

## ROLAND J. DE VRIES

*curriculum vitae 2023*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Work Address:       The Presbyterian College  
                          3495 University Street, Montreal, H3A 2A8  
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Email Address:       rdevries@pcmtl.ca

### CORE COMPETENCIES

With more than 12 years of administrative and organizational leadership in higher education and in religious communities, I have developed strong management, communication, and strategic planning abilities. My creative capacities mean that challenges and opportunities are faced proactively, and with an eye for innovative solutions. I value relationships, and the building of these in the service of community and organizational mission. Recent professional experiences have also taught me the value of global relationships for nurturing personal and institutional wellbeing.

### EMPLOYMENT

- Principal, The Presbyterian College, June 2021 – present
  - Provide spiritual, theological, academic, and organizational leadership to the college, while working collaboratively with affiliated institutions, including the Montreal School of Theology and the School of Religious Studies, McGill University. Working with the Board of Governors, provide leadership and support in shaping the College's vision and mission and their implementation. Serve as an ambassador for the College both within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and in relation to the broader church.
- Director of Studies, The Presbyterian College, 2015-2021
  - Teaching in the areas of Congregational Mission, Reformed Ecclesiology and Confessions, and Contemporary Theological Issues. Coordinating and providing oversight for student ministry placements and leading a Preaching Tutorial. Sharing in administration of Learning Effectiveness Assessment Program (of the M.Div. program) in the Montreal School of Theology. Chairing of the Bursary and Facilities Committees of the college.
- Affiliate and Lecturer, School of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2010 - present
  - Courses Taught:   - Forgiveness and Reconciliation  
                          - Theology of Disability  
                          - Christianity in Global Perspective  
                          - Introduction to Systematic Theology

- Christian Minister, Kensington Presbyterian Church, Montreal, 2008 - 2015
  - Provided pastoral and imaginative leadership to a congregation in transition. Through seven years of ministry, together with the elders of Kensington, addressed and overcame numerous financial and property challenges, developed compelling and blended worship in a non-traditional worship space, launched novel mission relationships with local community organizations, and experimented with new forms of ministry through jazz vespers and faith/arts events.
- Lecturer and Adjunct Faculty Member, The Presbyterian College (and Montreal School of Theology), 2009-2013
  - Courses Taught:   - The Presbyterian Tradition  
                          - Christian Ethics  
                          - Reformed Confessions
- Interim Director of Field Education, The Presbyterian College, Fall 2007.
  - Responsibilities included the supervision of placements for students in Masters-level program, teaching in practical theology, and administration of final-year program.
- Minister, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pierrefonds Quebec, 2001-2004. Part-time.
- Customer Service Agent and Customer Relations Specialist, CIBC Finance, 1994-1997.
  - Customer support for representatives of CIBC branches in relation to student loan processing and repayment. Resolution of customer concerns and complaints through interface with branches, payment processing department, and document center.

## EDUCATION

- PhD, 2009 – Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Master of Divinity (with distinction), 2001 – The Presbyterian College, Montreal
- Master of Sacred Theology, 2000 – Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Bachelor of Arts, 1994 – Faculty of Arts, University of Guelph

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

‘Becoming a Guest: Christology and Ecclesiological Identity,’ *Revue Théologique*, Vol. 25 No. 2 (2017), p. 163-182. [https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/08\\_de-vries-1.pdf](https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/08_de-vries-1.pdf)

*Becoming Two in Love: Kierkegaard, Irigaray and the ethics of sexual difference*, (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications), 2013.

'With Irigaray: Toward a Theology of Hospitality,' *L'Ésprit Créateur*, H. Bostic (special ed.), Vol. 52 No. 3 (Fall, 2012), 52-65. <https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/with-luce-irigaray-hospitality.pdf>

'Sharing Air: Becoming Two in the Spirit' in Luce Irigaray and Mary Green (eds), *Luce Irigaray: Teaching* (London: Continuum, 2008), 142-155.

'Wonder Between Two: An Irigarayan Reading of Genesis 2:23,' *Modern Theology*, Vol. 24 No. 1 (January, 2008), 51-74. <https://encrustedwords.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/wonder-between-two.pdf>

## ACADEMIC and ECCLESIAL PRESENTATIONS

"Forgiveness and Reconciliation – Between Taiwan and Canada," Yu-Shan Theological Seminary Annual Conference for Indigenous Pastors, November 2022.

"The Ground of Encounter: Becoming a Guest/Host," Taiwan Theological Consultation of the PCT and PCC, Yu-Shan Theological Seminary, May 2016.

"Physician-Assisted Death: Dying as we Live," Conference of The Presbyterian College, Physician-Assisted Death: Faithfulness in a new Landscape, February 2016.

"*Sola Scriptura*: A sacramental defense," The Committee on Church History of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Celebrating 500 years of the Reformation, October 2015.

"Spiritual Practices and *Found Theology*: Quash and Coakley in Conversation," Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) Biennial Conference, Theology and the Visual Arts Track, June 2015.

'Mind the Gap! Luce Irigaray and Søren Kierkegaard on Mediation between Woman and Man, Man and Woman,' Doktorklub Meeting of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, October, 2006.

'Becoming Two in Love,' presented at University of Nottingham, Seminar and Conference with Luce Irigaray, June, 2006.

Review of William Schweiker, *Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics: In the Time of Many Worlds*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2004. In *ARC*, Vol. 34 (2006), 307-309.

'Toward a Reformed Theology of Mission for Canadian Presbyterians,' (with John A. Vissers) Presented to the Presbyterian Church in Canada Conference on Active Evangelism, 2002.

**POPULAR PUBLICATIONS (selection)**

<i>Christian Courier</i>	"#blessed"	<a href="http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/blessed-sayings">http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/blessed-sayings</a>
<i>Christian Courier</i>	"My Garden"	<a href="http://www.christiancourier.ca/news/entry/my-garden-wont-save-the-world">http://www.christiancourier.ca/news/entry/my-garden-wont-save-the-world</a>
<i>Christian Courier</i>	"Bodies/Digital:	<a href="http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/bodies-in-a-digital-world">http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/bodies-in-a-digital-world</a>
<i>Christian Courier</i>	"God of Silence"	<a href="http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/the-god-of-silence">http://www.christiancourier.ca/columns-op-ed/entry/the-god-of-silence</a>
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	April 2016	God is good, all the time?
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	October 2015	National Immigration Day?
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	October 2014	Travelling Together, in Suffering
<i>Presbyterian Record</i>	May 2014	Change in the Church

**OTHER ACADEMIC AND ECCLESIAL INVOLVEMENT**

- Board Member, Action Réfugiés, Montréal, 2017 – present.
- Columnist, *The Christian Courier*, January 2017 – present.
- Member, Committee on Church Doctrine, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2013-2019, 2021-present.
- Convener, Assets Committee, The Presbytery of Montreal, June 2016 – January 2020.
- Lecturer, Taiwan Graduate School of Theology – teaching an M.Div. and M.A./Ph.D. course in Forgiveness and Reconciliation, May 2017.
- Moderator, The Presbytery of Montreal, June 2014 – June 2016.
- Member (Alumni Representative), Academic Committee, The Presbyterian College 2009 – 2013.
- Counselor, Presbyterian Church in Canada Guidance Conference, August 2010 and April 2013.
- Supervisor of In-Ministry-Year (pastoral internship) students of The Presbyterian College, in 2012-13, 2010-11, and 2009-10.
- Convener, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Presbytery of Montreal, June 2009 – 2012; also, in 2003-2004.
- Convener, Special Committee to Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Montreal, January – June 2011.

- Member, Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean for the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2007.
- Member, Search Committee for the Appointment of a Professor of Religion and Society, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2006.
- Member, Strategic Planning Project Group, Presbytery of Montreal, 2004-05.
- Student Representative, Senate of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, 1999 – 2000.
- Coordinator and Chairperson, West Island Ethics Series, Montreal, 2003.  
Public lectures/panels, sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Direction Chrétienne, and the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill.
- Convener, Project Group on Civil Unions, Presbytery of Montreal, 2002.

## AWARDS

- First Place, Features (NonFiction), Canadian Christian Communicators, 2021
- First Prize, Single Column Category, Word Guild Awards, 2020
- Principal's Dissertation Fellowship, McGill University, 2007
- Finlay Samuel Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University
- Dean's Travel Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University,  
Seminar with/by Luce Irigaray, University of Nottingham, 2006
- Dean's Fellowship, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 2005, 2003, 2001
- Excellence in the In-Ministry-Year, Presbyterian College (2001)  
Johnston Prize in Presbyterian Church History, Presbyterian College (2001)  
Hobus Prize for Progress in Preaching, Presbyterian College (2001)  
G. Deane Johnston Prize in Mission, Presbyterian College (2001)
- Kydd Prize for Excellence in STM 2, Presbyterian College (2000)  
Anderson Prize in New Testament, Presbyterian College (2000)

## REFERENCES

*Available on request.*