

William Yoo

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EMPLOYMENT

Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur, GA
<i>Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History</i>	July 2020 – Present
<i>Assistant Professor of American Religious and Cultural History</i>	July 2014 – June 2020
<i>Master of Divinity Program Lead Professor</i>	July 2023 – Present
<i>Master of Divinity Program Director</i>	July 2020 – June 2023
<i>Master of Theology Program Director</i>	July 2017 – June 2020

EDUCATION

Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion	Atlanta, GA
<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	2014
Emory University, Candler School of Theology	Atlanta, GA
<i>Master of Theology</i>	2008
Westminster Theological Seminary	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Master of Divinity</i>	2004
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Bachelor of Science in Economics</i>	2000

MONOGRAPHS

How to be a Racially Just Christian. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, under contract. ISBN: 9780664269265.

Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2025. ISBN: 9780664265014.

What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022. ISBN: 9780664264673.

American Missionaries, Korean Protestants, and the Changing Shape of World Christianity, 1884–1965. New York and London: Routledge, 2017. ISBN: 9781138696020.

EDITED VOLUMES

The Presbyterian Experience in the United States: A Sourcebook. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780664262143.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Western Colonialism and Christian Mission,” in *Uncovering the Pearl: The Hidden Story of Christianity in Asia*, edited by Amos Yong, Mark A. Lamport, and Timothy T. N. Lim (Cascade Books, 2023), pp. 35–51.

“Teaching a History that I Never Learned,” *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* 4, no. 1 (March 2023), pp. 18–25.

“The Souls of Yellow Folk: Moving from a Racially Segregated Nineteenth-Century Train toward an Inclusive Twenty-First Century Asian American Christian Witness,” in *Theologies of the Multitudes for the Multitude: The Legacy of Kwok Pui-lan*, edited by Rita Nakashima Brock and Tat-Siong Benny Liew (Claremont Press, 2021), pp. 21–41.

“Moving from ‘Foreign Mission’ to ‘World Mission’ in South Korea and the United States: The Rise of Reverend Kyung-Chik Han and the Uneasy Transitions within the American Presbyterian Missionary Enterprise in Korea after 1945,” *Mission Studies* 33, no. 3 (November 2016), pp. 299–326.

Encyclopedia Entries:

“Cumberland Presbyterian Church,” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Volume 1, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), pp. 671–672.

“Helen Kim,” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Volume 3, pp. 1277–1278.

“Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Volume 4, pp. 1832–1834.

“Protestant Theological Seminaries,” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Volume 4, pp. 1878–1879.

“James Woodrow,” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Volume 5, pp. 2514–2515.

Essays:

“White Southern Presbyterians and the Scars from the Fight for Racial Justice,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, February 2025, pp. 24–29.

“The Case for Black Racial Repair in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, September 2024, pp. 18–23.

“When Teaching Pivots to Meet the ‘Fierce Urgency of Now,’” *The Wabash Center Journal on Teaching* 3, no. 1 (February 2022), pp. 12–13

“2 Corinthians 2:8–15,” “2 Corinthians 12:2–10,” and “Ephesians 1:3–14,” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series* (Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading with the World, Year B, Volume 3), edited by Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby, and Carolyn J. Sharp (Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), pp. 117–121, 135–139, and 152–156.

“‘What, then, is the Church?’: The Perpetuation of Racial Injustice and the Failure of Repair at Columbia Seminary in the Antebellum United States,” in *@ This Point: Theological Investigations in Church and Culture* 14, no. 1 (Spring 2020), online.

“Revelation 7:9–17,” “Micah 3:5–12 and Joshua 3:7–17,” and “Joshua 24:1–3a and Amos 5:18–24,” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series* (Commentary 1: Connecting the Reading to Scripture, Year A, Volume 3), edited by Joel B. Green, Thomas G. Long, Luke A. Powery, Cynthia L. Rigby, and Carolyn J. Sharp (Westminster John Knox Press, 2020), pp. 424–429, 440–446, and 458–464.

“The Ubiquity of White Christian Silence and the Promise of Righteous Resistance,” *@ This Point: Theological Investigations in Church and Culture* 13, no. 1 (Spring 2019), online.

“Transforming the Seminary Classroom into an Academic Conference: A Worthy Experiment to Share the Stage and Empower the Student as Fellow Sage,” *Teaching Theology & Religion* 21, no. 1 (January 2018), pp. 70–71.

“When Talking isn’t Enough: Moving from Conversations about Race to Actions toward Racial Justice,” *Presbyterians Today*, October/November 2017, pp. 6.

“Silence is Not an Option, But What Should We Say?,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, August 18, 2017, online.

“Being Decisive without Being Divisive amid the Zig-Zags of History,” *Political Theology Today*, January 3, 2017, online.

“Asian Americans and their Various Votes,” *Christian Century Then & Now*, October 12, 2016, online.

“Immigration as Threat and Opportunity,” *Christian Century Then & Now*, February 10, 2016, online.

“Embracing the Margins,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, November 3, 2014, online.

“Collaborative Leadership Patterns: Looking to our Past,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, September 29, 2014, pp. 24–25.

Book Reviews:

Rebecca Y. Kim, *The Spirit Moves West: Korean Missionaries in America*, *Journal of Asian Studies* 75, no. 2 (May 2016), pp. 532–534.

Eleazar S. Fernandez (ed.), *Teaching for a Culturally Diverse and Racially Just World*, *Christian Education Journal* (Spring 2015), pp. 217–221.

Jennifer A. Lindholm, *The Quest for Meaning and Wholeness: Spiritual and Religious Connections in the Lives of College Faculty, Reflexive Teaching* (January 2015), online.

Mark A. Noll and Carolyn Nystrom, *Clouds of Witnesses: Christian Voices from Africa and Asia*, *Practical Matters* (Spring 2013), online.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Creating Discussion Groups for Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within Theological Schools and Seminaries Grant: “Reflections from Faculty and Administrators of Asian Descent at Seminaries Engaging Historic Sins against African Americans and Enacting Black Reparations” (2022 – 2023)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Journal on Teaching Writing Colloquy (2022)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Digital Salon for Engaging Imagination as Theological School Faculty (2020 – 2021)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Fellowship: “Disrupting a Single Chronological Narrative to Teach a More Racially Just and Ethnically Inclusive History of Christianity in the United States” (2018 – 2019)

Florence Ellen Bell Scholar Award for Research of Methodist Collections at Drew University and the General Commission on Archives and History for the United Methodist Church (2017 – 2018)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Early Career Workshop for Faculty of Asian and Pacific Islander Descent (2017 – 2018)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Fellowship: “Implementing the Practice of Archival Research to Deepen Student Learning in Church History” (2016 – 2017)

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Pre-Tenure Workshop for Theological Faculty (2015 – 2016)

The Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship (2013 – 2014)

Emory University, Laney Graduate School Arts & Sciences Fellowship (2009 – 2014) and Piedmont Fellowship (2010 – 2011)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2025

Reformed Theology, Association of Partners in Christian Education Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Certification Course, Winter 2023

South Korea Contextual Immersions, Columbia Theological Seminary, Winter 2017, Winter 2019, and Winter 2023

Histories of American Christianity, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2024, and Fall 2025

Imagination and Resilience for God’s Changing World, MDiv Introductory Seminar, Columbia Theological Seminary, Fall 2020 and Fall 2022

Presbyterian History and Polity, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025

Race, Migration, and the Making of the American Church (Doctor of Ministry residential and online hybrid course), Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2016, Winter 2020, Spring 2022, and Fall 2024

Cross/Roads, MDiv Capstone Seminar, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, and Spring 2025

ThM Research Methods Seminar and Colloquium, Columbia Theological Seminary, Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

Exploring Christian History, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2018

Histories of the Christian Experience in the United States: Pastors, Laity, and Outsiders (Doctor of Ministry residential and online hybrid course), Columbia Theological Seminary, Fall 2016

History and Presence: Movements in Christianities Across Time and Space, Columbia Theological Seminary, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Atlanta Contextual Immersions, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2016

Histories and Diversities of Theology and American Culture, Columbia Theological Seminary, Fall 2015

American Religious and Cultural History, Columbia Theological Seminary, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, and Spring 2015

Introduction to Religion: Buddhism and Christianity, Emory College, Spring 2014

History of Religion in Korean America, Candler School of Theology, Spring 2013

History of Evangelicalism and American Culture, Candler School of Theology, Spring 2012

History of Religions in the United States, Emory College, Spring 2012

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Untangling and Reframing the Web of Politics, Social Justice, and the Spiritual Mission of the Church,” Presler Lecture, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, September 25, 2025

“African Americans, Asian Americans, and the Histories of Slavery and Racism within the Presbyterian Church and Princeton Theological Seminary,” Center for Asian American Christianity, Princeton Theological Seminary, April 17, 2023

“An Asian American Perspective on the Reality of North American Theological Education,” Biennial Conference of the Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators, Decatur, GA, October 8, 2016

“Competing for Converts with U.S. Missionaries in Korea: Malcolm Fenwick and the Canadian Protestant Missionary Experience, 1889-1917,” Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Edmonton, Canada, April 8, 2016

“Pedagogical Intersections and Divergences in a Presbyterian Seminary Classroom: Adventures in Teaching the Histories of Religious Pluralism and Protestant Formation in the United States,” Regional Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Nashville, TN, March 7, 2015

“The Emergence of the ‘Younger Church’ after the Korean War: American Missionaries, Korean Ministers, and the Uneasy Beginnings of the Reverse Mission to the West, 1950–1965,” Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History, New York, NY, Jan. 2, 2015

“The Birth Pangs and Growing Pains of the Reverse Mission from South Korea to the West: The Rise of Reverend Kyung-Chik Han and the Fall of the American Protestant Mission, 1945–1965,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 22, 2014

“Which Christ to Follow?: Colonial Resistance, Transnational Contestation, and the Religious Disagreement between Korean Protestants and American Missionaries, 1910–1945,” Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, October 26, 2013

“North American Presbyterian Missionaries as Migrants in Korea: Crossing Borders, Recreating Western Homes, and the Problems of Cultural Difference and Economic Inequality, 1884–1904,” Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Portland, OR, April 5, 2013

“Crossing Racial, Religious, and National Boundaries: The Impact of a Friendship between American and Korean Methodist Women from North Georgia to South Korea, 1948–1965,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2012

“‘Even if you stayed long, who would have you for a sweetheart – you are a Korean!’: Drawing the Racial Boundaries and Limits for Korean Protestant Men and the White American Women who Loved Them, 1885–1965,” Winter Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Chicago, IL, January 7, 2011

“Battle Hymn of a Korean Tiger Mother: Theological Education and Christian Formation in the Life and Writings of Kim Hwal-lan (Activist, Educator, Liberationist, Methodist),” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 19, 2011

“Yun Ch’iho’s America: A Korean Protestant Convert’s Journey Through Dixie, 1888–1893,” Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History, Grand Rapids, MI, April 8, 2011

“East–West Encounters in Twentieth-Century Korean and American Methodist Life: Examining Resistance and Religious Belief in the Writings and Experiences of Kim Hwal-lan and Agnes Davis Kim,” Regional Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Louisville, KY, March 4, 2011

“Inside the Mental and Spiritual Worlds of Yun Ch’iho, the First Korean Southern Methodist,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 30, 2010

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

First Congregational Church (UCC), Hartford, CT, September 28, 2025

Second Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Richmond, VA, September 21, 2025

Presbytery of Southern New England (PCUSA), New Haven, CT, March 1, 2025

First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Berkeley, CA, February 23, 2025

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, January 19, 2025

Peoples Church of East Lansing, East Lansing, MI, November 10, 2024

Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Knoxville, TN, September 21, 2024

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Tucker, GA, May 5, 2024

St. Philip Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Houston, TX, February 25-27, 2024

Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 Summit, Atlanta, GA, January 17, 2024

Village Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Prairie Village, KS, October 28, 2023

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Madison, WI, October 1, 2023

Presbytery of San Francisco (PCUSA), Berkeley, CA, September 23, 2023

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (PCUSA), Birmingham, AL, August 21, 2023

Fairlington Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Fairlington, VA, May 21, 2023

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Asheville, NC, May 14, 2023
Western Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Washington, DC, April 16, 2023
Presbyterian Mission Agency Board of Directors, Stony Point, NY, September 29, 2022
Asian American Christian Network of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, May 15, 2022
Huguenot Society of Georgia, Atlanta, GA, October 30, 2021
NEXT Church National Gathering (PCUSA), Seattle, WA, March 11, 2019
Covenant Network of Presbyterians Biannual Conference (PCUSA), Baltimore, MD, November 9-10, 2017
Decatur Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Decatur, GA, August 20, 2017, August 27, 2017, September 3, 2017, and July 15, 2018
National Asian Presbyterian Council Student Program (PCUSA), Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA, August 14-18, 2017
Big Tent National Gathering (PCUSA), St. Louis, MO, July 7, 2017
NEXT Church National Gathering (PCUSA), Kansas City, MO, March 13, 2017
Central Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Atlanta, GA, July 31, 2016 and August 11, 2019
Flint River Presbytery Celebration of Faith (PCUSA), Cordele, GA, March 5, 2016
NEXT Church National Gathering (PCUSA), Atlanta, GA, February 22, 2016
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Marietta, GA, February 14, 2016 and October 2, 2016
Joint Meeting of the Committee on General Assembly and the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Historical Society (PCUSA), Philadelphia, PA, October 26, 2015
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Atlanta, GA, April 12, 2015 and April 19, 2015
Flint River Presbytery (PCUSA), Albany, GA, February 14, 2015
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Cartersville, GA, January 11, 2015 and March 29, 2015

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Iowa City, IA, May 5, 2024
Highlands United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Cheyenne, WY, April 10, 2023
Georgetown Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Georgetown, DC, January 22, 2023
Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Dayton, OH, January 15, 2023
Govans Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Baltimore, MD, March 26-27, 2022
Central Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Atlanta, GA, February 6, 2022
Swarthmore Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Swarthmore, PA, October 17, 2021
Druid Hills Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Atlanta, GA, February 21, 2021
Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA, November 19, 2020
Baltimore Presbytery (PCUSA), Baltimore, MD, November 16, 2020
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), New York City, NY, October 25, 2020
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Lexington, KY, October 24, 2020
PC(USA) Town Hall on Racism, Presbyterian Justice Week of Action, August 25, 2020
PC(USA) Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation, Louisville, KY, August 6, 2020

AWARDS

2023 Religion Communicators Council Award of Excellence (For What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church)
2013 American Society of Church History Graduate Student Award (For Paper Presentation at 2013 Spring Meeting)
2013 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) People's Choice Award, Oral Competition, Emory University
2013 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Honorable Mention Prize, Written Competition, Emory University
2012 American Society of Church History Graduate Student Award (For Paper Presentation at 2012 Winter Meeting)
2011 American Society of Church History Graduate Student Award (For Paper Presentation at 2011 Spring Meeting)

GUILD AND ECCLESIAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member of Cherokee Presbytery
Board of Directors for the Montreat Conference Center
Selection Committee Member for the Louisville Institute, 2022
Member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Committee on Representation, 2019 – 2022
Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Historical Society, 2018 – 2022
Steering Committee Member of the American Academy of Religion Reformed Theology and History Group, 2017 – 2019
Council Member of the American Society of Church History, 2016 – 2018