004): 48-51

“God Hears,” in G. Lee Ramsey, Jr., in *Care-full Preaching: From Sermon to Caring Community* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000):

“God’s Joy, God’s Delight,” in *The Christian Ministry* 29 (July-Aug. 1998): 27-28

## **Awards and Honors**

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Outstanding Teacher Award, Memphis Theological Seminary, 2005, 2012

Dempster Graduate Fellowship, United Methodist Board of Higher Education, 1996-98

University Tuition Scholarship, Vanderbilt University, 1994-97

John Owen Smith Award for Excellence in Preaching, Candler School of Theology, 1983

G. Ray Jordan Award for Outstanding Promise in Ministry, Candler School of Theology, 1983

Magna Cum Laude Graduate, Candler School of Theology, 1983

Theta Phi, Candler School of Theology, 1983

Dean's Award Scholarship, Candler School of Theology, 1979-83

Phi Beta Kappa Graduate, Summa Cum Laude, Emory University, 1978

Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, Emory University, 1978

### **Personal**

Married to Mary Leslie Dawson-Ramsey; children, Shelley, Luke; hobbies, fly-fishing, bike-riding, gardening, fiction reading.

**References** Available upon Request