

Dr. Aaron Brian Davis

Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Capital University
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Education

University of St Andrews (St Andrews, SCT, UK)

Degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Field Divinity
Dissertation *The Dignity of Every Human Being: Disability, Eugenics, and a Theology of Healthcare Rationing*
Supervisor Andrew Torrance
Examiners Oliver D. Crisp and Brian Brock
Received July 2025

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA, US)

Degree Master of Theology (ThM)
Thesis *Ascetical Salvation: A Soteriological Study and Constructive Proposal through the Work of Sarah Coakley*
Adviser Dawn DeVries (Second reader: Rachel Baard)
Received May 2021

Degree Master of Divinity (MDiv)
Received May 2020

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC, US)

Degree Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Field Religious Studies, Minor in Journalism
Received May 2017

Additional Studies

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (2026) – Lutheran Studies
Trinity Lutheran Seminary (2026) – Lutheran Studies
AdventHealth Southeast Region CPE Center (2026) – Clinical Pastoral Education

Areas of Specialty and Competence

AOS

Systematic and philosophical theology	Especially disability theology, Christology, soteriology, and eschatology
Ethics	Especially social ethics and bioethics

AOC

Religion and science

Particularly interactions with
neuropsychology and cognitive science

Analytic philosophy

Particularly topics in philosophy of
religion, philosophy of disability, and
philosophy of law

Religion and popular culture

Particularly intersections with animation,
literature, and music

Academic Experience

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University (Columbus, OH, US)

2026-Present Scholar-in-Residence

Brevard College (Brevard, NC, US)

2026-Present Adjunct Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies
Courses taught: Religion and Science (REL 154/359)

University of St Andrews (St Andrews, SCT, UK)

2023-2024 Graduate Teaching Assistant
Courses taught: God and the World: Introducing Theology (DI 1001),
Introduction to Practical Theology and Theological Ethics (DI 1012)

2023 Academic Skills Project Workshop Leader

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA, US)

2020-2021 Grant Project Assistant
Teacher-Scholar Grant, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Ecclesiastical Experience

Lutheran Church of the Nativity (Arden, NC, US)

2026-Present Vicar
2024-Present Fellowship Engagement Director
2024-Present Theologian-in-Residence

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (Wilson, NC, US)

2021-2022 Youth and Family Minister

Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Richmond, VA, US)

2017-2021 Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Publications

Monographs

Under contract *Disability Theology: An Introduction* (T&T Clark).

2026 *Desire and Divinization: A Theology of Everyday Asceticism*. Analyzing Theology (Cascade Books).

Subject of author-meets-critic panel at the 2027 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region.

Editorial Work

2026-Present Cascade Studies in Theology & Disability series (Cascade Books). Founding co-editor with Maja Whitaker.

2026-Present Book review editor (systematic and philosophical theology), *Journal of Biblical & Theological Studies*.

2025 *Disability Theology and Eschatology: Hope, Justice, and Flourishing*. Co-edited with Preston Hill (Lexington Books).

2025 Guest co-editor with Danielle Jansen for a symposium in [*Philosophia Christi* 27, no. 1](#) on William Lane Craig's *Atonement and the Death of Christ: An Exegetical, Historical, and Philosophical Exploration* (Baylor University Press, 2020).

Journal Articles

2025 ["Baptism and Confirmation? A Possibility for Reconciling the Book of Common Prayer 1979's Rites."](#) *Anglican Theological Review*, 107, no. 4:363-386.

2025 ["A Moderated Ecumenical Interpretation of the Atonement."](#) *Kerygma und Dogma: Zeitschrift für theologische Forschung und kirchliche Lehre* 71, no. 3: 243-264.

2025 ["Felony Murder and Analogies for Penal Substitution."](#) *Philosophia Christi* 27, no. 1: 67-71.

2025 ["Hopeful Universalism and the Goodness of God: A Fittingness Approach."](#) *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 97, no. 3: 235-251.

2025 ["Time to be saved? Parousia, Purgation, and Psychological Time Dilation."](#) *Agatheos: European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 2, no. 1: 173-190.

2024 ["Horizons of Hope: Disability, Eschatology, and the Work of the Holy Spirit."](#) *Journal of Disability & Religion* 28, no. 3: 356-378.

2023 ["Analytic theology."](#) *Religion Compass* 12, no. 12: 1-11.

- 2023 ["Draw Me After You:' Toward an Erotic Theosis."](#) *Scottish Journal of Theology* 76, no. 2: 139-152.
- 2022 ["Making and Mending Our Selves: A Practical Proposal."](#) *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology* 6, no. 1: 178-196.
- 2021 ["Compassionate Exclusivism: Relational Atonement and Post-Mortem Salvation."](#) *Journal of Analytic Theology* 9: 158-179.

Book Chapters & Encyclopedia Entries

- Forthcoming "Scripture and Atonement," in *T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Christian Theology*, eds. Jana Bennett, Stephen Cone, and Jason Fout. T&T Clark.
- 2026 "Justification by Faith? Lessons from Profound Cognitive Disability." In *Receiving Redemption: Explorations in Constructive Dogmatics*. Edited by Fred Sanders and Uche Anizor. Los Angeles Theology Conference Series, 136-152. Zondervan Academic.
- 2025 "Disability, Eschatology, and *Sword Art Online*." In *Theology, Religion, and Anime*. Edited by Roberto J. De La Noval and David Armstrong. *Theology, Religion, and Pop Culture*, 199-220. Bloomsbury Academic.
- 2025 "A Theory of Well-Being for Disability Theology." In *Disability Theology and Eschatology: Hope, Justice, and Flourishing*. Edited by Preston Hill and Aaron Brian Davis, 17-48. Lexington Books.

General Audience Writing

- 2026 "Author's Reply." *Christian Century* (September 2026).
- 2026 ["The scars of a flourishing human."](#) *Christian Century* (June 2026).
- 2025 ["Reasonable Faith and Faithful Disagreement."](#) *Earth & Altar Magazine* (March 2025).
- Discussed on ["Reasonable Faith and Reasonable Disagreement."](#) Reasonable Faith with William Lane Craig, April 7, 2025.
- 2023 ["Lewis Meets Thile: Imagining Salvation through Art."](#) *Earth & Altar Magazine* (June 2023).
- 2022 ["A Prayerbook Centered Children's Chapel."](#) *Building Faith* (July 2022).

Book Reviews

Forthcoming	"Kathie Bender Schwich, <i>ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Health Care.</i> " <i>Journal of Lutheran Ethics</i> .
2026	<u>"Michael L. Peterson, Timothy J. Pawl, and Ben F. Brammell, <i>Jesus and the Genome: The Intersection of Christology and Biology.</i>"</u> <i>Reading Religion</i> (June 2026).
2025	<u>"Maja I. Whitaker, <i>Perfect in Weakness: Disability and Human Flourishing in the New Creation.</i>"</u> <i>Anglican Theological Review</i> 107, no. 2: 160-162.
2024	<u>"Lisa. D. Powell, <i>The Disabled God Revisited: Trinity, Christology, and Liberation.</i>"</u> <i>International Journal of Systematic Theology</i> 26, no. 2: 244-246.
2023	<u>"Drew Collins, <i>The Unique and Universal Christ: Refiguring the Theology of Religions.</i>"</u> <i>Journal of Analytic Theology</i> 11: 710-715.
2022	<u>"David McLachlan, <i>Accessible Atonement: Disability, Theology, and the Cross of Christ.</i>"</u> <i>McMaster Journal of Theology & Ministry</i> 23: R47-R52.
2022	<u>"Sarah Coakley, <i>Spiritual Healing: Science, Meaning, and Discernment.</i>"</u> <i>Reading Religion</i> (April 2022).
2021	<u>"Oliver D. Crisp, <i>Approaching the Atonement: The Reconciling Work of Christ.</i>"</u> <i>Reading Religion</i> (October 2021).
2021	<u>"Oliver D. Crisp, <i>Analyzing Doctrine: Toward a Systematic Theology.</i>"</u> <i>Anglican Theological Review</i> 103, no. 2: 248-249.
2020	<u>"Eleonore Stump, <i>Atonement.</i>"</u> <i>McMaster Journal of Theology & Ministry</i> 21: R31-R36.

Grants

The Narthex (Denver, CO, US)

2026	<u>Digital Capacity Initiative Grant</u> \$12,000 in matching funds to support the development and deployment of digital resources for Lutheran Church of the Nativity. Part of a \$1.1 million Thriving Congregations grant from the Lilly Endowment, these funds are used to create a variety of assets including, but not limited to, a suite of digital first publications, interviews, short form videos, and other content used to expand Lutheran Church of the Nativity's reach within its community. Funds
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also support software acquisition and utilization, web development, digital marketing, and so on. Grantees participate in a national cohort of peers to support one another's intended outcomes.

University of St Andrews (St Andrews, SCT, UK)

2023 Scotland's Future Series Grant

£960 to fund the organization of an interdisciplinary symposium titled "Scotland's NHS? A Workshop on Healthcare Accessibility." Hosted by the University of St Andrews's School of Divinity, this workshop scrutinizes what it means for healthcare resources to be accessible to Scots on the NHS. For example, if someone has a provider nearby but that provider is dismissive of said person's symptoms do they count as having access to care? Questions like these are addressed by participants hailing from a range of fields (e.g., medicine, theology, sociology, philosophy, and so forth) and include both junior scholars and established researchers. Participation is limited to twenty people, including six giving papers, in order to stimulate in-depth discussions and encourage further dialogue after the workshop's conclusion.

Conferences, Speaking, and Public Engagement

Invited Talks

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| 2025 | "Disability and Well-Being in Healthcare Ethics." Paper presentation to the Ethics Committee at Pardee Hospital, Hendersonville, NC, November 25, 2025. |
| 2024 | "Disability, Personhood, and Conciliar Christology." Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society, San Diego, CA, US November 20-22, 2024. |
| 2023 | "Prolegomena for a Theology of Healthcare Rationing." Paper presentation with response from Louise Lawrence at the School of Divinity Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) conference, University of St Andrews, SCT, UK, March 17, 2023. |

Lectures, Seminars, and Colloquia

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| 2026 | "Disability and Lutheran Theology." Lecture for Th550: Lutheran Confessional Writings, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC, US, April 24, 2026. |
| 2024 | "Disability, Genetic Medicine, and Well-Being: A Theory of Human Flourishing." Lecture for the 2023-2024 St Leonard's College Lecture Series, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, SCT, UK January 31, 2024. |

2020 "Making Our Selves: Flourishing through Narrative and Fellowship." Union Presbyterian Seminary Spring Theology Colloquium, Richmond, VA, US, February 20, 2020.

2019 "Compassionate Exclusivism: Toward a Broader Soteriology through the Relationality of Grace." Union Presbyterian Seminary Fall Theology Colloquium, Richmond, VA, US, October 7, 2019.

Conference Papers

2026 "Penal Substitutionary Atonement: A Non-Levitical Defense." Paper presentation at the Carolina Analytic Theology Workshop, Anderson University, Anderson, SC, US, May 22-23, 2026.

2026 "Does Luther have a miaphysite Christology? Maybe, but so what?" Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region, Furman University, Greenville, SC, February 27-March 1, 2026.

2025 "Heavenly Puzzles: Disability and the Intermediate State." Paper presentation at the Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY, November 13-15, 2025.

2025 "The Fittingness of Hopeful Universalism." Paper presentation at the Rutgers Analytic Theology Seminar, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, US, June 8-10, 2025.

2025 "Justification by Faith? Lessons from Profound Cognitive Disability." Paper presentation at the Los Angeles Theology Conference, Biola University, Los Angeles, CA, US, March 12-14, 2025.

2025 "Christian Panpsychism, Christology, and Nestorianism." Paper presentation to the Constructive Theologies and Philosophy of Religion Sections at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region, Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens, FL, March 7-9, 2025.

2024 "Hopeful Universalism and the Goodness of God: A Fittingness Approach." Paper presentation at the Toronto Philosophy of Religion Workshop, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, CA, online, December 10-11, 2024.

2024 "Felony Murder and Legal Analogies for Penal Substitution: A Reply to Craig." Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society, San Diego, CA, US November 20-22, 2024.

- 2024 "God of Our Weakness: Disability, Soteriology, and Prayer." Paper presentation at the Society for the Study of Theology Annual Conference, University of Warwick, Coventry, ENG, UK April 8-11, 2024.
- 2024 "Do we all have time to be saved? Psychological time dilation and post-mortem salvation." Paper presentation at the Helsinki Analytic Theology Workshop, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, FI, February 7-9, 2024.
- 2024 "*Theosis and Steven Universe: A Constructive Analysis.*" Paper presentation at the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities Theology and Religious Studies Day Conference, University of Aberdeen, SCT, UK January 19, 2024.
- 2023 "The Ableism Problem for Moral Exemplarism." Paper presentation at the Toronto Philosophy of Religion Workshop, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, CA, online, December 14-15, 2023.
- 2023 "Disabled Flourishing: Genetic Medicine and the Nature of Human Well-Being." Paper presentation at the Society for Christian Bioethicists Second Conference, online, October 20-21, 2023.
- 2023 "Upon Him Was the Punishment? A New Legal Consideration for Penal Substitution." Paper presentation at the Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, SCT, UK, June 19-23, 2023.
- 2022 "Horizons of Hope: Disability, Eschatology, and the Work of the Holy Spirit." Paper presentation to the Christian Systematic Theology Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, CO, US, November 19-22, 2022.
- 2022 "The Analytic Missiological Turn? Critical Introspection and the Missionary's Ongoing Conversion." Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Missiology, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, US, June 17-22, 2022.
- 2022 "When is Salvation Compassionately Exclusivist? Temporal Possibilities for Post-Mortem Salvation." Paper presentation at the Carolina Analytic Theology Workshop, Anderson University, Anderson, SC, US, May 20-21, 2022.
- 2022 "Unconditioned Desire? Tillich and Coakley in Constructive Dialogue." Paper presentation at the Christian Philosophy at

- Villanova/Augustinian Institute conference “God and the Unconditional,” Villanova University, Villanova, PA, US, April 1-2, 2022.
- 2022 “Imagining Saintly Bodies: Modeling an Ecclesiological Soteriology.” Paper presentation to the Constructive Theologies Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, US online due to COVID-19, March 11-13, 2022.
- 2021 “Loving Self, Neighbor, and God: A Hybrid Approach to Mission and Relationality.” Lightning Talk at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Missiology, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN, US, June 18-19, 2021.
- 2021 “‘Comfort, O Comfort My People:’ Exploring the Pastoral Import of Eleonore Stump’s Analytic Theology.” Paper presentation at the Logia Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Conference “Women and God,” University of St Andrews, SCT, UK, online due to COVID-19, May 27, 2021.
- 2021 “The Moderated Ecumenical Interpretation: A Mashup Account of the Atonement.” Paper presentation to the Constructive Theologies Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, US, online due to COVID-19, March 12-14, 2021.
- 2020 “‘Draw Me After You:’ Toward an Erotic Theosis.” Paper presentation to the Christian Systematic Theology Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, online due to COVID-19, November 29-December 10, 2020.
- 2020 “No Longer through a Glass Dimly: Conciliar Orthodoxy and Foundational Propositional Knowledge.” Paper presentation at the Christ Among the Disciplines Conference, online due to COVID-19, November 18-25, 2020.
- 2020 “Orthodoxy and Family: Addressing Cultural Change Contra-Dreher.” Paper presentation to the Constructive Theologies Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion-Southeast Region, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, US, February 28-March 1, 2020.
- 2019 “Compassionate Exclusivism: Toward a Broader Soteriology through the Relationality of Grace.” Paper presentation to the Christian

Systematic Theology Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, US, November 23-26, 2019.

Panels Organized

- 2024 (With Todd DeRose) “Analytic Theology at Fifteen: Growth, Change, and Trajectories of Inclusion.” Exploratory session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, US, November 23-26, 2024.
- 2024 (With Danielle Jansen) “*Atonement and the Death of Christ – A Symposium*” Paper panel at the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society,” San Diego, CA, US November 20-22, 2024.
- 2023 (With Danielle Jansen) “Penal Substitution in Polyphony: Four Views,” Paper session at the Annual Conference of the European Academy of Religion, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, SCT, UK, June 19-23, 2023.
- 2022 (With Preston Hill) “Disability, Hope, and Justice.” Paper session with the Christian Systematic Theology Unit at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, US, November 19-22, 2022.
- 2022 “Book Panel – Rachel S. Baard, *Sexism and Sin-Talk: Feminist Conversations on the Human Condition* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019).” Book panel at the Annual Meeting with the Constructive Theologies Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion-Southeast Region, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, US, March 11-13, 2022.

Public Engagement

- 2025-Present Regular host of the Small Catechisms podcast, a ministry of Lutheran Church of the Nativity.
- 2026 (Interviewed on my research) “*Parousia*, Purgation, and Psychological Time Dilation.” It Means What It Means (podcast), forthcoming.
- 2026 (Interviewed on my research) “Disability Theology and Eschatology.” It Means What It Means (podcast), March 13, 2026, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-118-disability-theology-and-eschatology-with/id1677338684?i=1000755028767>.
- 2024 (Interviewed as critical commentator) Kathryn Post, “Polyamorists look for their place in church as the practice loses its taboo,” *Religion News Service*, September 9, 2024,

<https://religionnews.com/2024/09/09/polyamorists-look-for-their-place-in-church-as-the-practice-loses-its-taboo/>.

- 2023 (Interviewed on my research) Victoria Lee, "Theology for a new conversation: disability and healthcare rationing" *University of St Andrews Research Impact*, November 3, 2023. <https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/theology-for-a-new-conversation-disability-and-healthcare-rationing>.
- 2023 (Interviewed on my research) "[Disability Theology](#)." The London Lyceum (podcast), August 30, 2023.

Preaching

Regular preaching at Lutheran Church of the Nativity (Arden, NC, US – 2024-Present), St Andrews Episcopal Church (St Andrews, SCT, UK – 2023-2024), St Timothy's Episcopal Church (Wilson, NC, US – 2021-2022), and Grace & Holy Episcopal Church (Richmond, VA, US – 2018-2021).

Guest preaching at Calvary Episcopal Church (Fletcher, NC, US – 2025) and First Mennonite Church (Richmond, VA, US – 2019).

Personal Honors and Awards

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC, US)
2026 Clarence H. Stucke Scholarship

St Luke's College Foundation (Tavistock, ENG, UK)
2023-2024 Personal Grant Award

Foundation of St Matthias (Bristol, ENG, UK)
2023 Personal Grant Award

University of St Andrews (St Andrews, SCT, UK)
2024-2025 St Leonard's Associateship

2022-2025 Handsel Tuition Fee Scholarship – Divinity

2022-2025 Carlow Scholarship

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA, US)
2020-2021 Master of Theology Merit Scholarship

2019 Wade & Lou Boggs Scholarship for Excellence in Christian Theology

2017-2020 Ida, Susan, Matilda, and Joseph Chesnutt Merit Scholarship

Professional and Community Service

Peer-Review

Religious Studies, The Hanover Review, TheoLogica, Religion Compass, Agatheos, St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology

American Academy of Religion – Southeast Region

2026-Present Chair of the Constructive Theologies Section
2020-2023 Co-Chair of the Constructive Theologies Section

Society of Christian Philosophers

2021-Present Member of the Eastern Region Committee

Society for Christian Bioethicists

2026-Present Member of the Executive Committee (Media Administrator)
2025 Member of the Annual Conference Planning Group

UNC Health Pardee (Hendersonville, NC, US)

2026-Present Member of the Ethics Committee

North Carolina Synod (ELCA)

2026-Present Disability Ministries Task Force Leader
2025 Lay Voting Member

St Andrews Episcopal Church (St Andrews, SCT, UK)

2023-2024 Youth Ministry Volunteer

2023-2024 Audio-Visual Substitute Assistant

2023-2024 Lay Preacher

University of St Andrews (St Andrews, SCT, UK)

2022-2024 Divinity Postgraduate Research Representative to the St Andrews Students' Association

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA, US)

2019-2021 Volunteer for the Community Life First Year Student Program

2018-2021 Volunteer for the Admissions Visitor Program

2019-2020 Richmond Student Representative to the Committee on Academic Programs

2019-2020 Moderator of the Richmond Student Government Assembly

Christ Episcopal Church (Raleigh, NC, US)

2015-2017 Lay Eucharistic Minister

2015-2017 Lector

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC, US)

2016-2017 Vice President of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Student Council

2015-2016 President of the Academic Study of Religions Club

Organizational Affiliations

2026-Present Lutheran Ethicists Network

2023-Present Society for Christian Bioethicists

2019-Present Society of Christian Philosophers

2018-Present American Academy of Religion

2022-2025 Society for the Study of Theology

2022-2025 European Academy of Religion

2022-2025 Society for the Study of Christian Ethics