

Jon Pahl, Ph.D.

Peter Paul and Elizabeth Hagan Professor of the History of Christianity
The United Lutheran Seminary
7301 Germantown Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1794
jpahl@uls.edu

Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
Green Bay, WI 54301
610-909-7107 (cell)
jon@unionucc.com

BIOGRAPHY

Jon Pahl is a historian, author, teacher, public speaker, researcher, business-planner, and community activist. Dr. Pahl received his BA in history and theology from Valparaiso University, MTS from Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Columbus, OH), and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Jon has published numerous articles and reviews and seven books, most recently the first critical biography in English of the controversial Turkish Muslim preacher Fethullah Gülen. “JP,” as he is known by many of his students, has spoken with audiences from Accra, Ghana to Anaheim, California, including at Cambridge, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, and many other colleges, universities, churches, bookstores, mosques, libraries and other public settings all over the globe. Jon lives in Clintonville, Wisconsin with his wife, Lisa, dog, Theo, and two cats (Layla and Izzy). Jon and Lisa enjoy spending time with their extended family, gardening, and Jon likes sitting in on the saxophone with various bands and gospel choirs.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2018-- Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement, Union Congregational United Church of Christ, Green Bay, WI
- 2000-- Professor, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; United Lutheran Seminary
- 2007-10--Visiting Professor, Princeton University Department of Religion
- 2004-06, 10-14--Visiting Adjunct Professor, Temple University Department of Religion
- 1988-2000—Instructor-Associate Professor, Valparaiso University Theology Department

BOOKS

- *Fethullah Gülen: A Life of Hizmet--Why a Muslim Scholar in Pennsylvania Matters to the World* (Blue Dome Press, 2019). Romanian translation, October, 2019; Korean translation, May, 2020 (forthcoming)
- *Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence* (NYU Press, 2012)
- Edited, with Introduction and Epilogue: *An American Teacher: Coming of Age, and Coming Out—the Memoirs of Loretta Collier* (Infinity, 2006)
- *Shopping Malls and other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place* (Brazos, 2003)
- *Youth Ministry in Modern America: 1930-the present* (Hendrickson Publishers, 2000)
- *Hopes and Dreams of All: The International Walther League, and Lutheran*

Youth in American Culture, 1893-1993 (Wipf and Stock, 2006[1993])

- *Paradox Lost: Free Will and Political Liberty in American Culture, 1630-1760* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992)

Research in Progress:

- *A Coming Religious Peace* (religious peacebuilding in American and global history)
- *Brotherhood and Sisterhood* (a historical, personal, and theological account)

COURSES TAUGHT

- History of Christianity, to 1500
- History of Christianity, 1500-
- American Religious History
- Introduction to Public Theology
- Faith and Film: Various Topics (Jesus Movies; Apocalypse; Sacrifice, etc)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS, ARTICLES, REVIEWS (selected)

- Forthcoming invitations (pending COVID-19) to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland; Great Britain, Belgium, France, Spain; Germany; Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa; South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia.
- Invited Lecture, “Why a Muslim Scholar in Pennsylvania Matters to the World,” Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, February 9, 2020.
- Invited Lecture, “Hizmet [Service] in Practice,” Jacksonville, FL, January 14, 2020.
- *Fethullah Gülen: A Life of Hizmet*, Book Tour--Fairfax, VA; Washington, DC; Nairobi, Kenya; Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; Kampala, Uganda; Seattle, WA; San Francisco, Berkeley, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; Phoenix, AZ; Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Canada; Clifton, NJ; Hartford, CT; New Haven, CT; New York, NY; Nashville, TN; Houston, Austin, TX; Bucharest, Romania, October 1-November 15, 2019.
- Invited Series, “Fethullah Gülen and the Global Hizmet Movement,” Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Waterloo, Canada, September 16-19, 2019.
- Invited Series, “Fethullah Gülen as Peacebuilder,” Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand, August 22-Sep 6, 2019.
- Invited Keynote Speech, “Countering Islamophobia,” Fox Valley Mosque Annual Tent Gathering, June 23, 2019, Neenah, WI
- Invited Lecture, “Clashing Minorities, Converging Majorities: How Religious Peacebuilding is Reshaping the Globe,” San Diego State University, Religious Studies Department Annual Guest Lecture, April 11, 2019
- “An Economic Reading of Luther on the Eucharist, or How Polemics over "Real Presence" Made Matter Matter in New Ways,” Society of Lutheran Ethicists, Lexington, KY, January 3, 2019
- “Religious Peacebuilding,” lecture-tour at Lagos, Abuja, Kaduna, Nigeria, 2/11-17, 2018
- “American Empire, Global Lutherans: Or, What’s OK About Lutherans?,” Association

- of Teaching Theologians of the ELCA, Chicago, IL, August 1, 2017
- Saxophone Soloist, Music Leader: Ellington Epiphany/Easter Eucharist (arrangements of Duke Ellington Music, with appropriate liturgical notes), multiple venues, 2014-19
- Invited Lecture, “A Coming Religious Peace,” St. John’s Lutheran Church, Hatboro, PA, March 26, 2017
- Invited Lecture, “In Vino Veritas: The History, Theology, and Spirituality of Wine,” multiple venues, 2016-17
- Invited Lecture, “Religious Freedom and American Politics,” The Redeemer Episcopal Church, Bryn Mawr, PA, October 9, 2016 (multiple venues, 2016-18)
- Sermon, “Lazarus and Us,” Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, September 25, 2016
- Invited Lecture, “Engaged Empathy: The Role of Religions,” *Countering Violent Extremism*, Brussels, Belgium, March 18, 2016
- Invited Lecture, “Peacebuilding Beyond Empire and ISIS: How Jews, Christians, and Muslims Can Work Together,” Islamic Society of the Fox River Valley, Neenah, WI, January 9, 2016
- Invited Lecture, “After Paris: How Religions Promote Peace,” *The Hibben Lecture*, Penn Charter High School, Philadelphia, PA, November 30, 2015

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 2018- Jazz Ministry at Union Congregational Church. Start-up ministry with services of “LGBTQ Jazz;” “Addiction and Recovery Sunday;” “Latin Jazz,” “Call and Response Worship--Honoring Green Bay’s First Responders,” “Protest Jazz,” and many others. Funded by a grant from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.
- 2018- Board of Directors/Developer--*The Brain Center of Green Bay*. Start-up dedicated to promoting brain health throughout the life course, with special attention to neuro-degenerative disease prevention and mitigation. Located in a refurbished office in Union UCC basement. \$250K annual budget
- 2010-2015: Architect, Director of MAPL (Master of Arts in Public Leadership) degree program. Innovative curricular partnership between business, social work, and seminary to prepare spiritually-engaged leaders for social ministry organizations. Generated \$1.5 million in revenue over 5 years
- 2012-2016: Chair, Board of Directors, Feast of Justice (Hunger Ministry, NE Philadelphia).
- 2001-2005: Business Plan and Development Plan for *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* (start-up journal now published by Johns Hopkins University Press)
- 2000-2012: Crum, Ridley Creek Watershed Association: Member, Creek Monitoring Committee.
- 1996-2000: Founder and Faculty Director, Habitat for Humanity, Valparaiso University

References available on request.