

Curriculum Vitae

DEBORAH ANN WONG

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Seeking to bridge the Church and the Academy in the area of contemporary worship practice.

EDUCATION

Th.D., 2024 (expected), Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

Major: Liturgical Studies

Minor: Christian Education & Formation

Advisor: Lester Ruth, Research Professor of Christian Worship

Master of Divinity (summa cum laude), 2019, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

Certificate in Theology and the Arts

Thesis: "The Heart of Worship: The History and Development of Prayer and Praise in Wesley Methodist Church Singapore

Advisor: Lester Ruth, Research Professor of Christian Worship

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (magna cum laude), 2013, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Thesis: What We Talk About When We Talk About Diversity: International Student Experiences as Foreigners in the United States

Advisor: Deborah Appleman, Hollis L. Caswell Professor of Educational Studies

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

John Wesley Fellowship, A Foundation for Theological Education, 2021-2024.

Conference Bursary Award, Christian Congregational Music Conference: Local and Global Perspectives, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford (virtual), 2021.

Seminarian Award of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, 2019.

Hoyt Hickman Award for Excellence in Liturgics, Duke Divinity School, 2019.

Conference Scholarship, International Writing Centers Association Conference, San Diego, CA, 2012.

Conference Travel Grant, International Writing Centers Association Conference, San Diego, CA, 2012.

Conference Travel Grant, Midwest Writing Centers Association Biennial Fall Conference, Madison, WI, 2011.

SCHOLARSHIP

Journal Articles

"Transcending Tradition: A Reappraisal of Methods for Studying Charismatic Worship." *Liturgy* (forthcoming, 2022)

"Liturgy in Lockdown: Restricted Movement, Expanded Worship." *Religions* 13.1 (2021), 25.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13010025>.

Articles in Edited Volumes

“Appendix A: Sample Service Focusing on John 2:1-11” in *Flow: The Ancient Way to Do Contemporary Worship* (ed. Lester Ruth; Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020), 101-115.

Academic Presentations

“Transcending Tradition: A Reappraisal of Methods for Studying Charismatic Worship,” Paper presentation, Exploring Contemporary & Alternative Worship Seminar, North American Academy of Liturgy Conference, Kansas City, MO, January 4, 2022.

“The Charismatic Roots of Contemporary Praise and Worship in Singapore Methodism,” Panel presentation, “Constructing a Fuller Historiography of Contemporary Praise & Worship Practices,” *Christian Congregational Music: Local and Global Perspectives*, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford (Online), July 26 – August 6, 2021.

“Liturgy in Lockdown: Expanding the Notion of Church,” Paper presentation, *Pandemic & Religion*, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life Virtual Graduate Student Conference, Online, February 27, 2021.

“Liturgy in Lockdown: Unlocking the Sacramentality of Everyday Life,” *Pandemic Liturgy & Issues of Inequality*, North American Academy of Liturgy Emerging Scholars Symposium, Online, January 6-7, 2021. Available at https://youtu.be/SsmhjE_fmP8.

“Charismatic versus Contemporary: Praise and Worship in Singapore Methodism,” Paper presentation, Exploring Contemporary & Alternative Worship Seminar, North American Academy of Liturgy Conference, Atlanta, GA, January 3-4, 2020.

“Mind the Gap: Reimagining our Institutional Identities,” Workshop, *Lines in the Sand: How Writing Centers Draw and Redraw Boundaries*, International Writing Centers Association Conference, San Diego, CA, October 26, 2012.

“Weaving an Effective Web of Writing Center Relations at Small Liberal Arts Colleges,” Panel discussion, *On the Isthmus*, Midwest Writing Centers Association Biennial Fall Conference, Madison, WI, October 21, 2011.

Popular Level Articles

“[Fasting: An Invitation to a Lenten Way of Life.](#)” *Reformed Worship* 142 (Dec 2021).

“Report on North American Academy of Liturgy: Emerging Scholars Symposium, January 6-7, 2021.” *Cross Accent* 29.2 (Summer 2021): 28-29.

“[Finding God in a Pandemic and Beyond: Online and Ordinary Sacred Places.](#)” *Studying Congregations*. July 6, 2021. <https://studyingcongregations.org/finding-god-in-a-pandemic-and-beyond-online-and-ordinary-sacred-places>.

“[Networked Congregations: Together and Apart.](#)” *Studying Congregations*. June 23, 2021. <https://studyingcongregations.org/networked-congregations-together-and-apart>.

Book Reviews

Review of *Nurturing Faith: A Practical Theology for Educating Christians*, by Fred P. Edie & Mark A. Lamport, Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2021. *Practical Theology* (forthcoming 2022).

Review of *Global Arts and Christian Witness: Exegeting Culture, Translating the Message, and Communicating Christ*, by Roberta R. King, *Missiology* 49, no. 2 (April 2021): 228-229, <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.duke.edu/10.1177%2F00918296211009326e>.

PRACTICE

Teaching Experience

Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC

Introduction to Christian Worship, Teaching Assistant (Spring 2021 (online), Summer 2021 (online), Fall 2021)
Songwriting and Theology, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2021)

Academia English and Writing Center, Singapore

English and Writing, Associate Teacher and Curriculum Writer, 2015-2017

Methodist Girls' School (Secondary), Singapore

8th and 9th grade Social Studies, Teacher (2013-2014)

8th and 9th grade History, Teacher (2013-2014)

Speaking Engagements

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| 2022 | “Flow 2.0: Digging Deeper into Doing Contemporary Worship,” Webinar, Shepherding Souls in Worship series, Methodist School of Music, Singapore, February 18 & 25, 2022 (online) |
| 2022 | “Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship (Ibadah yang Mengalir: Bagaimana Mewujudkan Ibadah Style Kontemporer dalam Gereja Tradisional?),” Webinar and book discussion, jointly hosted by Literatur Perkantas Jatim, Wonders of Worship, and Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Reformed Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, January 17, 2022 (online). |
| 2021 | “Blended Worship,” Panel discussion, <i>Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship</i> , Methodist School of Music Worship Symposium, Singapore, June 25, 2021 (online) |
| 2021 | “Extemporaneity, Free Worship, Worship Words,” Panel discussion, <i>Flow: The Ancient Way to do Contemporary Worship</i> , Methodist School of Music Worship Symposium, Singapore, June 24, 2021 (online) |
| 2021 | “Singing Our Lives Before God,” class lecture, Worship and Christian Formation, Duke Divinity School, March 18, 2021 (online) |
| 2020 | “Flow: Finding an Ancient Way to Contemporary Worship,” Webinar, Shepherding Souls in Worship series, Methodist School of Music, Singapore, August 7, 2020 (online) |
| 2019 | “Worship Leading 101,” Presentation, University of North Carolina Wesley Foundation, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, February 19, 2019 |
| 2016 | “What is Worship?,” Presentation, Geomot Methodist Church, Daejeon, Korea |
| 2016 | “Worship Leading 101,” Presentation, Charis Methodist Church, Singapore |
| 2015 | “Trusting God (Romans 15:13),” 1 st Singapore Company Girls’ Brigade, Singapore |
| 2015 | “Band Dynamics 101,” Workshop, Live for Christ Youth Ministry, Kyotanabe, Japan |

Worship & Music Leadership

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| 2021 | Goodson Chapel Summer Worship Assistant, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC |
| 2018 – 2019 | Artist-in-Residence, Duke Memorial UMC, Durham, NC |
| 2017 – 2019 | Goodson Chapel Worship Intern, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC |
| 2017 – 2019 | Chapel Band Lead Coordinator, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC |
| 2017 – 2018 | Ministerial Intern, Union Grove UMC, Hillsborough, NC |
| 2016 – 2017 | Gospel Choir member, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC |
| 2010 – 2013 | Mustard Seed Band Worship and Ministry Leader, Carleton College, Northfield, MN |

2009	LoveMGS Annual Worship Event, Chairperson and Worship Leader, Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association, Singapore
2005 – 2015	LoveMGS Annual Worship Event, Worship Team, Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association, Singapore
2005 – 2016	Worship Leader, Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore
2005 – 2016	Worship Leader, Methodist Girls' School, Singapore
Various	Worship leader for Fusion 2016 (Singapore), Bible Society of Singapore D6 Family Conference, YMCA Singapore, World Vision Singapore, LoveSingapore daily morning prayer (Singapore), Geomot Methodist Church (Korea), Live for Christ Youth Ministry (Japan), Societas Homiletica Conference 2018 (Durham, NC), The Navigators African American Congress 2018 (Greensboro, NC), Rougemont UMC (Rougemont, NC), Oak Church (Durham, NC), The Peak UMC (Apex, NC), Orange UMC (Chapel Hill, NC), Christ UMC (Chapel Hill, NC), NCCIW Raleigh Women's Prison (Raleigh, NC), others.

MEDIA

"Flow: The Ancient Way to Do Contemporary Worship," Podcast, *New Books Network with Ryan Shelton*, March 8, 2021. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/flow>.

"Evening Prayer, 2.27.21," Podcast, *Leitourgia Podcast*, February 27, 2021. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/0RzuctkGacTcq5vIN8cTyc?si=RwS9Gy29SDSiq33hHiouzw>.

Liturgist (words), "A Prayer in Search of Holy Connection," visual liturgy in collaboration with *The Work of the People*, Dec 2020. <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/prayer-in-search-of-holy-connection>.

"Flow: The Ancient Way to Do Contemporary Worship, Part 2," Podcast, *Music and the Church with Sarah Bereza*, Episode 55, Oct. 12, 2020. <https://sarah-bereza.com/55>.

Lead vocals, back-up vocals, acoustic guitar on *Saviour Messiah King*, released July 17, 2016 by Jocelyn Ong, produced by Loong, Finding My Sound Productions

Backup vocals on *Love of Another Kind EP*, released June 16, 2015 by Yap Wei Chiang, produced by Yap Wei Chiang

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

2020 – 2022	Curriculum Committee Member, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2020	CCLI + Beyond Vetting Project, <i>UMC Discipleship Ministries, USA</i> . https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/ccli-top-100-beyond-project .
2020	Worship & Christian Vocation Task Force member, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2020	Chapel Task Force, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2018 – 2019	Divinity Student Council, Co-President, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2017 – 2019	Chapel Band, Lead Coordinator, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2017 – 2018	Asian Theology Group, Co-Facilitator, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2017	Project BRI(DDD)GE, Leader, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2017	Worship and Spirituality Committee, Member, <i>Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC</i>
2015 – 2016	Small Group Leader, <i>Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore</i>
2014 –	Committee Member, Methodist Girls' School Alumnae Association, <i>Singapore</i>
2014 – 2015	Young Adults Small Group Ministry, Coordinator, <i>Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore</i>
2014	Young Adults Ministry Retreat, Chairperson, <i>Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore</i>
2012 – 2013	Lead Writing Consultant, <i>Carleton College Writing Center, Northfield, MN</i>
2007	Annual Youth Camp, Camp Commandant, <i>Barker Road Methodist Church, Singapore</i>

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2009 – Freelanee Musician
- 2019 – 2020 Research Assistant to Dr. Lester Ruth, Research Professor of Christian Worship, *Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC*
- 2019 – 2020 Research Assistant to Dr. Jerusha Neal, Assistant Professor of Homiletics, *Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC*
- 2015 – 2017 Curriculum Writer, *Academia English and Writing Center, Singapore*
- 2015 – 2016 Associate Teacher, *Academia English and Writing Center, Singapore*
- 2015 Account Executive, *Optimum Media Direction, Omnicom Media Group, Singapore*
- 2013 – 2017 Outside Admissions Reader, *Yale-NUS College, Singapore*
- 2013 – 2014 Long-term Substitute Teacher (8th and 9th grade History, Social Studies), *Methodist Girls' School (Secondary), Singapore*
- 2010 – 2013 Writing Consultant, *Carleton College Writing Center, Northfield, MN*

CHURCH AFFILIATION

Denomination: Methodist Church of Singapore (Trinity Annual Conference)

Membership: Barker Road Methodist Church (Singapore)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), Spanish (elementary)

Music: guitar, vocals, piano, drum kit, cajon