

BO KAREN LEE
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Education

Ph.D. Princeton Theological Seminary, May 2007 (*cum laude*)
Historical Theology
Returning Scholars Program, University of Chicago, Winters and Springs of 2002 and 2003
Th.M. Princeton Theological Seminary, 1999 (Church History)
M.Div. Trinity International University, 1997 (*summa cum laude*)
B.A. Yale University, 1993 (Religious Studies, *cum laude*, with Distinctions in the Major)
Dip. Juilliard School of Music, 1989 (*summa cum laude*); performance of solo senior recital
Certificate in spiritual direction: through the Spiritual Direction for Spiritual Guides training program, Oasis Ministries, May 2011

Work Experience

Founder and Director	The Center for Contemplative Leadership Princeton Theological Seminary, 2022-present
Associate Professor	of Spiritual Theology and Christian Formation Princeton Theological Seminary, 2013-present
Instructor	“Forgiveness and Reconciliation,” Certificate in Theology and Ministry, Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary, Spring 2015. Included an “Inside” program at Garden State Correctional Facility.
Assistant Professor	of Spirituality and Historical Theology Princeton Theological Seminary, 2007-2013
Guest Lecturer	Yale Divinity School, November 29, 2011 Lecture: “Spiritualities of Forgiveness,” for the course, Forgiveness: Personal and Political
Guest Lecturer	Yale Divinity School, September 2010 Lecture: “Bernard of Clairvaux and the Four Degrees of Love,” for the course, The Theological Life
Instructor	Princeton Theological Seminary, 2006-07
Instructor	Theology Department, Loyola College, 2003-2006
Lecturer	Princeton University, The Early Christian Movement, Fall 2002, with Elaine Pagels, “Resurrection in the Gospels” (October 2002)

Other Teaching Experience

Instructor	CenterQuest’s Certificate in Spiritual Direction, Level 2 Training, 2021
Instructor	Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation, Group Spiritual Direction Training workshop, (Sept 2020, Jan 2021, Jun 2021, Sept 2021)
Instructor	“Bio-Spiritual Focusing,” Oasis Ministries, Deepening Year in Direction Ministries, May 2020
Seminar Leader	OMSC, “Integrating Spirituality and Mission,” New Haven, CT, February 19-22, 2019

Academic Awards and Fellowships

Trust for Meditation, The World Community for Christian Meditation’s John Main Seminar,
July 2017
Collegeville Institute Summer Writing Grant, “Writing Beyond the Academy,” July 2017
Mullin Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, February 2012 – July 2013

Wabash Summer Research Fellowship, July 2011
 Wabash Pre-Tenure Learning and Teaching Fellowship, July 2010 - June 2011
 Hoyt Fellowship, The Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Spring 2011
 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise, May 2008 (\$20,000)
 Summer Research Grant, Center for the Humanities, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, 2005
 Dissertation Fellowship, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, 2003-2005
 Fund for Theological Education, North American Doctoral Fellow, 2002-03

Grants Received and Administered

Ford Mentoring Ministries: \$25,000 to facilitate a spiritual mentoring program for younger scholars, 2015-2022
 Mudd Legacy Foundation: \$35,000 to support the spiritual direction training curriculum at Princeton Seminary, and partnership with Oasis Ministries, 2017-2020
 F.I.S.H. Foundation: \$55,000 to support the creation of the spiritual direction training curriculum at Princeton Seminary, and partnership with Oasis Ministries, 2014-17
 F.I.S.H. Foundation: \$25,000 to support 2 travel courses to Taizé, France (May 2011, May 2014)

Publications

Books

The Gift of Surrender: Dying to Live in the Spiritual Teachings of Two Early Modern Mystics, Grove Spirituality Press, forthcoming 2027.
The Soul of Higher Education: Contemplative Pedagogy, Research and Institutional Life for the Twenty-first Century. Co-ed. Margaret Benefiel. Information Age Publishing, 2019.
Sacrifice and Delight in the Mystical Theologies of Anna Maria van Schurman and Madame Jeanne Guyon. Notre Dame U. Press, 2014.

Refereed Journal Articles and Invited Book Chapters

“The Wisdom of Weakness in Hildegard of Bingen’s *Scivias*,” forthcoming, *Literature and Belief* (2026)
 “The Body and Imagination: Healing Trauma through Ignatian Meditation and Bio-Spiritual Focusing,” *Spiritus* Fall 2024
 “Imaginative Contemplation and the Gift of Compassion,” in *Contemplation and Community: A Gathering of Fresh Voices for a Living Tradition*, eds. Stuart Higginbotham and Jessica Smith, Crossroads Publishing, 2019
 “The Compassionate Christ in the Classroom: Ignatian Spiritual Reading,” in *The Soul of Higher Education: Contemplative Pedagogy, Research and Institutional Life for the Twenty-first Century*, eds. Margaret Benefiel and Bo Karen Lee, Information Age Publishing, 2019
 “The ‘Double-Pointed Ellipse’: Integrating Spirituality and Mission.” In *Consensus and Conflict: Practical Theology for Congregations in the Work of Richard R. Osmer*. Edited by Kenda Dean, Amanda Drury, Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand. Wipf and Stock, 2019.
 “Anna Maria van Schurman and Madame Jeanne Guyon: Oblation of Self.” In *Sources of the Christian Self: A Cultural History of Christian Identity*. Edited by James M. Houston and Jens Zimmermann. Eerdmans, 2018.
 “The Face of the Other: An Ethic of Delight,” *Ogbomoso Journal of Theology*, Volume XVI, Winter 2011
 “Sacrifice and Desire: The Rhetoric of Self-Denial in the Mystical Theologies of Anna Maria van Schurman and Madame Jeanne Guyon,” in *Franciscanum*, Vol. 51, No. 151, 2009: 207-239
 “Madame Jeanne Guyon: *A Short and Very Easy Method of Prayer*,” in *Christian Spirituality: The Classics*, ed. Arthur Holder, Routledge 2009, pp. 257-268.

- “‘I Wish to Be Nothing’: The Role of Self-Denial in the Mystical Theology of Anna Maria van Schurman,” in *Women, Gender, and Radical Religion in Early Modern Europe* (ed. Sylvia Brown, Brill Academic Publishers 2007)
- “The Holy Spirit and Human Agency in Barth's Doctrine of Sanctification,” *Koinonia* Vol. XII.2, Fall 2000

Book Reviews, Encyclopedia and Other Articles, Podcast Interviews, etc.

- “Self-Care and Sabbath: Being Church in the Time of Covid” – [podcast](#) for Princeton Seminary, September 2020
- “Revealing Voices: Interview with Bo Karen Lee on Self-Denial in the Theologies of Jeanne Guyon and Anna Maria van Schurman,” Project *Vox*, Duke University, January 2020
- “Anna Maria van Schurman.” Co-authored with Anne Larsen. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*. Edited by Margaret King. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- “Hildegard of Bingen,” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, Cambridge U. Press, 2011
- Book Review, *Teaching Other Voices: Women and Religion in Early Modern Europe* (ed. Margaret L. King and Albert Rabil, Jr., U. Chicago Press, 2007), in *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Fall 2010, Volume 5
- “Enriching the Love of Learning with a Desire for God,” *Hungry Hearts*, summer 2008, Volume 17, No. 3, pp. 20-21.

Conferences, Papers and Presentations

- ATS Trauma & Spirituality Conference – keynote speaker & workshop leader, November 2024
- “The Body and Imagination: Healing Trauma through Ignatian Meditation and Bio-Spiritual Focusing,” SSCS Presidential Address, November 2023
- “Revisiting our Rhythms for Life,” plenary presentation for the Credo Presbyterian Clergy Care program, May 2022
- “Trauma and Healing and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola,” webinar for High Rock Church’s Theology Lab, February 2022
- “Trauma and Self-Care for the Pastor” – Presbytery of Philadelphia Clergy Care Program, September 2021
- “Trauma, Self-Care and Sabbath,” Keynote speaker for the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Clergy Renewal Program, February 2021
- “Revisiting our Rhythms for Life,” plenary presentation for the Credo Presbyterian Clergy Care program, March 2021 and April 2021
- Keynote speaker, “The Spirituality of Leadership” for “Bishop’s Day Apart,” UMC, September 24-25, 2019
- Workshop leader, “The Compassionate Christ in the Classroom: The Gift of Imaginative Contemplation” for the *Contemplation and Community* book launch and conference, St. Paul, MN, September 21, 2019
- Keynote speaker, “Pastoral Leadership and Social Transformation” national conference of the Volunteers of America, September 9-10, 2019
- “Theologies of Trauma and Compassion Fatigue,” Asian American Theology Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary, April 2019
- “The Wisdom of Weakness,” Yale Consultation on Suffering and Death, May 2018
- “The Holy Spirit in the Classroom,” SVS conference, June 2017, New Haven, CT
- Contemplative Leaders’ Exchange, Snowmass, CO, historic gathering with Fr. Thomas Keating, Fr. Richard Rohr, Fr. Laurence Freeman and Tilden Edwards to discuss the future of their movements and legacies
- Presenter, “Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture” Panel (Christian Theology and the Bible Group), Society of Biblical Literature, November 2015

- Presenter, “Faith and Race” Panel, Abraham Kuyper Conference, April 2015
- “‘Tongues of Fire and a Certain Violent Wind’: Anna Maria van Schurman’s Theology of the Holy Spirit,” The Protestant Spirit Colloquium at Oxford University, May 23, 2014
- “Hildegard of Bingen as *Homo Fragilis*: The Emboldening Power of Holy Fear,” Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Summer Conference, June 2013, Notre Dame University
- “Renewing Remembrance: Twenty Years of Studying Christian Spirituality,” Panelist for the Twentieth anniversary celebration of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, AAR, November 16, 2012
- “Enjoying God and Its Shadow Side,” Resident Scholar Presentation, Collegeville Institute Seminar, March 2011
- “The Holy Spirit in the Classroom,” The Society of Vineyard Scholars, February 4, 2011
- USA Delegate, Lausanne Congress on World Mission, Cape Town, South Africa, October 2010
- “Dying to Live: *Frui Deo* in the Mystical Theologies of Anna Maria van Schurman and Madame Jeanne Guyon,” Paper for Faculty Colloquium, Trinity Theological College, Singapore, August 2010
- “‘Oh, Happy Dying’: Desire and Annihilation in Madame Jeanne Guyon’s *Commentaire au Cantique des Cantiques de Salomon*,” Paper delivered at the AAR, Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, November 2008
- “The Face of the Other: An Ethic of Delight,” Paper for colloquium of recipients of the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise, Heidelberg, Germany, May 2008
- “Women’s Discourses of Identity and the Rhetoric of Piety,” Chair, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Fall 2007
- “*Scientia* or *Intima Notitia*? The ‘True Knowledge of God’ in Seventeenth Century Reformed Theology (Anna Maria van Schurman’s *Eukleria*),” Presentation, National Faculty Leadership Conference, June 2004
- “Divine Disruptions: Early Modern Female Mystics and Prophets,” Presenter and Co-convener, Attending to Early Modern Women Conference, November 2003

Public Lectures

- “The Wisdom of Weakness in Hildegard of Bingen’s *Scivias*,” Brigham Young University, November 2018, Invited for the Faith and Imagination lecture series by the BYU Humanities Center
- “The Compassionate Christ in the Classroom: Ignatian Spiritual Reading,” Brigham Young University, November 2018, Invited for the Faith and Imagination lecture series by the BYU Humanities Center
- “The Wisdom of Weakness in Hildegard of Bingen’s *Scivias*,” Whitworth University, February 2019, Invited for the Staley Public Lecture
- “‘O Happy Dying’: The Strange Path to Joy in Madame Jeanne Guyon’s *Song of Songs Commentary*,” Public Lecture at St. John’s University, April 28, 2011

Public Lectures (associated with the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise)

- “The Face of the Other: An Ethic of Delight,” presented at:
 Yale Divinity School, September 2010
 Trinity Theological College, Singapore, August 2010
- “Sacrifice and Desire: The Rhetoric of Self-Denial in the Mystical Theologies of Anna Maria van Schurman and Madame Jeanne Guyon,” presented at:
 University of Chicago, March 2010
 University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, November 2009
 Frei University, Amsterdam, Netherlands, November 2009
- “Dying to Live: The Shadow-Side of *Frui Deo*,” presented at:
 Oxford University, Oxford, England, May 2010

Professional Memberships and Leadership Positions

American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature: Member of Steering Committee (2014 ff.) for the Christian Theology and Bible Group
Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality: President (2022-23); Vice President, 2021-22; Member of Governing Board (2010-2013)
Society for the Study of Early Modern Women
Society of Vineyard Scholars: Member of Steering Committee (2011-13); Member of Board of Advisors (2014-2018)

Consultations and Wider Service in and Beyond the Academy

Editorial Board	<i>Spiritus</i> , 2011-present
Roundtable	"The Future of Religion," December 13, 2021, Luce Foundation
Consultant	"Centering and Flourishing: A Smartphone-Based Intervention Experiment," a science research project at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, led by David Yaden and Roland Griffiths, funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation
Consultant	"The Science of Spiritual Exercises," John Templeton World Charity Foundation, Fall 2020 (month-long workshop)
Leader and Facilitator	Georgetown University, Roundtable Consultation on the Future of Christian Meditation, Spring 2019
Alumna Preacher	Yale University, Battell Chapel, for 25 th Reunion Weekend, May 2018
Participant	Gathering of the "Young Contemplatives' Exchange," August 2017 (for articles on this historic gathering, click here and here)

Other Professional and Ministerial Experience

Speaker and Convener	Prayer as Resistance Conference Series for the Center for Contemplative Leadership (April 2022 to April 2026)
Speaker	<i>Lectio Divina</i> and the Power of "Open Mind" (John Cleese) – Adult Forum at All Saints' Episcopal Church, April 2026
Webinar presenter	"The Soul of Higher Education," Friends Association for Higher Education (October 18, 2022)
Keynote speaker	Cultivating Joy event for the Northwest Coast Presbytery, "Rhythms for Life: Trauma, Hope and the <i>Spiritual Exercises</i> of Ignatius of Loyola" (October 8, 2022)
Organizer	Faculty meeting, Anti-Racism Training, May 11, 2021 Also spearheaded the faculty letter, "A Call for Solidarity" in response to nation-wide violence against the AAPI community; the letter can be found here
Bible Study leader	" <i>Lectio Divina: from Benedict to Ignatius</i> ," Nassau Presbyterian Church, April and May 2021
Worship leader	"Revisiting our Rhythms for Life," Credo Presbyterian Clergy Care program, April 19, 20, 21, 2021
Retreat speaker	Rivendell Institute, February 5, 2021
Speaker	Princeton U. Grad Christian Fellowship, Nov 2020
Speaker	"Reflections by the River," September 28, 2020 – a worship video for PTS chapel – can be found here
Speaker	Scala Foundation, (my) Book Discussion, November 2019
Keynote Speaker	Bishop's Day Apart, Susquehanna Conference, September 2019
Workshop Leader	"Compassion and Ignatian Imaginative Prayer," Wisdom Ways, St. Paul, MN, September 2019
Panelist	"The Future of Contemplative Prayer," Wisdom Ways, St. Paul, MN, September 2019

Keynote Speaker	Volunteers of America, Spirituality and Resilience Conference, September 2019
Speaker	PTS Orientation, "Contemplative Practices for Seminary Life," Sept 2019
Speaker	Adult Forum, All Saints' Episcopal Church, June 2019
Speaker	Adult Education, Trinity Episcopal Church, Spring 2019
Speaker	Spiritual Formation Series, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Spring 2019
Workshop Leader	"Contemplating the Psalms," Rivendell Institute at Yale University, February 2019
Keynote Speaker	Telos Grad-Faculty NorthEast Conference, February 2019
Workshop Leader	"The Gift of Sabbath: Confronting Workaholism," Campus Ministry conference, Yale University, October 2018
Participant	"The Creative Encounter of Howard Thurman: The Sewanee Contemplative Exchange: Bridging the Gap between Contemplation and Compassionate Active": April 2018
Retreat speaker	Grad/Faculty Ministries Conference, "Stewards of God's Grace: Love, Hospitality, and Service in the Academy," August 2017
Speaker	"Near to God in a Busy World," Rivendell Institute at Yale University, February 2017
Keynote Speaker	"Bishop's Day," annual conference of UMC Pastors in Central PA, September 12-13, 2016
Speaker	"Spirituality and Praxis," LIVE Symposium, April 2016, November 2016
Speaker	"River Shalom," Grad/Faculty Ministries Conference, August 2016
Retreat Leader	"Bringing Shalom, Hope and Joy to Academia" Grad/Faculty Ministries Conference, August 2016
Speaker	"Surrender to Live," Hopewell Presbyterian Church, February 2016
Speaker	"Forgiveness and Reconciliation," Nassau Presbyterian Church, January 2016
Keynote Speaker	Rivendell Women's Conference, Yale University, February 2016
Speaker	"Forgiveness and Reconciliation," Courageous Conversations workshop, Princeton Theological Seminary, Fall 2015
Panelist	"The Holy Spirit and the Taizé Community," Institute for Youth Ministry, April 2015
Speaker	Community Empowerment Lectures, Student Government Association, Princeton Theological Seminary, April 2015
Panelist	"Faith and Scholarship," Faculty Commons, Princeton University, April 2015
Speaker	L.I.V.E. Symposium, Princeton Theological Seminary, March 2015
Facilitator	Christian Callings in the World Cohort Group, Princeton Seminary, 2013-15
Board of Advisors	Society of Vineyard Scholars, 2014 - present
Prayer Leadership	Franciscan Spirituality and Pilgrimage Colloquium, Assisi, Italy
Speaker	Graduate Christian Forum, Oxford University, May 24, 2014
Keynote speaker	Rivendell Institute, Yale University, Annual Colloquium, March 2014
Speaker	Graduate Christian Fellowship, Princeton University, March 2014
Board of Advisors	Rivendell Institute, Yale University, 2006-2010
Steering Committee	Society of Vineyard Scholars, 2011-2013
Faculty Teaching Mentor	Princeton Theological Seminary, Field Education office, 2009-2013
Leader	Benedictine Evening Prayer, Princeton Seminary, Spring 2013
Speaker	English Ministry National Pastors' Conference (PC USA), "The Future of Theological Education and Pastoral Training in Asian-American Context," April 2013

Speaker	Nassau Presbyterian Church, "Theological Perspectives on Sin and Forgiveness," Princeton, NJ, November 2012
Participant	Faculty Commons Book Study, Princeton University, Fall 2012-Spring 2013
Organizer	Panel, "Keeping Faith in Graduate School," Princeton University, October 2012
Keynote Speaker	Rivendell Institute Conference, Yale University, "The Spiritual Life of a Scholar," September 2012
Grant Recipient	Collegeville Summer Writing Workshop with Kathleen Norris, "Theology in the Real World," July 2012
Presenter	"Keeping Faith in the Academy," Princeton University, Faculty Commons, March 2012
Panelist	Panel on Racism and Racial Slurs, "Who You Calling a ---?," Association of Black Seminarians, Princeton Seminary, March 2012
Speaker	"Knowing God's Delight: Self-Care for the Busy Seminarian," APTS, Princeton Theological Seminary, January 12, 2012
Worship Leader and Organizer	Gathering of Collegeville Institute Scholars in Honor of Retired Anglican Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn, April 1, 2011
Leader	Spiritual Formation book study, Princeton University, Graduate Christian Fellowship, Fall 2010
Presenter, Facilitator	Women's Panel on "Faith in the Academy," for graduate students at Princeton University, August 2010
Preacher	"Breakfast with Jesus," Praise Presbyterian Church, August 2010
Leader	Bible Study, Princeton University, Graduate Christian Fellowship, Summer 2010
Preacher	PTS Senior Worship Service, Spring 2010
Speaker	PTS Women's Graduation Banquet, Spring 2010
Preacher	Princeton Theological Seminary, Multi-Cultural Revival Worship Service, March 4, 2010
Keynote speaker	Manna Alumni Conference, Princeton University, January 2010
Bible Study Leader	Princeton University, Manna Christian Fellowship, 2009-2011
Leader, Facilitator	ANA (Asian North American) Theology and Ministry Consultation, Lay Leadership Track, Chicago, IL, May 2009
Presenter, Facilitator	Women's Panel on "Keeping the Faith in Graduate School," for graduate students at Princeton University, Summer 2009
Keynote speaker	Yale Students for Christ Fall Conference, Yale University, October 2008
Keynote speaker	KASE Leadership Conference, Denver, Colorado, July 2008
Worship leader	Association of Practical Theology, Biennial Conference, April 2008
Worship leader, pianist, and liturgist for various services at Miller Chapel for the Princeton Theological Seminary community, 2006-present	
Keynote speaker	Manna Alumni Conference, Princeton University, January 2008
Workshop speaker	Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary, May 2007
Preacher	PTS, APTS Spring Banquet, 2007
Board of Advisors	Hope Ministry, Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2005-2006
Board of Advisors	KASE (Korean-American Student Empowerment), 2004-2007
Research Assistant	Princeton Theological Seminary, for Bruce McCormack (2002)
Youth Director	Calvary Presbyterian Church, Staten Island, NY (1997-1998)
Minister of C.E.	Hahna Presbyterian Church, Des Plaines, IL (1995-1997)
Teacher	St. John's Preparatory High School, Astoria, NJ (1993-1994)
Teacher	Bayside Academy, Bayside, NJ (summer 1993)
Research Team	Global Involvement Through Education, Amman, Jordan (summer 1992)
Teacher	La Paz de Jesus, La Paz, Bolivia (summer 1990)