

Religion within the Limits of History Alone

Pragmatic Historicism and the Future of Theology



Demian Wheeler

BOOK RELEASE EVENT
NOVEMBER 11, 2021



UNITED

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES

Education for Transformation

"To be a pragmatic historicist is to cultivate humility, gratitude, reverence, and metaphysical wonder. . . Most of all, to be a pragmatic historicist is to be at home in history, which is indeed the only home we have." -from Religion Within the Limits of History Alone

RELIGION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HISTORY ALONE

DR. DEMIAN WHEELER

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is proud to welcome members of the community to a special book event celebrating the paperback release of Associate Professor Dr. Demian Wheeler's *Religion Within the Limits of History Alone*, which advances a historicism that takes religion seriously as part of a changing, messy, temporal, fragile, diverse, and vibrant world. This pragmatic historicism invites us to reconstruct our theologies for our time and place.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Opening Remarks	Dr. Demian Wheeler
Student Response	Rev. Andrea Johnson
Faculty Response	Dean Kyle Roberts
Guest Respondent	Dr. Sheila Greeve Davaney
Concluding Remarks	Dr. Demian Wheeler
Questions & Answers	

PRAISE FOR RELIGION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HISTORY ALONE

Wheeler is advancing not merely a position and argument, but a project and an agenda, and doing so with grace and verve. This is a very impressive book that will command the attention of all serious scholars working in the liberal theological traditions. It is a breathtakingly comprehensive, invigorating synthesis of the historicist, pragmatist, and naturalist lineages in American philosophy and theology.

— Michael S. Hogue, author of *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World*

Wheeler makes a significant contribution to the field of empirical theology and specifically to the field of pragmatic historicism. This book is a detailed, thorough, and nuanced treatment of the historical development of pragmatic historicism, and as a detailed history of an important strand in American religious thought, it makes a major contribution to an understanding of religion worldwide.

— Daniel A. Dombrowski, author of *Whitehead's Religious Thought: From Mechanism to Organism, From Force to Persuasion*

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Demian Wheeler is Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies and Director of Advanced Studies at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He came to United in 2015 as a Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary, where he specialized in American liberal theology. In addition to *Religion within the Limits of History Alone*, Wheeler is the co-editor of *Conceiving an Alternative: Philosophical Resources for an Ecological Civilization*. He has also written a number of journal articles and book chapters on religious naturalism, empirical theology, and process philosophy, among other topics.



Associate Professor Dr. Demian Wheeler

Sheila Greeve Davaney is the Harvey H. Potthoff Professor of Theology Emerita at Iliff School of Theology. She taught Modern Western Thought at Iliff from 1980-2007. From 2007-2011 she was the Program Officer for Religion and Public Life at the Ford Foundation. In 2012, she was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York and from 2012-2015, Davaney was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. She is the author or editor of eleven volumes and over forty academic articles. She is now retired and lives in Denver, Colorado. Davaney was Demian Wheeler's MA advisor and served on his PhD dissertation committee. Her work is prominently featured in Wheeler's book, *Religion within the Limits of History Alone*.



Dr. Sheila Greeve Davaney



Dean Kyle Roberts

FEATURED RESPONDENTS UNITED FACULTY & STUDENT

Kyle Roberts (Ph.D.) is VP of Academic Affairs and Dean and holds the Schilling Chair as Professor of Public Theology and the Church and Economic Life at United. Roberts has published *A Complicated Pregnancy: Whether Mary Was a Virgin and Why it Matters*, the co-authored *Matthew: A Two Horizons Commentary*, and *Emerging Prophet: Kierkegaard and the Postmodern People of God*. Roberts has published essays on Kierkegaard and modern theology, including several articles in the series Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception and Resources (Ashgate / University of Copenhagen) and other collected volumes on various topics, including Pietism, Karl Barth, eschatology, and Christian spirituality.



Rev. Andrea Johnson, D.Min. student

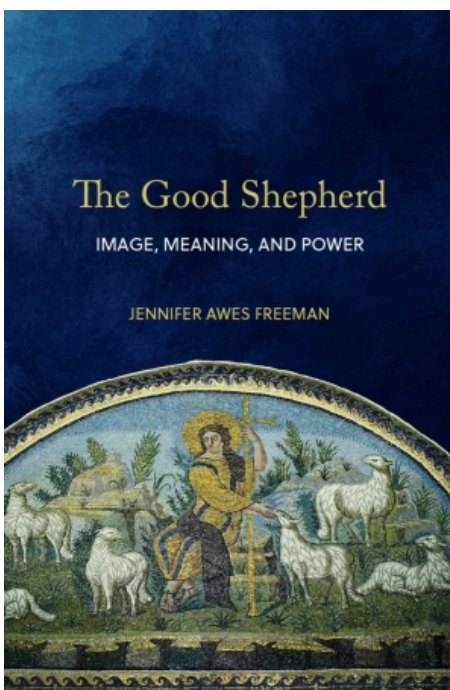
Andrea Johnson (M.Div. '17) is a Unitarian Universalist minister affiliated with MN Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington, MN. She serves on the Board of Trustees at United Theological Seminary and is a current Doctor of Ministry student. She is passionate about racial justice and works towards wealth redistribution through a project called Stolen Wealth Returns.

COMING SPRING 2022
BOOK EVENT FOR
DR. JENNIFER AWES FREEMAN'S
THE GOOD SHEPHERD



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We hope you enjoyed celebrating the exciting scholarship that is coming out of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and that you will stay tuned for future celebrations of faculty work, such as Dr. Jennifer Awes-Freeman's *The Good Shepherd: Image, Meaning, and Power*, Spring 2022.



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