

# Christian Faith and Academic Vocation: Reading List and Prompts for Initial TTP Review

*Instructions:* In response to each prompt, please compose an essay that could be understood by an interdisciplinary audience of Christian faculty members. Each response (1-2 pages in length but not to exceed 1,000 words) is expected to have a clear focus and to interact with material from the reading list.

**Part One: The Academic Vocation at Messiah College**

## Reﬂection on Institutional Mission:

* + No Longer Invisible (Chapter 1) and The History of Religion in American Higher Education (Chapter 2) from *No Longer Invisible*

Types of Church-Related Colleges from Robert Benne, *Quality with Soul*

The Ideals and Diversity of Church-Related Higher Education (chapter 5) from *The American University in a Postsecular Age*

On to the 21st Century from William C. Ringenberg, *The Christian College*

* Prologue by Rodney Sawatsky from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*
* Epilogue by Kim Phipps from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*

**PROMPT:** In your view, how should Christian higher education be similar to and/or different from American higher education generally?

## Reﬂection on the Role of the Teacher

* + [Clubbing the Baby Seals](../../Provost%20Seminar%20-%20readings/2%20-%20Clubbing%20the%20baby%20seals.pdf) by Randy Basinger
  + Convictions (Chapter 9) from No Longer Invisible

Practices, Faith, and Pedagogy from David I. Smith and James K. A. Smith, *Teaching and Christian Practices*

Knowing in Community from Parker Palmer, *The Courage to Teach*

Otherness (Chapter 10) from David G. Benner, *Soulful Spirituality*

**PROMPT:** How does Christian faith inﬂuence your practices and aspirations as a teacher?

# Part Two: The Vocation of Christian Scholarship

## Reﬂection on the connections between faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on the identity of Messiah College):

* + *Gracious Christianity* (A Commentary on the Messiah College Statement of Faith)

Professing Understanding and Professing Faith by Lee Shulman from *The American University in a Postsecular Age*

Scholarship in the Anabaptist Tradition by David Weaver-Zercher from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*

Reconceiving the Christ-Centered College: Convertive Piety and Life Together by Roger Olson from *The Pietist Vision of Christian Higher Education*

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral by Albert C. Outler

What Can the Wesleyan/Holiness Tradition Contribute to Christian Higher Education? by John E. Stanley and Susie C. Stanley from *Models for Christian Higher Education*

* **PROMPT:** What opportunities and challenges derive from an institutional identity that is welcoming of scholars from a broad range of Christian churches yet remains rooted in the Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan traditions?

## Reﬂection on the connections of faith and scholarship (with an emphasis on personal scholarly perspectives):

* + Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from *Scholarship and Christian Faith*

The Power of Christian Traditions from Richard T. Hughes, *The Vocation of the Christian Scholar*

* **PROMPT:** How does your perspective on Christian scholarship interact or align with models exempliﬁed in the readings (for example: social justice, incarnational, Christ above Culture, Anabaptist, Reformed, or Catholic)?

*\* Assigned reading in Provost’s Seminar.*