

## 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

#### A. 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?

#### B. Reflection on the Role of the Teacher

- \* Clubbing the Baby Seals 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

### A. 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?

### B. 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.*