

Byron C. Bangert
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Education:

Indiana University, Bloomington	2004	Ph.D. in religious studies; philosophy minor
Vanderbilt University Divinity School	1973	D. Min., church, ethics, and society
Clinical Pastoral Education	Summer 1973	Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, NY
Vanderbilt University Divinity School	1969-73	M. Div., biblical studies
Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa	1965-69	B.A., economics (Phi Beta Kappa)

Work Experience:

Independent Research Scholar; Ethics Consultant	2007-
Research Associate, The Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, I.U.	2004-2007
Instructor, Dept. of Religious Studies, Indiana University	2004
Evaluator/Consultant, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program, Lilly Endowment	2004
Associate Instructor, Dept. of Religious Studies, Indiana University	2000-2002
Pastor (Head of Staff), First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, IN	1985-2000
Minister, First Baptist Church, Kalamazoo, MI (transitional position)	1984
Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Kalamazoo, MI	1978-1984
Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Hinton, WV	1974-1978

Honors and Awards:

Bloomington Monroe County Human Rights Award	2024
Wilbur F. Tillett Prize for best work in theology, philosophy of religion, and ethics	1973
Vanderbilt Divinity School Honor Scholarship	1969-1973
Woodrow Wilson Fellowship nominee; Danforth Fellowship Honorable Mention	1969
Grinnell Honor Scholarship	1965-1966

Research and Publications:

1979 "Abortion: Social and Ethical Issues. Invitation to Responsibility and Moral Discourse," in *Foundations* (Vol. 22, No. 3), pp. 198-217

1987 Presentation, "A Protestant Christian Perspective on Judaism and Islam," for "Politics and Religion in the Middle East" seminar, Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, Indiana Univ.

1993 "A Case for Campus Ministry," *The Presbyterian Outlook* (Vol. 175, No. 23), pp. 6, 7, 12

1993 "A Case for Campus Ministry," *Presbyterian Survey* (Vol. 83, No. 7), pp. 23-25

1994 "When Not-So-Good Things Happen to Not-So-Bad People," *Quarterly Review*, pp. 197-206

1996 "Why Owls Matter, Mosquitoes Bite, and Existence Remains a Mystery," *Quarterly Review*, pp. 415-425

2001 "In Life and in Death," excerpted in *Reading the Bible in Faith*, ed. William H. Lazareth (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), pp. 15-21

2002 "Christian Eschatology: Prescription for Life," excerpted in *Hope for Your Future*, ed. William H. Lazareth (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), pp. 113-117

2004 "Theological Anthropology in a New Day," excerpted from "Until All the Women Are Strong, All the Men are Good Looking, and All the Children Are Above Average: Theological Anthropology in Light and Promise of a New Day," in *Persons in Community*, ed. William H. Lazareth (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), pp. 60-68

2004 "Toward a Naturalistic, Theocentric, Theological Ethics: An Examination, Critique, and Appropriation of Three Contemporary Protestant Approaches," dissertation for Ph. D., Indiana University, July 2004

2005 "Moral Issues and Motivations in Medical Philanthropy" (monograph published by The Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, Bloomington, Indiana, December 2005)

2006 Presentation, "Moral Issues and Motivations in Medical Philanthropy by Physicians," Association of Practical and Professional Ethics annual meeting, Jacksonville, Florida

2006 Presentation, "Dissent as Christian Vocation," at "Dissent: An Interdisciplinary Symposium," University

- of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky
- 2006 *Consenting to God and Nature: Toward a Theocentric, Naturalistic Theological Ethics* (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2006)
- 2006 Presentation, “Heart of Darkness: Torture in Essence and Manifestation,” at World’s Religions after September 11: A Global Congress, Montreal, Canada
- 2007 Presentation, “The Evolution-ID Controversy and Same-Sex Unions Viewed in Theocentric, Naturalistic, Ethical Perspective,” Annual Meeting, Association of Practical and Professional Ethics, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2008 Presentation, “Disturbing Evidences, Comforting Illusions,” Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, Indiana
- 2010 “What Does God Require of Us?” – Chapter 4 in volume edited by David H. Smith titled *Religious Giving: For Love of God* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2010), pp. 65–84
- 2012 Presentation, “9/11: Act of War, or Monstrous Crime” at the January annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics, Washington, D. C.
- 2014 “Bill Breeden as Theologian,” *Festschrift for Reverend Bill Breeden*, pp. 3-10
- 2016 “No Need to Abandon a Realist, Theistic Conception of God,,” *The Fourth R*, Vol. 29:2, 19-24, 26
- 2018 “A Case for Theological Realism,” *The Fourth R*, Vol. 31:1, 17-19
- 2022, “A Response to John Caputo,” *The Fourth R*, Vol. 35:6, 21

Various articles and sermons published in *The Christian Century*, *The Christian Ministry*, *Pulpit Digest*, and *Best Sermons 4*; frequent columns in the Bloomington *Herald-Times* since 2005

Professional Activities:

Co-coordinator, “Extreme Politics: Provoking the Body Politic to War” colloquium series, sponsored by College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, as part of 2011 Themester program on “Making War, Making Peace”

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Indiana University, 2006-2013

Association of Practical and Professional Ethics, 2004-2017

Society of Christian Ethics, 2002-

American Academy of Religion, 2002-2010

Presbytery of Ohio Valley, 1987- present; Committee on Ministry (incl. clergy compensation task force); Personnel Committee (moderator and member); Coordinating Council; Budget and Validation Committee (moderator); Human Sexuality Task Force (chair); Social Justice and Mission and Stewardship Committees

Pastor-Theologian Program, Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ, 1998-2001

Religious Liberty Seminar, Indiana University School of Law, 1997-99

Conference on Theological Diversity in the Presbyterian Church, Montreat Conference Center, NC, 1995

Higher Education Committee, Synod of Lincoln Trails, 1991-94

Indiana Commission of United Ministries in Higher Education, 1987-94 – Board Chair; Consultation and Review Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair

Center for University Ministry, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 1986-90 – I.C.U.M.H.E. representative; Personnel Committee Chair

Bloomington Area Interfaith Alliance (and its earlier incarnations); 1985-present; co-convener 2009-2010

Community Service:

Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, 2023-2024

Sycamore Village Homeowners Association board member, 2020- present; current Treasurer

Board of Christian Education, First United Church, 2020-2023

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Fund Advisory Board, 2013- present; current convener

Monroe County United Ministries Board, 2013-2018; Personnel Committee; board Secretary 2018

Monroe County Human Rights Commission; 2011- 2023

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Bloomington, Treasurer, 2010-2018

Bloomington 9/11 Working Group, 2006-

Bloomington Hospital Institutional Review Board, 2004-2017

Bloomington Human Rights Commission, 1997- 2023; Chair 2000-2003; 2012-2019

Community Justice and Mediation Center board, executive committee, 1995-2009; President 2005-2008.

Bloomington Rotary Club, 1985- present; Scholarship Committee Chair, 2012-2019

Management of Nonprofit Organizations Advisory Board, I. U. School of Business, 1994-96
United Way of Monroe County, 1990-96; Board President; Agency Relations Committee Chair; Board Secretary; member agency liaison
South Central Community Mental Health Center Advisory Committee, 1993-95
Hospice of Bloomington; Advisory Council/Board, 1987-92
Monroe County Red Cross; board and committee member, 1986-89

Other Professional Activities

1992 Sabbatical; six weeks in residence at St. George's Church, Barcelona, Spain, with Sunday preaching and other minor duties; additional two weeks travel in Europe
1988 National Council of Churches Travel Seminar to the U.S.S.R.

Participant in various workshops, seminars, conferences on Islam, restorative justice, science and religion, monetary policy, peace and justice, Buddhist-Christian dialogue, theology, worship and music, bioethics, euthanasia and assisted suicide, preaching, biblical studies, "Christianity & Crisis" at Ghost Ranch Conference Center, Princeton Theological Seminary, Syracuse University, Chautauqua, Pacific School of Religion, Montreat Conference Center, University of Western Ontario, PCUSA Theology and Worship Ministry Unit, Union Theol. Seminary in Virginia, Claremont School of Theol., Vanderbilt Divinity School