

Curriculum Vitae
Debra K. Rienstra
abridged, updated January 2015

Education

- Rutgers University* 1989-1995
New Brunswick, New Jersey
M.A. in English Literature, October 1991.
Ph.D. in Literatures in English, May 1995.
Dissertation: "Aspiring to Praise: The Sidney-Pembroke Psalter and the English Religious Lyric." Dissertation director: Ann Baynes Coiro
- University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts* 1985-1987
Ann Arbor, Michigan
B.A. in English Literature.
Graduated with Highest Distinction and Highest Honors in English.
- Calvin College* 1983-1985
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Teaching Experience

- Calvin College* 1996-present
Professor, English Department
Courses commonly taught: British Literature Survey I, Shakespeare, World Literature I, Creative Writing (non-fiction, poetry), Written Rhetoric, Developing a Christian Mind. Off-campus course on "Words and the Work of Worship," summer 2003. Directed Semester in Britain program, spring 2004.
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship/Brehm Center* 2005-2006
for Worship, Theology, and the Arts
Pasadena, California
On temporary leave from Calvin English Department to engage in research and teaching at Fuller Theological Seminary. Projects included serving as artist-in-residence at the Brehm Center, teaching creative writing, researching a book on language in worship, convening a peer consultation on language in worship, and teaching at Fuller.
- Redlands Christian Community College* 2004-2006
Sun Valley, California
On temporary leave from Calvin College. Taught English 101 to primarily Latino/Latina students on the Sun Valley, California, satellite campus. (Supported by Calvin College and the ministries of Bethel Christian Reformed Church.)

Publications

Books

Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry (with Ron Rienstra). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

So Much More: An Invitation to Christian Spirituality. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.

Great with Child: On Becoming a Mother. New York: Tarcher/Putnam, 2002. Paperback ed., 2003. Re-released by Wordfarm, 2009.

Scholarly Articles and Chapters

“‘Mend My Rhyme’: Revising Resolutions from Psalms and Sonnets.” *George Herbert Journal* forthcoming.

“‘Let Wits Contest’: George Herbert and the English Sonnet Sequence.” *George Herbert Journal* 35.1-2 (Fall 2011/Spring 2012). Note: Journal issue appeared summer of 2014, but is being backdated in order to fill in years in which the journal did not appear.

“‘Disorder Best Fit’: Henry Lok and Holy Disorder in Devotional Lyric.” *Spenser Studies* 27 (2012): 249-87.

“The Countess of Pembroke and the Problem of Skill in Devotional Writing.” *Sidney Journal* 23.1-2 (2005): 37-60.

“Circulating the Sidney-Pembroke Psalter” (with Noel Kinnamon). *Women’s Writing and the Circulation of Ideas: Manuscript Publication in England, 1550-1800*. Ed. George L. Justice and Nathan Tinker. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002. 50-72. (Reprint of *Sidney Journal* article.)

“Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke, *Psalmes*.” *A Companion to Early Modern Women’s Writing*. Ed. Anita Pacheco. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. 110-124.

“Dreaming Authorship: Aemilia Lanyer and the Countess of Pembroke.” *Discovering and Recovering the Seventeenth Century Religious Lyric*. Ed. Eugene R. Cunnar and Jeffrey Johnson. Pittsburgh: Duquesne UP, 2001. 80-103.

“Revisioning the Sacred Text” (with Noel Kinnamon). *Sidney Journal* 17.1 (1999): 53-77.

Articles for Wider Audiences

Bi-monthly blog posts (~1000 words) featuring reviews, commentary on popular culture, theological and spiritual reflection, and humor for The Twelve blog. November 2011 to present.
<<http://the12.squarespace.com/>>

“Knowing Stuff.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 27.4 (April 2012): 3.

“Music of Grace.” *The Banner* 146.11 (November 2011): 7.

- “The Divine Regard.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 26.9 (November 2011): 24.
- “Humor.” “Psalmody.” “Waiting.” *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Ed. Glen G. Scorgie. Zondervan, 2011.
- “Lost: Tramping through the Jungle toward the Glowly Light.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 25.8 (October 2010): 6-11. Also guest-edited this issue.
- “The Stubbornness of Sorrow.” (Review of *Home* by Marilynne Robinson.) *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 24.7 (Aug./Sept. 2009): 19-20.
- “Holy Failure” *The Banner* 144.4 (April 2009): 7.
- “New (and Dull?) Apologetics.” (Review of books by N. T. Wright and Rowan Williams.) *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 23.8 (October 2008): 21-23.
- “Lectionary and the Arts.” *Lectionary Homiletics* 19.2 (Feb./Mar. 2008): 38-39, 48, 55-56, 64, 74 (five entries).
- “Attending to Faith, Doubt, and Joy.” (Review of poetry volumes by Mary Oliver, Luci Shaw, and Mark Jarman.) *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 22.5 (May 2007): 18-21.
- “Teach Us to Pray: Crafting Prayers and Other Words for Worship.” *APCE Advocate* 32.4 (Winter 2007): 11.
- Review of *More Like Not Running Away* by Paul Shepherd. *Christian Century* 123.11 (May 30, 2006).
- Review of *Why I Wake Early: New Poems* by Mary Oliver. *Christian Century* 122.13 (June 28, 2005): 41.
- “Loving service: An essential role we all must embrace.” *Chicago Tribune* 7 May 2003: 6.
- “Is It OK to Enjoy My Life?” *Moody Magazine* 103.3 (January/February 2003): 12-15.
- “Longing.” *The Best Christian Writing 2002*. Ed. John Wilson. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2002. 216-26. (Excerpt from *Great with Child*.)
- “Call Waiting.” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 16.8 (October 2001): 8-15.
- “Postmodern Hamlet: Can Shakespeare Survive the Dissolution of the Self?” *Books & Culture* 7.1 (January/February 2001): 18-19.

Poetry

- “Revision.” *Rock & Sling* 6.1 (Winter 2011): 39.
- “Resilience” and “Peonies.” Reprinted in *Flourish Magazine*, Spring 2010.
<<http://flourishonline.org/2010/06/two-spring-poems-by-debra-rienstra/>>.
- “Peonies.” *Perspectives* 24.5 (May 2009): 19.
- “Incarnation” and “Mary’s Gethsemane.” *Stonework* 5 (2007). <<http://stoneworkjournal.blogspot.com/>>.

“Take, Drink” and “Resilience.” *Ruminare* 1 (Fall 2006): 33.

“Anointing,” “Going Out,” and “A Song: of Aaron.” *The Other Journal*. April 2006.

<<http://www.theotherjournal.com/>>. “Going Out” was also chosen to appear in *Remembering the Future: A Collection of Essays, Interviews, and Poetry at the Intersection of Theology and Culture: The Other Journal 2004-2007* (Cascade Books, 2009).

Won the hymn competition for Fuller Seminary School of Psychology Fortieth Anniversary with “Foothold,” a hymn text based on Psalm 25. Premiered February, 2006, in Pasadena.

Served as artist-in-residence for Fuller Seminary Brehm Center, 2005-2006.

“The Child Jesus Speaks.” *Sojourners* 34.11 (December 2005): 37.

“I Praise You, God: Psalm 139:13-16.” Lyric for choral work. Music composed by John Ferguson. GIA Publications, 2004. Premiered January 2004 at Calvin Worship Symposium in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“Vessel.” *Mars Hill Review* 21 (2003): 112.

“Passacaglia: On the Emmaus Road.” Lyric for choral work. Music composed by David Fuentes. Premiered January 2002 by the Calvin Alumni Choir, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“Passacaglia: Choral Text Based on Luke 24.” *Christianity and the Arts* 8.1 (Winter 2001): 11-12.

Speaking Engagements

Conference Presentations

“‘Although verse be somewhat scant’: Henry Lok as a Forerunner for George Herbert.” George Herbert Society Triennial Conference. October 18, 2014. Phoenix, Arizona.

“Let Wits Contest: Sparring with Sonnets in the Opening Sequence of ‘The Church.’” George Herbert Conference. March 8, 2013. Charleston, South Carolina.

“Rival Monuments: Samuel Daniel’s *Delia* and Mary Sidney.” Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference. October 27-28, 2012. Cincinnati, Ohio.

“‘Mend My Rhyme’: Revising Resolutions from Psalms and Sonnets.” Locating George Herbert: Family, Place, Traditions Conference. Newtown, Powys, Wales. October 13-16, 2011.

“I am not I’: The Lyrical Self in Dissolution in Psalms and Sonnets.” Paper presented at the Renaissance Society of America. Montreal, Québec, March 25, 2011

“Singing True Hymns with the Sidneys: George Herbert’s *The Temple* and Sidneian Psalms and Sonnets.” Paper presented at George Herbert’s Pastoral: Poetry and Priesthood, Past and Future. Sarum College, Salisbury, England. October 6, 2007.

“Holy Disorder: Henry Lok and the Emerging Devotional Lyric.” Paper presented at International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. May 12, 2007.

“Still Deconstructing Vocation.” Keynote address for Lilly “Exploring Your Vocation” Conference for honors students. Calvin College. September 23, 2006.

“The Countess of Pembroke and the Problem of Skill in Devotional Writing.” Paper presented at International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. May 2005.

“Poetry on Embodied Feminine Spirituality.” Poetry reading presented at Western Conference on Christianity and Literature. Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California. January 2005.

“Re-revelation: The Sidney-Pembroke Psalter and the English Religious Lyric.” Paper presented at Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference. Toronto, Ontario. October 1998.

Featured lectures and seminars

“Formation for Transformation.” Plenary Lecture for Developing a Christian Mind (required course for all first-year students at Calvin). January 22, 2013.

“Spiritual Gifts and Feisty Decisions.” Lecture sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia. Virginia Festival of the Book. March 19, 2011.

“Words Wear Out: How Writers Help Us Renew Religious Language.” January Series Lecture. Calvin College. January 10, 2008.

“The Truth’s Superb Surprise: Writing as Christian Proclamation in Contemporary Contexts.” Calvin Seminars in Christian Scholarship. Directed two-week seminar. Summer of 2006.

“Changing Diapers, Changing the World” and “The Four-Thirds Solutions: An Interim Report.” Featured speaker for Student Forum and Faculty Women’s Luncheon. Seattle Pacific University. May 19, 2006.

“Changing Diapers, Changing the World.” Featured speaker for chapel, with Ron Rienstra. Westmont College. April 10, 2006.

“Our Turn in the Garden: Christian Heritage and the Next Generation” and “The Four-Thirds Solutions: An Interim Report.” Featured speaker for Convocation and Faculty Forum. Gordon College. November 16, 2005.

“How to be Spiritual AND Religious and Proud of It” and “Spiritual Guidance: How the Gospel Urges Us Beyond Comfortable Convention in Life’s Big Decisions.” Breckenridge Christian Ministries Summer Speaker Series. Breckenridge, Colorado. August 2005.

“Mary Sidney’s Psalms and the English Reformation: Writing Along the Sacred Text.” Meeter Center Lecture Series. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. November 1999.

Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin College

“The Magpie Form: Brian Doyle and Patrick Madden in Conversation.” Hosted and moderated interview. April 20, 2012.

“On the Pop Culture Frontier: Jana Riess and Nikki Stafford in Conversation. Hosted and moderated interview. April 21, 2012.

Public interview with Richard Rodriguez. April 2010.

“Can Christians Tell the Truth?” Organized and led panel discussion (with Leslie Leyland-Fields and Vanita Hampton Wright). April 2008.

“Writing Even Against the Odds” (with Leslie Leyland-Fields and Tom Montgomery-Fate); “The New Apologetics” (with Donald Miller). Featured speaker at both sessions. April 2006.

“Nonfiction Spiritual Writing: the Story of *Great with Child*.” Organized and led panel discussion (with Lorraine Kisly, Sara Carder, and Jana Riess). April 2002.

“Writing Poetry in Response to Scripture.” Workshop led with Paul Willis. April 2002 and March 2000.

Worship-Related

“How to Do Everything Wrong and Still Get it Right.” Calvin College chapel message on Psalm 6. October 31, 2011.

“The Divine Regard” and “Thin Places.” Sermons given at Wesley Foundation worship events at the University of Virginia. March 20, 2011.

“Developing Skills for Testimony,” “Names Lead to Verbs: Basic Prayer Techniques for Worship and Devotion,” and “Keepin’ It Real: What Is Authentic Worship?”. Workshops led with Ron Rienstra. First Union Church, Cedarville, MI. June 4-6, 2010

“Just Keepin’ It Real: Authentic and Biblical God-Language for Worship.” Public lecture with Ron Rienstra. Also three other discussions/workshops for students and area pastors. Central College, Pella, IA. March 22-24, 2010.

Workshops for pastors on language for God and intercessory prayer, led with Ron Rienstra. Bast Festival of Preaching. Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI. October 26-27, 2009.

“Worship Words: An Overview, a Walk-Through, and a How-To.” Session led with Ron Rienstra at Calvin Worship Symposium, January 30-31, 2009.

“Images for God in Worship,” “Images for People in Worship.” Presentations. Christ Memorial Church, Holland, MI. November 4 and 11, 2007.

“Crafting Prayers and Other Words for Worship.” Session led at Calvin Worship Symposium, January 2007.

“More Than Music: The Spoken Word in Worship.” Co-led daylong workshop with Ron Rienstra at Bridgeway Community Christian Reformed Church. North Haledon, New Jersey. February 17, 2007.

“Worship-Words.” Day-long workshop at Fuller Seminary, Seattle Campus. May 20, 2006.

“Communicating Christian Truth Winsomely to a Contemporary Audience”; “Crafting Words for Worship” (with Nathan Bierma and Carol Rottman); and Q and A session on *So Much More*. Sessions led at Calvin Worship Symposium, January 2006.

Awards

- *Christianity Today* Award of Merit in the apologetics category for *So Much More: An Invitation to Christian Spirituality*, June 2006.
- *Publisher's Weekly* Best Books of 2002 for *Great with Child*, January 2003.
- *Publisher's Weekly* starred review for *Great with Child*, April 2002.

Professional Service

Board member (2007-2013) and book review editor (2011-2013) for *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*.

George Herbert Society Allocations Committee.

Grants

Sabbatical grant. For “‘God writeth, *Loved*’: Psalms, Sonnets, and Suspended Resolution.” Interim-Spring 2012.

College Service

- Festival of Faith and Writing steering committee, June 2008 to present.
- English Department Faculty Formation and Assessment, fall 2006 to present (chair 2007-2008).
- Former college-wide service: Professional Status Committee, 2010-2013; Homosexuality and Community Life Committee (editor of HCL3 document) 2011-2012; Faculty Senator, 2008-2010; Academic Standards Committee, 2008-2010; previously served on Student Life Committee and Interim Term Committee.
- Organized and hosted at Calvin College the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Colloquium for undergraduates. (Nine Calvin College students read papers.) Sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Consortium. April 16, 2011.