

# Richard O. Randolph

## Current Position

Pastor

Meriden United Methodist Church

Meriden, Kansas

Church webpage: <http://www.meridenumc.org/>

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## Education

Ph.D., Ethics, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California 2003

M.Div., Yale University, 1982

M.A., International and Developmental Economics, Yale University, 1981

B.A., Political Science (with Honors) and Religion, Duke University, 1978

## Career Experience

Pastor, Kemptown United Methodist Charge (comprised of Providence and Pleasant Grove United Methodist Churches) Kemptown, Maryland, 1982-1988.

Co-pastor, Reisterstown United Methodist Church, Reisterstown, Maryland, 1988-1989.

Program Director, The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS), an affiliate center of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, 1996-1999.

Faculty, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, 1999-2007. As a member of the Saint Paul faculty, I received an Award for "An Outstanding Proposal for a Science and Religion Course," sponsored by The John Templeton Foundation, 2000.

Faculty, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Kansas City, Missouri, 2007-2011.

Pastor, Meriden United Methodist Church, Meriden, Kansas, 2011-present

## Current Writing Project

*Toward a Biocentric Christian Ethic: A Common Good Approach for the Environment and Humans*, a book manuscript for SUNY Press.

## Publications

"Contemporary Cosmology," Chapter 4 in *Science and Religion, One Planet, Many Possibilities*, eds. Lucas F. Johnston and Whitney A. Bauman (New York & London: Routledge, 2014).

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- “Christian Prophetic Leadership for the Environment,” *Review & Expositor*, 108.1 (Winter 2011): 73-87.
- “‘God’s Preferential Option for Life:’ A Christian Perspective on Astrobiology,” in *Exploring the Origin, Extent, and Future of Life: Philosophical, Theological and Ethical Perspectives*, ed. Connie Bertka (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- “Human Health and Environmental Health Are Interdependent; Removing an Unnatural Partition within Christian Bioethics,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 29.2 (Fall/Winter, 2009): 246-272.
- “Valuing Nature” article entry in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, eds. Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan (New York: Continuum International, 2005).
- “Christianity and Animals” article entry in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, eds. Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan (New York: Continuum International, 2005).
- “Global Warming,” article entry in *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, eds., Wentzel van Huyssteen, Niels H. Gregersen, Nancy R. Howell, and Wesley J. Wildman (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003).
- “Greenhouse Effect,” article entry in *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, eds., Wentzel van Huyssteen, Niels H. Gregersen, Nancy R. Howell, and Wesley J. Wildman (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003).
- “Nuclear Energy,” article entry in *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, eds., Wentzel van Huyssteen, Niels H. Gregersen, Nancy R. Howell, and Wesley J. Wildman (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003).
- “The Need for Operating Guidelines and a Decision-making Framework Applicable to the Discovery of Non-intelligent Extraterrestrial Life” (co-written with Margaret Race), *Advances in Space Research*, vol. 30, no. 6, (2002) pp. 1583 – 1591.
- “Science and Religion in Academy and Church,” *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 22, no. 4 (Fall 2002): 8-10.
- “Values” article entry in *Dictionary of Pastoral Studies*, ed. Linda Hurcombe (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2002).
- “Science in Service to the Church,” *Circuit Rider*, May-June 2001: 5-6.
- “Environmental Leadership: An Urgent Role for the Church” (co-written with Sherry Habben), *Circuit Rider*, May-June 2001: 26-28.
- “Environmental Ethics and Its Implications for a Hierarchy of Sciences,” *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 18, no. 4 (Fall 1998): 2-9.

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“Mars Exploration: Some Theological and Ethical Issues” (co-written with Margaret Race and Chris McKay), *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 17, no. 3 (Summer 1997): 1-8.

“The Importance of a Healthy Public Discourse on the Environment,” *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 16, no. 1 (Winter 1996): 1-6.

"Three Requisite Conditions for a Common Good," *Ethics and Policy*, Winter 1995: 6.

Review of *Earth in the Balance, Ecology and the Human Spirit* by Al Gore, In *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin* 14, no. 3 (Summer 1994): 16-17.

"Ethics Roundtable: Health Care Reform, Both Efficient and Good?" *Ethics and Policy*, Summer/Fall 1993: 4-5, 7.

Review of *Blessed Are the Poor? Women's Poverty, Family Policy, and Practical Theology*, by Pamela D. Couture, In *Ethics and Policy*, Winter 1993: 10.

Review of *Reconstructing the Common Good, Theology and the Social Order*, by Gary J. Dorrien, In *Pacific Theological Review*, 24 (1991): 90-92.

"A Christian Understanding of Human Nature: A Key Contribution for Healing the Environment," *The Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Bulletin*, 10, no. 3 (Summer 1990): 1-6.

**Papers and Posters Presented at Academic Conferences (Peer Reviewed Selection Process)**

“Living Is Better than Dying, Except When It’s Not” (with Kelstan Lynch), 2010 Film & History Conference: Representations of Love in Film and Television, Milwaukee, WI, 11-14 November 2010.

“Ethical Issues in Astrobiology: A Christian Perspective,” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA 14-18 December 2009. (In addition to my presentation, I also gave the presentation on behalf of two other co-presenters, who were both ill and unable to attend the Meeting.)

“Developing Virtuous Physicians,” Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the AAMC Central Group on Educational Affairs (CGEA), Columbus, Ohio, 10-12 April 2008.

“Developing an Engaging, Comprehensive Bioethics Curriculum,” (Poster with Dr. Ann Karty), Annual Meeting of AACOM, St. Louis, 9-12 April 2008.

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“Human Health and Environmental Health Are Interdependent; Implications for Bioethics”  
(Poster), 16th Annual KCUMB Research Symposium, Kansas City, 7-8 February 2008.

“Human Health and Environmental Health Are Interdependent; Removing an Unnatural  
Partition within Christian Bioethics,” Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics,  
Atlanta, 3 – 6 January 2008.

“Environment and Healthcare: A Case for Greater Collaboration within Christian Bioethics,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, DC,  
18 – 21 October 2007.

Panelist and Respondent, “Ethics and Sustainability Dialogue with the Chlorine Industry,”  
Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics, Dallas, Texas, 4-7 January 2007.

“John Wesley’s Contributions to a Contemporary Christian Environmental Ethics,” Annual  
Meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, Seattle Pacific University, 3-5 March  
2005.

“A Teleological Approach to Christian Environmental Ethics,” Annual Meeting of the Society of  
Christian Ethics, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 9-12 January 2003.

“Wesley’s Contribution to Christian Ethics in an Age of Global Capitalism,” Eleventh Oxford  
Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Christ Church College, Oxford University,  
England, 13-22 August 2002.

“Methodological Options for Relating the Natural Sciences to Religious Ethics,” Rocky  
Mountain and Great Plains Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Iliff  
School of Theology, Denver, 30-31 March 2001.

“The Need for Operating Guidelines and a Decision-making Framework Applicable to the  
Discovery of Non-intelligent Extraterrestrial Life,” (a paper coauthored with Margaret  
Race), given by Margaret Race at the COSPAR [Committee on Space Research]  
“International Space Conference,” in Warsaw, Poland, July 2000.

“An Ecological Common Good Approach to Food and Agriculture,” The Joint Annual Meeting  
of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food,  
and Human Values Society (AFHVS), San Francisco, 4-7 June 1998.

“Environmental Ethics and Its Implications for a ‘Hierarchy of Sciences,’” Annual Meeting of  
the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, 22-25 November 1997.

Organizer and Respondent, “Born Again: Faith, Yearning, Redemption, and the Cloning  
Controversy” session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San  
Francisco, 22-25 November 1997.

“Renewing the Common Good Tradition: Some Implications for U.S. Capitalism,” Annual  
Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 19-22 November 1994.

"Human Nature and Technology," First Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Science, Technology, and Religious Ideas, sponsored by Kentucky State University at Frankfort, Kentucky, 6-7 April 1990.

**Lectures and Presentations at Academic Meetings and Seminars (By Invitation)**

"What If Extraterrestrials Really Do Exist? Towards a Cosmic Faith?" and "The Bible and the Environment: A New Look at Genesis 1 & 2," Keynote Presentations at 2009 Lyceum Conference at Unity Village, Missouri, 1-2 October 2009.

"An Ethic of Flourishing for Treatment of the Plastinated Dead," at the "Controversial Bodies: How to View Plastinated Corpses" Academic Conference sponsored by the Center for Practical Bioethics," Kansas City, Missouri, 5 December 2008.

"What If Extraterrestrials Really Do Exist? Towards a Cosmic Christian Faith," The 2008 Paul V. Beck Endowed Lecture on Topics Relating to Science and Religion, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, 5 February 2008.

Panelist and Respondent, The 2006 J. K. Russell Research Conference, sponsored by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, California, 14-15 September 2006.

"The Good and Happy Steward: a Wesleyan Vision for Environmental Care," presented at the 2005 Wesley Studies Conference," at Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, 3-4 November 2005.

"A Christian Ethical Perspective on Space Exploration" presented at the "Third Astrobiology Science Conference," at the NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California, 28 March – 1 April 2004.

"The Church's Critical Role in Addressing Ecological Crises" presented at the Conference on "Teaching Science and Theology in a Seminary Context," hosted by Saint Paul School of Theology, 30 May – 4 June, 2002.

"Of Genes, Neurons, Dolphins, and Human Freedom: Theological Ethics and Science in Dialogue" presented at the Conference, "How Can We Understand Cloning and the Human Genome Project," sponsored by the Woowon Research Institute at Kangnam University, Seoul, South Korea, 25-26 September 2000.

Panelist, "Religious Implications of Space Exploration," given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Advanced Workshop. The panel was held during a field trip to NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California, 7 June 1999.

"Faith and Science: An Introduction to the Science and Religion Dialogue" presented at the "Science and Suffering: Genetics and the Problem of Evil" Conference, sponsored by the Counterbalance and John Templeton Foundations, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, 17 October 1998.

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Panelist, "Impacts and Equity Considerations," at the Conference, "Dialogue on Global Climate Change," sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C., 1-2 October 1998.

"The Social Sciences: A New Partner in the Science, Theology and Ethics Dialogue?" (with Philip Clayton), "Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Public Forum," Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, 22 September 1998.

"Of Genes, Dolphins, and Martians, Ethics in the Science and Religion Dialogue" given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Advanced Workshop, The University of California, Berkeley, 11-16 June 1998.

"The Present Status of the Science-Theology Dialogue," an invited lecture hosted by the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil, 19 May 1998.

"Distinctions Between the 'Human' versus the 'Social' Sciences" (with Philip Clayton) given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Introductory Workshop, Oakland, 16-20 January 1998.

"Integrating the Social Sciences in the Science and Religion Dialogue," (with Philip Clayton), given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Advanced Workshop, The University of California, Berkeley, 20-24 June 1997.

Panelist, "Religious Implications of Space Exploration," given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Advanced Workshop. The panel was held during a field trip to the NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California, 23 June 1997.

Panelist, "Teaching Environmental Issues in Science and Religion Courses," given at the John Templeton Foundation's Science and Religion Course Program Introductory Workshop, Oakland, 10-14 January 1997.

"Christianity's Understanding of Human Nature: A Key Contribution for Healing the Environment," presented at the "Research Conference with John Polkinghorne," sponsored by Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, California, 4 – 6 May 1990.

**Participation in Invitation-only Research Workshops and Working Groups**

"Workshop on Ethical Considerations for Planetary Protection in Space Exploration," sponsored by the (U.N.) Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 8-10 June 2010.

"Workshop to Develop a Research Roadmap on Astrobiology Societal Issues," sponsored by the NASA Astrobiology Institute, held at the SETI Institute, Mountain View, California,

9-11 February 2009.

“Evolution, ET, and the Significance of Life in the Universe,” part of the *Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series* (STARS), administered by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation, Cancun, Mexico, 11-15 January 2007.

“Exploring the Origin, Extent, and Future of Life: Philosophical, Theological and Ethical Perspectives Working Group,” an international, interdisciplinary research group studying issues raised by NASA’s Astrobiology program and the search for non-intelligent extraterrestrial life. This working group was organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and sponsored by NASA and the John Templeton Foundation. Three meetings were held in Washington, D.C., from February 2003- November 2004. The working group produced an interdisciplinary volume of essays, *Exploring the Origin, Extent, and Future of Life*, ed. Constance M. Bertka (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

“Ethics and Sustainability Dialogue Group,” comprised of invited environmental ethicists and members of the chlorine chemical industry, studying environmental and ethical issues occurring in the production, distribution, use, and disposal of chlorine products. Two meetings were held each year, with my participation spanning December 1999 – December 2005.

Advisory Board to the Core Research Group at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences studying the “Ethical and Theological Implications of Genetic Research on the Human Genome”. This was an interdisciplinary research working group organized by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The core research group was comprised of nationally known scientists and scholars in genetics, biology, bioethics, and theology. The advisory board was comprised primarily of Ph.D. students who participated in the meetings and provided research assistance for members of the core research group. I participated in meetings spanning 1993-1994. The working group produced an interdisciplinary volume of essays, *Genetics: Issues of Social Justice*, ed. Ted Peters (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1998).