

**JONATHAN LEE WALTON**  
Princeton Theological Seminary

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

President and Professor of Religion & Society, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2023-

Dean of the School of Divinity, Dean of Wait Chapel, and Presidential Chair in Religion & Society, Wake Forest University, 2019-2023

Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 2012-2019

Professor of Religion and Society, Harvard Divinity School, 2012-2019

Assistant Professor of African American Religions, Harvard Divinity School, 2010-  
Resident Scholar, Lowell House, Harvard College

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside, 2006-2010

Lecturer, Princeton University, Department of Religion and The Program in African American Studies, 2003-2006

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books:**

*America's Gilded Gospel*, New York University Press, (Under Contract)

*The Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

*Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism*, New York University Press, 2009.

Reviewed in *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture, The Journal of Religion, Journal of American Ethnic History, Modern Theology, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Religious Studies Review, Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

**Articles/Book Chapters**

“Commentary on America’s Joseph,” *Your Soul is Required: The Theology & Sermons of*

C.T. Vivian, eds. Jo Anna Walker, Mark E. Vivian, Al Vivian, Anita Charise Thornton, Kira E. Vivian, and Denise Vivian Morse, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2025.

“Prayer, Purpose, and Expanding the Table of Possibility in Theological Education,” in *Theology Today*, Volume 81, Issue 4, 2025 (first offered as Presidential Inaugural Address on 10/13/2023 in Princeton University Chapel)

“Paradise Lost! Reconsidering the Past and Future of Theological Education,” *Poetic Living: Theological Education, Culture, and Pastoral Ministry: Essays in Honor of M. Craig Barnes*, eds. Jacqueline E. Lapsley and Neal D. Presa, Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2023.

“Foreword,” *Prophesy Deliverance! An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Updated and Expanded Edition*, ed. Jonathan Lee Walton, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2022.

“Foreword,” Reinhold Niebuhr, *Leaves from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1929, reprint 2021.

“Have the Sons of Africa Have No Souls?: Manliness, Freedom, and Power in the Cultural Roots of Afro-Phallic Protestantism,” in *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches*, edited by Josef Sorett, The Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life Series, Columbia University Press, 2021.

“Luminous Darkness: Africanist Presence and the American Soul,” in *Goodness and the Literary Imagination: Harvard's 95th Ingersoll Lecture with Essays on Morrison's Moral and Religious Vision*, by Toni Morrison, edited by David Carrasco, Stephanie Paulsell, and Mara Willard, University of Virginia Press, 2019.

“Afterword: Dignity as a Weapon of Love,” in *To Shape a New World: Essays on the Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by Tommie Shelby and Brandon M. Terry, Harvard University Press, 2018, pp. 339-350.

“The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Consumerism, in *The Protestant Reformation of the Church and the World*, edited by John Witte Jr. and Amy Wheeler, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, pp. 240-253.

“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” in *What Did Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith*, edited by Elizabeth Dias, Time, 2015, pp. 4-44.

“Stationed in the King’s Court: Evangelicals in the Age of Obama,” in *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 16, numbers 1-2, 2014, pp. 79-98.

“Stop Worrying and Start Sowing! A Phenomenological Account of the Ethics of ‘Divine Investment’” in *Pentecostalism and Prosperity: The Socio-Economics of Global*

*Charismatic Movements*, edited by Amos Yong and Katy Attanasi, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 107-129.

*Will the Revolution Be Televised? TV Preachers, Profits and the Prophetic*, Special Issue of *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 33, number 2, 2011. Edited and Introduction by Jonathan L. Walton. Contributors: Jonathan L. Walton, Josef Sorett, Monique Moultrie, Debra J. Mumford, Darnell Moore and Anthea Butler.

“The Greening of the Gospel (and Black Body): Rev. Ike’s Gospel of Wealth and Post-Blackness Theology,” in *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 33, number 2, 2011, pp. 181-199.

“Onward, Christian Soldiers! Race, Religion and Nationalism in Post-Civil Rights America,” in *Ethics that Matters: Christian Social Ethics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by James Logan and Marcia Riggs, Fortress Press, 2011, pp. 139-158.

“For Where Two or Three (Thousand) Are Gathered in My Name! A Cultural History and Ethical Analysis of African-American Megachurches” in *Journal of African American Studies*, Vol. 15, number 2, 2011, pp. 133-154.

“Preachers’ Blues: Religious Race Records and the Reclamation of Authority on Wax” in *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, Vol. 20, number 2, 2010, pp. 205-232.

“Black Theology and the Birmingham School: Revisiting a Conversation on Culture” *Black Theology: An International Journal*, Vol. 7, number 3, 2009, pp. 259-281.

“TV’s Black Profits: The Impact of the Electronic Church Phenomenon on the Intellectual Activity of African American Religion” in *Creating Ourselves: African Americans and Hispanic Americans, Popular Culture and Religious Expression* edited by Anthony Pinn and Benjamin Valentin, Duke University Press, 2009, pp. 231-248.

#### **Reference works:**

“Eikerenkoetter II, Frederick J. (Rev. Ike),” in [\*American National Biography\*](#), Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Liberation and the Prosperity Gospel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, edited by Anthony Pinn and Katie G. Cannon, Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 453-467.

“Prosperity and Economic Empowerment Gospel and African American Churches” in *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, edited by Daniel Patte, Cambridge University Press, 2010, pp. 1014-1015.

“Megachurch Phenomenon” in *African American Religious Cultures*, Vol. 2. edited by Anthony Pinn, ABC-CLIO, 2009, pp. 463-476.

**Magazine/Newspaper articles**

Opinion: “The foxhole effect and Jamie Foxx’s revival on Netflix,” in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, December 31, 2024.

Opinion: “Raphael Warnock’s Georgia Critics don’t understand Black churches,” in *The Washington Post*, December 30, 2020.

Opinion: “Hope in the absurd: Seeing ourselves in Sisyphus,” in *The Dallas Morning News*, November 29, 2020.

Opinion: “Split-Second Decisions that Leave Black and Brown People Dead,” in *The New York Times* (The Opinion Pages/On The Ground with Nicholas Kristof), July 11, 2016.

Opinion: “After Ferguson, When Will We Listen?” in *The New York Times* (The Opinion Pages/ On The Ground with Nicholas Kristof), November 26, 2014.

“Waking from a Dream,” in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 41. Numbers 2 & 4, Summer/Autumn 2013, pp. 10-13.

“The Shame of Behavioral Health” in *The Harvard Crimson*, 9/13/2012

Op-Ed: Three Words of Caution in the Wake of Another Mass Killing, *The Huffington Post*, 12/16/2012

“Staying Human in a Media Age,” in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 39. numbers 3 & 4, Summer/Autumn 2011, pp. 8-11.

“Tax Exempt?” Lifestyles of the Rich and Religious,” in *The Christian Century*, Vol. 125. Issue 2, 1/29/2008, p. 13.

“Empowered: The entrepreneurial ministry of T.D. Jakes,” in *The Christian Century*, Vol. 124. Issue 14, 7/10/2007, pp. 25-28.

**RECENT SELECT KEYNOTE LECTURES & SERMONS**

Interfaith Leadership Panel, SALA Summit, New York, NY, 4/21/2026

103<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Preaching Series, Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, 3/11/2026

Threshold Lecture Series, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, 2/19/2026

217<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem, NY, 11/09/2025

Interfaith Lecture, Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, NY, 7/21/2025

Academia Humana Lecture, Keimyung University, Daegu, South Korea, 6/21/2025

Distinguished Preacher Series, First Presbyterian Delray Beach, Delray Beach, FL,  
1/10/2025

February 2025, Knippa Interfaith Lecture, Grace Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK, 2/2/2025.

The Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, 2/16/2025

Rankin Chapel at Howard University, Washington, DC, 3/23/2025

March 2025, Reverend Jeffrey O'Grady Lecture, San Marino Community Church, San  
Marino, CA, 3/2025.

Paramore Preaching Series, First Scots Presbyterian, Charleston, SC, 9/29/2024.

Keynote Lecturer, Hanshin Theological Symposium, South Korea, 6//11-13/2024

Faith & Health Convening, Interfaith America, Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, NY,  
7/10/23

Presbytery of Philadelphia, Installation Service, Philadelphia, PA 1/31/23

Prophetic Voices Distinguished Lecture Series, Boisi Center for Religion and American  
Public Life, Boston College, 10/6/2021

Theologian in Residence, Lecturer: Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA,  
5/1-3/2021

Keynote Address: Wyatt Tee Walker Conference in Public Life, University of Richmond,  
Richmond, VA 2/20/20

Vanguard Lectures, First Baptist Church of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 2/15/20

Baltimore Presbytery, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, MD, 11/16/19

Geddes W. Hanson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 10/16/19  
Keynote Address: "Pluralism and Constitutionalism: The Place of Law and Religion in an  
Inclusive Society," Emory University, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Atlanta,  
GA, 3/24/19

St. Anselm Lecture, Lambeth Palace, London, England, 3/19/19

Keynote Address, Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, TX, 2/28/19

Keynote Address: 50 Years Since MLK, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 4/19/18

Lecturer: Yale Religion and Politics Colloquium, New Haven, CT, 2/25/18

Midwinter Lectures, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, 1/28-29/18

Alonzo McDonald Lecture in Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 4/3/17

## **COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **Princeton Theological Seminary**

Public Intellectuals in the Prophetic Tradition (Online)

### **Harvard University:**

Sophomore Tutorial in the Study of Religion

The Prophetic Pulpit: Preacher as Intellectual

Power & Piety: Evangelicals and Politics in the Contemporary U.S.

Martin, Malcolm and Masculinity

Black Exodus: The Great Migration, Immigration and Religious Imagination

Pentecost and Prosperity: The Ethics of Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements

African American Religions: An Introduction

## **GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

Inducted into International Hall of Honor at Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College, 2025.

Benjamin Elijah Mays Distinguished Alumni Award in Religion, Morehouse College, 2017.

Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, Wake Forest University, 2015.

Young Scholars in American Religion 2009-2011, Center for Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University

Resident Fellow, Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside, 2007.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Co-Chair, Wake Forest University Advisory Committee on Naming, 2020

Administrative Board, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2017-19

General Education Committee, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 2017-19

Harvard Faculty Committee on Athletics, 2016-19

Harvard University Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging 2016-17

Harvard College Working Group on Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging 2015-16, (chair)

## **PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Board Member, Humanities Advancement Council, Morehouse College

Board Member, Atrium Health Enterprise

Board of Trustees, Princeton Theological Seminary

National Advisory Board, John C. Danforth, Center on Religion & Politics, Washington

University in St. Louis

The American Academy of Religion

AAR Nominations Committee Member (Chair 2011-2012)

Religion, Media & Culture Group Steering Committee

Afro-American Religious History Group Steering Committee