

# T. J. GENTRY

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500 E. Elm St.  
West Frankfort, IL 62896

## EDUCATION

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- PhD** Liberty University, Theology and Apologetics May 2022  
Lynchburg, VA – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Dissertation: “Whence Faith? The Nexus of Passional Reason, Christian Personalism, and Abduction in Apologetics ”
- PhD** North-West University, Theology February 2022  
Potchefstroom, South Africa – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Dissertation: “The Doctrine of God in Mormonism: A Christian Moral Apologetic Critique”
- PhD** Carolina University, Biblical Studies December 2020  
Winston-Salem, NC – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Dissertation: “For Love’s Sake, I Exhort You: Identifying and Principilizing Paul’s Theology of Leadership in Philemon”
- PhD** Carolina University, Leadership May 2019  
Winston-Salem, NC – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Dissertation: “Contend Earnestly: An Examination of Crisis Leadership through a Socio-Rhetorical Analysis of Jude”
- DMin** Carolina University, Pastoral Counseling December 2015  
Winston-Salem, NC – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Project: “One Another: A Biblical Counseling Training Program for Existing and Emerging Lay Leaders”
- ThM** Liberty University, Theology May 2016  
Lynchburg, VA – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Thesis: “Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord: A Traditional Evangelical Critique of Roman Catholic and Evangelical Teachings Regarding Purgatory”  
*Received 2015-2016 Award for Excellence in Theological Research*
- MDiv** Liberty University, Chaplaincy November 2011  
Lynchburg, VA – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*
- MAR** Liberty University, Christian Ministries March 2011  
Lynchburg, VA – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

- MA** Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Philosophy September 2020  
Cromwell, CT – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Thesis: “The Moral Way: An Inquiry into the Relationship between Thomas Aquinas’s Fourth Way and the Moral Argument for God’s Existence”
- MA** Luther Rice College and Seminary, Apologetics December 2018  
Lithonia, GA – Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*  
Thesis: “The Pulpit Apologist: An Inquiry into the Relationship between Preaching and Apologetics”
- BA** Southern Illinois University, Political Science December 1994  
Carbondale, IL – Graduated *Cum Laude*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Carolina University**, Winston-Salem, NC July 2016 – Current  
*Part-time Professor, Piedmont Divinity School*

- Teach Ethics, an undergraduate course averaging thirty-five students, covering Christian ethical theory and application
- Teach Origins, an undergraduate course averaging fifteen students, covering the Christian views of creation and critiquing naturalistic evolution
- Develop syllabi, quizzes, exams, and homework
- Develop and deliver video lectures
- Grade all course content utilizing eLearning platform

**Doctoral Students Advised – Committee Member (selection provided; served on more than a dozen committees)**

Tom Balentine, “The Message of Creation,” DMin

Carson Jump, “A Soldier’s Chaplain and a Chaplain’s Chaplain: Balancing Pastoral Leadership as a Supervisory Chaplain,” DMin

Ian Howarth, “Educating Married Air National Guard Couples Using Weekend Training Retreats,” DMin

Robert Johnson, “Developing a Conflict Resolution Program at First Baptist Church: A Progressive Skill Development Approach for Premarital Individuals Ages Sixteen to Twenty-Three,” DMin

Robert Kamau, “Equipping Lay Pastors to Address Superficiality and Syncretism in Christianity in Nakuru County, Kenya,” DMin

**Masters Students Advised – Committee Chair**

Steven Dawson, “Divorce and Remarriage of Christian Ministers,” MABS

Joe Kilbreth, “Soul Sleep in the Evangelical Tradition,” MABS

Nate Williams, “Select Psalms Applied to College Ministry,” MABS

**New Covenant Christian School, West Frankfort, IL**  
*Principal, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible and Language Arts Teacher*

August 2021 – Current

- Led in Launching the School in 2021
- Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; Abeka Curriculum
- Recruit and Train Teachers and Staff
- Supervise Team of Nine

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

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### *Pastorate*

First Christian Church, West Frankfort, IL  
*Senior Pastor*

January 2020 – Present

- Independent Evangelical Congregation Established in 1903
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance of 175
- Preaching, Teaching, Supervising Staff of Four
- Active Counseling Practice as a Board-Certified Pastoral Counselor
- Active Media Ministry at tjgentry.com

Fellowship in Christ Church, Carterville, IL  
*Senior Pastor*

October 2011 – January 2020

- Independent Evangelical Congregation Established in 1992
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance of 75
- Preaching, Counseling, Teaching, Supervising Staff of Two
- Active Counseling Practice as a Board-Certified Pastoral Counselor

Covenant Church, Heber Springs, AR  
*Senior Pastor*

January 2005 – October 2011

- Associate Reformed Presbyterian Congregation Established in 1980
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance of 45
- Preaching, Counseling, Teaching, Supervising Staff of One

Grace Evangelical Church, Carterville, IL  
*Church Planter and Senior Pastor*

August 2001 – January 2005

- Independent Evangelical Congregation Established in 2001
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance of 60
- Preaching, Counseling, Teaching, Supervising Staff of Two

Trinity Evangelical Church, Herrin, IL  
*Church Planter and Senior Pastor*

February 1996 – August 2000

- Independent Evangelical Congregation Established in 1996
- Average Sunday Worship Attendance of 80
- Preaching, Counseling, Teaching, Supervising Staff of Three

*Moral Apologetics and Ethics*

Center for the Foundations of Ethics at Houston Baptist University June 2021 – Present  
*Director of Community Development and Curriculum, Senior Research Fellow*

MoralApologetics.com August 2017 – Present  
*Executive Editor*

*Army Chaplaincy*

Arkansas Army National Guard September 2009 – July 2020

- Brigade Chaplain, 87<sup>th</sup> Troop Command (January 2015 – July 2020)
- Battalion Chaplain, 875<sup>th</sup> Engineers (September 2009 – January 2015)
- Graduate of Army Chaplain Captain Career Course (August 2015)
- Graduate of Army Chaplain Basic Course (September 2010)
- Completed Eight Units of Clinical Pastoral Education
- Received Board Certification as a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor
- Received Board Certification as a Chaplain
- Received Board Certification as a Pastoral Counselor
- Honorably Discharged at Rank of Captain

United States Army October 1990 – October 1998

- Chaplain Assistant, Ft. Sill, OK (January 1991 – July 1992)
- Chaplain Assistant, Individual Ready Reserve (July 1992 – October 1998)
- Graduate of Army Basic Training (October – December 1990)
- Graduate of Army Chaplain Assistant School (December 1990 – January 1991)
- Honorably Discharged at Rank of Sergeant

**PUBLICATIONS**

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***Books***

*Pulpit Apologist: The Vital Link between Preaching and Apologetics.* Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2020.

*Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord: Biblical, Theological, and Rational Arguments against Purgatory.* Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2019

*You Shall Be My Witnesses: Reflections on Sharing the Gospel.* Carbondale: Illative House, 2017.

*Thinking of Worship: A Liturgical Miscellany.* Carbondale: Illative House, 2011

*A Moral Way: Aquinas and the Good God.* Houston: Moral Apologetics Press, under contract to release June 2020.

*Finding Grace: Hope of Salvation in a Good God.* Houston: Moral Apologetics Press, under contract to release October 2022.

### ***Journal Publications***

“Rabboni: Christ’s Resurrection through the Eyes of Mary Magdalene.” *Eleutheria*, Spring 2021.

“Could it Be Reasonable to Conclude that Jesus Did it and John Wrote it Down? An Inquiry into the Veracity of John 7:53—8:11, the *Pericope Adulterae*.” *Eleutheria*, Fall 2021.

“A Biblical Case Against Homosexuality.” *The Evangelical Review of Theology and Politics*, 2020 (Co-authored with J. Brian Huffling).

“Human Dignity, Self-Determination, and the Gospel: An Inquiry into Personalism and its Implications for Evangelization.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, 2020.

“Choosing Wrong: A Biblical Response to Pro-Choice Christians.” *Luther Rice Journal of Christian Studies*, 2019.

“Mind and Heart: An Apologetic for Passional Reason.” *International Society of Christian Apologetics Journal*, 2019.

“Proclaiming Faith from the Pulpit: The Essential Relationship between Preaching and Apologetics.” *Aletheias*, 2019.

“Knowing the Savior: A Critical Assessment of Philosophical Religious Pluralism, Christian Pluralism, and Christian Exclusivism.” *Aletheias*, 2018.

“Unleashing Faith by Bearing One Another’s Burdens: An Exploration of the Biblical Rationale and Practice of Christians Helping Christians through Lay Counseling Ministries.” *Aletheias*, 2019.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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“Why Apologetics Is Personal: Keeping Human Dignity at the Heart of Defending the Gospel.” National Conference on Christian Apologetics, Rock Hill, SC, April 2022.

“Good Preacher: Preaching, Apologetics, and the Moral Argument.” International Society of Christian Apologetics, Charlotte, NC, April 2022.

“Yes, You! Why Every Christian Must Be an Apologist.” Good Reasons Apologetics Conference, West Frankfort, IL, October 2021.

“Mind and Heart: An Apologetic for Passional Reason.” International Society of Christian Apologetics, Matthews, NC, April 2018.

“Mother of My Lord: An Evangelical Assessment of the Patristic Roots of Marian Dogma.”  
Evangelical Theological Society Midwest Regional, Grand Rapids, MI, March 2018.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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- American Association of Christian Counselors
- Evangelical Homiletics Society
- Evangelical Missiological Society
- Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Evangelical Theological Society
- International Society of Christian Apologetics
- Society of Christian Philosophers

## **OTHER**

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- 8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, Renzoku Jujitsu
- 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, Budoshin Jujitsu
- 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Sash, Five Animal Kung Fu
- 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt, Okinawan White Crane Karate
- Training and Teaching Martial Arts Since 1984

## **REFERENCES**

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### **Dr. David Baggett**

Professor of Philosophy  
Director, Center for the Foundations of Ethics  
School of Christian Thought  
Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX  
dbaggett@hbu.edu

### **Dr. J. Brian Huffling**

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Theology  
PhD Director  
Southern Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC  
bhuffling@ses.edu

### **Dr. Kevin King**

Professor of Homiletics and Historical Theology  
MDiv Director  
Rawlings School of Divinity  
Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA  
klkingsr@liberty.edu