

Jeffrey A. VanDerWerff, PhD

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PERSONAL

Married: Kara (Rankin) VanDerWerff (B.A., Elementary Education/Reading emphasis; Spanish minor; Paraprofessional in the MOC-FV district/Alton Middle School)
Children: Jakob (20), Kathryn (18), Ian (15) and Elin (15)

EDUCATION

University of Kansas, Lawrence

Ph.D., Political Science, May 2002

Disciplinary subfields: passed qualifying examinations in American Politics—with honors—and Public Administration; minor and/or third field of study in Public Policy.

Dissertation: *"Capturing the Countervailing Power of 'Call to Renewal': Political Opportunity and the Campaign to Overcome Poverty"*; Advisor: Allan Cigler

University of Missouri, Kansas City

M.A., Political Science, December 1995

Thesis: *"The Evangelical Left: Politics of an Alternative Vision"*; Advisor: Harris Mirkin

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Department of Political Science, August-December 1989

Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa

B.A., Political Science and Business/Economics, May 1983, *summa cum laude*

EXPERIENCE

Professor of American Government & Public Life

Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; August 1999-present

Initially offered a two-year term appointment as an assistant professor; subsequently became a tenure-track position (Fall 2000); awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor (Fall 2005); promoted to full professor (Fall 2011); assumed administrative role, dean of the social sciences division (Fall 2017-present).

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Kansas, Lawrence; August 1995-May 1999

Received an appointment to serve as an instructor of Introduction to U.S. Politics/POLS110 (Fall 1996-May 1999).

University of Wisconsin, Madison; August 1989-December 1989

Assisted in teaching American National Government/PS102.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Continue to develop more fully an interest in the area of political theology as well as a normative concern regarding the question of responsible citizenship, especially for followers of Jesus. As such, theological commitments must be brought to bear on the theoretical underpinnings of Political Science if the “re-enchantment” of the disciple is going to occur or, as importantly, a role for God in public life is to be recognized.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Participated (virtually) in a panel discussion on a Sunday morning Cedar Rapids television talk show—Ethical Perspectives on the News; the focus of this conversation centered on the question of whether or not politics has become a religion for the so-called “nones” (May 2021).

Contribution to Harold Heie's "eCircle" conversations (see below) was turned into the first chapter in his edited version (2019) of *Reforming American Politics: A Christian Perspective on Moving Past Conflict to Conversation*, Front Edge Publishing, Canton: MI.

Book review of Paul Moke's (2015) *Earl Warren and the Struggle for Justice*. Lexington Books. In the *American Review of Politics*, 36:2, June 2018.

Transformed a "Ned Talk" into a published piece for the *Northwestern Review* (Jan 2018) by the same title as the talk: "Engaging Democracy--The Trouble with Trump"

Reforming Political Discourse. Kicked-off a ten-month virtual dialogue or “Respectful Conversation” hosted by Harold Heie. Along with my assigned discussion partner, Kim Van Es, we addressed the initial topic: *Talking Past Each Other, or Worse?* September 2017.

“The Core Practices of Citizenship: Re-enchanting Our Conception of Civic Duty.” Contributed to the Andreas Center's (Dordt College) online publication, *In All Things*. This reflection was the second in a three-part series on the responsibilities citizenship, July 2016.

“A Political Theology for Engaging Democracy: Letting Public Life Preach and Presidential Politics.” Paper presented at the Iowa Conference on Presidential Politics, Dordt College (Sioux Center, IA), October 29-31, 2015.

“A Political Theology for Engaging Democracy: Letting Public Life Preach—Three Perspectives.” Paper presented at Christians in Political Science biennial meeting. *Freedom and Responsibility in a Modern World*, Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA), May 29-31, 2014.

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Curriculum Vitae

Starting in the spring of 2011 began writing a monthly report on the politics and policy of Iowa for the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago. Have produced 125-plus reports and counting.

“Marriage and Divorce: for Better and for Worse—The Postmodern Condition of the American Family.” In Paul Quirk and William Cunion (eds.), *Governing America: Major Policies and Decisions of Federal, State, and Local Governments from 1789 to the Present*. Facts on File. June 2010.

“Contemporary Pagan Corruptions: Why ‘How’ is as Important as ‘What’ for Evangelicals in Politics.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Church Press, Volume 25(2): February 2010.

“Life as Vocation: Educating for Shalom.” Contribution to the “Dispatches from the Front” column of *Washington Notes*, a biannual alumni publication of the American Studies Program, Autumn 2009 (submitted, never published).

Book review of J. Matthew Wilson’s (2007) *From Pews to Polling Places: Faith and Politics in the American Religious Mosaic*. Georgetown University Press. In the *American Review of Politics*, Volume 29, Spring/Summer 2008.

“Phyllis Schlafly and the Midwestern Basis of Family Values.” In Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, and Andrew Cayton (eds.), *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.

“Forsaken for Our Sake: Politics and the Cross.” Day 19 journal entry in the “Where Do I Belong” booklet, a publication of Northwestern College’s *Vocare: Find Your Place*, Spring 2007.

“Engaging Democracy: Politics in the Name of Jesus.” Paper prepared for delivery at the National Faculty Leadership Conference. *The Two Tasks: Redeeming the Soul, Redeeming the Mind* (Alexandria, VA), June 2006.

“Engaging Democracy: Politics at the Foot of the Cross.” Paper prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for tenure, Northwestern College, October 2004.

“Pedagogy and a Politics of the Cross: Living in Prayer at the Place of Pain in this World.” Paper submitted in fulfillment of requirements of *The Pedagogy Project*, Northwestern College, June 2002.

Book review of Corwin Smidt’s (2000) *In God We Trust? Religion and American Political Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. In the *Christian Education Journal*, Volume 6, Number 1, Spring 2002.

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“Capturing the Countervailing Power of ‘Call to Renewal’: Looking at the Numbers, Listening to the Narrative.” Paper prepared for delivery at Christians in Politics Science, Third National Conference; Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, CA) June 7-10, 2001.

“Capturing the Countervailing Power of ‘Call to Renewal’: Becoming a Political Organization, Building a Social Movement.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA), September 2-5, 1999.

“Theoretical Considerations and the *Call to Renewal*: From Social Movement to Political Organization.” Paper presented at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA), March 25-27, 1999.

Book review of Joel Handler’s (1996) *Down from Bureaucracy: the Ambiguity of Privatization and Empowerment*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. In the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Volume 8, Number 2 (April) 1998.

“The Evangelical Left: Who Are They and Does It Matter?” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL), April 23-25, 1998.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

As part of a continuing fascination with the intersection—collision!?!—of faith and politics, attended the 10th annual gathering of the Family Leadership Summit in Des Moines, July 2021

“The Church Reimagined for a World Recreated,” Alexandria, VA, April 27-29, 2017; the third North American gathering hosted by Missio Alliance.

Connect Conference—A Christian Community Development regional event at Dordt College, featuring John Perkins, Kurt Rietema and Joel Van Dyke, October 2016

Free Market Forum, “Markets, Government, and the Common Good,” Omaha, NE, November 13-15, 2015; hosted by Hillsdale College in partnership with the Acton Institute and the CCCU [2014/Indianapolis, 2013/San Diego and 2011/Atlanta]

“Interpreting Paul for the Future of the World,” Pasadena, CA, May 1-3, 2014; in conjunction with a spring semester sabbatical; four plenary addresses featuring N. T. Wright; hosted by Fuller Seminary.

Wheaton Theology Conference, “Christian Political Witness,” Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL; April 2013

Christian Community Development Association annual meeting: “Reconcile,” Minneapolis, MN; September 2012

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Wheaton Theology Conference, “Bonhoeffer, Christ, and Culture,” Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL; April 2012

CCDA, Twentieth Anniversary National Conference: Remember the Past, Rejoice in the Present, Reimagine the Future; Chicago, IL; September 2010

The Leadership Institute for Educators Conference, “From Service Learning to Servant Leadership,” sponsored by the Greenleaf Center, Los Angeles, CA; November, 2009

American Studies Program, Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, off-campus semester internship site visit; Washington, DC; February 2009

The Assessment Institute, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Office of Planning and Institutional Improvement); November 2007

American Political Science Association 103rd Annual Meeting—*Political Science and Beyond*; Chicago, IL; September 2007

Pentecost 2007—*Taking the Vision to the Streets*; hosted by Sojourners/Call to Renewal; Washington DC; June

ASP—*Shalom Happens: 30th Anniversary Reunion*; Washington, DC; July 2006
Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience (National Resource Center for the FYE and Students in Transition); Phoenix, AZ; February 2005

Iowa College Foundation’s Summer Technology Workshop—Technology and the Integrated Classroom; Central College; June 2005

Seminars in Christian Scholarship—*Spirituality, Justice and Pedagogy*; Calvin College; September 2005

International Justice Mission conference on prayer, Washington DC, February 2004

Faith as a Foundation for Intellectual Community—*Christianity and the Soul of the University*; Baylor University; March 2004

Fourth Annual Christians in Political Science conference; Bethel University, St. Paul, MN; June 2003 (served as a panel discussant).

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Dean of the Social Sciences (selected by VPAA; 2017-present)

One of four divisional/academic deans will serve to advocate and assist the efforts of colleagues in the departments of Business & Economics, Education, Social Work, Sociology & Criminal Justice, Psychology and Political Science.

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Faculty Development Committee Member (elected by peers; 2015-18)

In addition to planning/hosting the annual fall faculty workshop, this committee is tasked with vetting proposals as well as funding academic projects related to faculty and student scholarship; FDC also established the Ncourage series.

Graduate & Adult Learning Quality Assurance (elected by peers; 2015-17)

Responsible for creating an initial standard/instrument for assessing instructors of online course offerings, particularly as it relates to Master's degree programs.

Co-chair of Reaccreditation Work Group (appointed position; 2014-15)

Serve alongside M. Wallinga (Director of Institutional Research) and lead a team of colleagues in making the case/preparing the report in advance of Northwestern's decennial visit from the North Central Association's Higher Learning Commission.

Faculty Representative to the Board (elected by peers; 2006-14)

Not only attended both the fall and spring meetings of the full Board, but also sat as a Trustee on the executive committee, which met on a monthly basis in order to fulfill various fiduciary responsibilities.

Co-director Franken Servant Leadership Institute (appointed position; 2009-13)

Shared joint-appointment with faculty colleague J. Feenstra (Associate Professor of Psychology); helped to launch a new initiative which will assist efforts on campus to develop effective student leaders.

Department Chair (1999-2005; 2011-13)

Successfully lobbied for the addition of a second member of the department (Spring 2002); advised students in political science and pre-law as well as a few undeclared majors (on average approximately a dozen students annually).

Dean's Council Member (nominated and elected by peers; 2004-07; 2008-11)

Served as the inaugural representative of the social sciences division. Set the agenda for faculty meetings and provided a sounding board for the Provost and Dean of the Faculty in vetting budget requests.

Faculty President (elected by peers; 2008-11)

Presided over faculty meetings and working in conjunction with the Dean's Council to set the agenda for bi-monthly gatherings. Also served as an ombudsman of sorts.

Dean of Enrollment Search Committee Member (appointed position; 2010)

Participated in the effort to find a new individual to lead the critical job of recruiting and retaining students; served as one of three faculty representatives.

Faculty Liaison to the Lilly Grant (appointed position; 2004-10)

Served as a member of the Vocare review committee, which approved various requests for funding in line with the theological exploration of vocation generally, as well as the specific initiatives in the grant particularly.

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Assessment Committee Member (elected by peers; 2006-10)

Duties involved assisting and providing resources to departments under review; as well as analyzing institutional assessment data and making curricular and policy recommendations (served as chair for three years).

Presidential Search Committee Member (elected by peers; 2006-07)

Helped complete the arduous process of identifying and presenting a nominee to the Board of Trustees in keeping with the task provided the fourteen-member committee.

VPSD Search Committee Co-chair (appointed by college President; 2004-05)

Helped lead the effort, along with the Vice President of Spiritual Formation and Vocation, in hiring a new Vice President of Student Development.

Other/past responsibilities—served on the Student Development committee (2003-04), chair of subcommittee on chapel appeals; completed duties associated with the Task Force on Faculty Salaries (Summer 2003), the Vice President for Academic Affairs Restructuring committee (2003-04), and the Learning Focused Organization Task Force (2002-03), convened in anticipation of reaccreditation; filled post of secretary on the Admissions, Honors, and Retention committee (2000-02), acted as a faculty advisor for the Student Government Association (2000-02) as well as student delegations participating in the Great Plains Model Arab League (2000-03).

CAMPUS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

KCAU-9 Election Night Coverage (November 2020)

Provided political analysis in the immediate wake of the campaign results for president as well as other races in the tri-state region.

The Ramblin Rino/Republican in Name Only, Christ Chapel (October 2020)

Delivered a chapel message on being *Politically Homeless in an Age of Pandemic, Protest and Polarization: from the Presidential Election to Public Life Beyond November*.

Evangelicals, the President, and Impeachment (February 2020)

Made a presentation to the First Reformed Church senior saints class (February 2020).

Ned Talk in the Vogel Room (November 2017)

As part of an on-going chapel series—innovative lectures/integrated faith—shared a 17-minute reflection on *Engaging Democracy: The Tragedy of Trump*.

Plain Conversation (September 2017)

In conjunction with Ryan Dokter, Sioux County Auditor, facilitated a public discussion regarding voting rights considering the history, politics and legal ramifications around the issue [Downtown Grille, Orange City].

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The Calling & Mission of a Christian College (February 2017)

Presenting the following seminar at Northwestern's annual Day of Learning: *Bruce Springsteen, the Christian Liberal Arts, and Engaging Democracy*.

General Election candidate (November 2016)

Obtain the necessary signatures for nominating papers to place my name on the ballot and provide a choice in the state representative (HD4) race. Had initially been one of three individuals to seek the GOP primary nomination earlier in June.

Ngage Series (September 2016)

Participated in the first panel session of the year, which focused on faith and politics. Addressed a few background inquiries and engaged student questions on the subject.

Caucusing for Christ? Christ Chapel (January 2016)

Given Iowa's first-in-the-nation standing in the presidential nominating process, raised the following question for students to consider: what does it mean to take a stand for Jesus? Especially as it pertains to public life.

Constitution Day (September 2015)

Facilitated a conversation in recognition of the 228th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. national charter; did so by focusing on the religious liberty question surrounding the Kim Davis (Kentucky/county courthouse clerk) refusal to sign marriage certificates for same-sex couples in the wake of the *Obergefell* decision.

College Preview Days (most recently, Fall 2015)

Have been a member, on several occasions, of a panel of faculty and current students who answer questions of prospective students and/or their parents.

Why are U.S. citizens—evangelical Christians included—so angry? (January 2014)

Led a two-week series that explored the inquiry above as part of Trinity Reformed church's "Questions of Life" series.

Jesus for President? Christ Chapel (September 2012)

In anticipation of another presidential election, engaged the responsibility of voting and the idea of "proximate" justice. Reprised this address at Unity Christian high school a few weeks later.

Faith at Work: A Day of Learning in Community (February 2011)

Spearheaded an effort to bring business ethicist David Miller to campus as the keynote speaker for our fourth annual symposium. Helped to line up over 30 break-out sessions offered by a variety of campus and community members from across the vocational spectrum.

The American Constitution: Godly or Godless? (September 2009)

In conjunction with the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, led a consideration of the most important ways that religion influenced—if at all—the drafting of our national charter.

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After the Election, Now What? (November 2008)

Addressed the Senior Fellowship group (at Trinity Reformed) in a lively exchange and analysis of the recently completed historic presidential election.

Jesus for President: Presidential Election 2008 (October-November)

Led a six-week adult Sunday school series (at Trinity Reformed church) reflecting on the ways evangelicals engage the political campaign or process and at what cost to advancing the kingdom of God.

Campus Ministries: Political Mini-Series (October 2008)

Facilitated an evening discussion among a group of upper class students regarding the election campaign of John McCain and Barack Obama.

Hunger Forum, Proscenium Theatre (December 2007)

Member of a four-person panel that discussed the causes of—and potential responses to—hunger around the globe.

Same-sex Relationships Forum, Christ Chapel (March 2007)

As one member of a panel addressing this issue, argued that one's view of the law (e.g., as procedural/substantive or natural/positive) impacts one's consideration of social issues like civil unions or gay marriage, among other "hot button" concerns.

Crossing Cultures series (most recently, November 2006)

Help co-lead a discussion on "The Personal is Political: How Our Choices and Policies Affect the World" with students who had recently completed their *Summer of Service* placements.

Election Night coverage (most recently, November 2006)

Served as a guest political commentator a number of times on *Conversations, with Carl Zylstra*; KDCR radio, 88.5fm; Dordt College.

Paul, the Ephesians and the Cross of Christ, Christ Chapel (February 2005)

These "election reflections" in the wake of the 2004 campaign attempted to raise critical questions regarding the attitude and approach with which evangelicals enter the public square.

Voting and Values: Presidential Election 2004 (September-November)

Taught an eight-week Sunday school series (at Trinity Reformed) exploring the issues and individuals surrounding the race for the White House.

Debating the 2004 Election, Christ Chapel (October 2004)

Moderated a debate between the Campus Democrats and College Republicans over some broadly based questions regarding public policy.

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Senior Saints luncheon (December 2000)

Addressed a local church group (at First Reformed) on the subject of what we might expect with a new president in the wake of George W. Bush's victory.

Political Parties discussion panel (November 2000)

Moderated an exchange between colleagues who presented what their respective party (e.g., Democratic, Green, Libertarian and Republican) stood for and had to recommend on behalf of itself.

House Rule No. 8, Christ Chapel (April 2000)

Considered the eighth commandment prohibition against stealing in light of the broader conception of structural injustice or societal sin.

AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS

American Political Science Association (off-and-on since 1997)

Christians in Political Science (off-and-on since 1998)

Evangelicals for Social Action (1988-2002)

Midwest Political Science Association (1997-2000)

American Society of Public Administration (1997-99)

Memberships while at the University of Kansas—

- Political Science Graduate Association (1995-99; President, 1997-98)
- Pi Sigma Alpha/The National Political Science Honor Society, (1996-99; Gamma Chapter President, 1997-98)

Northwestern College

Faculty member—

- Teacher of the Year award recipient (2015-16)
- Twenty-five year service award (Spring 2017)
- Finalist (one of three nominees) for Teacher of the Year (2004-05)

University of Kansas

Graduate student/doctoral program—

- Joseph Harris Fellowship for Outstanding PhD Candidate (1998-99)
- Walter Thompson Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant (1997-99)
- Walter Thompson Graduate Student Scholarship (1996-99)

Northwestern College

Undergraduate student—

- Sigma Tau, National Honor Society (faculty selected, 1982-83)
- M. D. Van Oosterhout Political Science Award (1982-83)
- Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges (1981-82)
- Academic Scholarship (1979-83)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Political Consultant

Write a monthly report on state politics and policy for the Consulate General of Japan (Chicago), which recounts economic conditions within Iowa, legislative happenings at the General Assembly as well as interests and activities on the part of Iowa's federal delegation. Iowa's "first-in-the-nation" caucus and/or standing in the presidential nominating process and the resulting electoral realities figures prominently in these accounts as do any developments impacting relations between Iowa and Japan. Current contact: Kuniko Nakamura. April 2011-present.

Administrative Director

Kingdomworks (now Mission Year), Philadelphia, PA; June 1992-June 1993

Directed the day-to-day aspects of a small nonprofit organization that developed children's and youth ministries in partnership with several inner-city churches. Duties included assisting in the preparation of an extensive summer day-camp program, implementing and reviewing a volunteer selection process, organizing a major urban youth workers conference, and planning and promoting student leadership retreats.

Associate Director of Admissions

Northwestern College, Orange City, IA; July 1990-June 1992

Served as the primary means for implementing a recruiting strategy for a specific territory. Coordinated and directed specific management tasks within the overall student enrollment program: organized campus visitation days, selected/supervised a student recruiting group (i.e., The Ambassadors), and helped develop a target marketing plan for prospective students in the fine arts. Assistant Director, August 1985-July 1989; Admissions Counselor, August 1983-July 1985.

Congressional Staff Intern

American Studies Program, CCCU; January 1983-May 1983

Congressman Don Bonker (D-WA, 2nd District), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC. Assisted in daily office functions, attended hearings, handled constituent correspondence, and served as a research assistant for legislative aides.