

# THEODORE BRELSFORD

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Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
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## EDUCATION

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, <i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	1999
Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, <i>Master of Divinity</i>	1988
Slippery Rock State University, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, <i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	1983

## ORDINATION

United Church of Christ	2009
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia <i>Affiliate Associate Professor of Religion and Education</i>	2015-present
<i>Associate Professor in the Practice of Religious Education, and Director of Assessment</i>	2008-2014
<i>Assistant Professor of Religion and Education and Director of Religious Education Program</i>	2001-2008
<i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and Education</i>	1998-2001
Faith United Church of Christ, Boston, New York <i>Pastor</i>	2019-present
Orchard Park Community Church, Orchard Park, New York <i>Pastor</i>	2008-2018

## COURSES TAUGHT

### MDiv/MTS/ThM

- Religious Education as Formation and Transformation
- The Art of Teaching
- Creativity and Pedagogy
- Philosophy of Education
- Theology and Education
- Dynamics of Diversity and Difference

### DMin

- Becoming a Reflective Practitioner (online)

### PhD

- Teaching Religion
- The Politics of Knowing
- Religious Imagination and Religious Knowing

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

*Contextualizing Theological Education: Integrating Ecclesial and Academic Practices in Teaching and Learning*, co-edited with P. Alice Rogers (Pilgrim Press, 2008).

*We Are the Church Together: Cultural Diversity in Congregational Life*, with Charles R. Foster (Trinity Press International, 1996)

“Theological Thinking as Contextual Practice,” with John Senior, in Brelsford and Rogers, *Contextualizing Theological Education*, (Pilgrim Press, 2008)

- “Religious Imagination as Problem,” *Religious Education, Volume 110: 3*, (May-June 2015)
- “A Mythical Realist Orientation for Religious Education: Theological and Pedagogical Implications of the Mythical Nature of Religious Story,” *Religious Education, Volume 102: 3*, (Summer 2007)
- “Religious Education Beyond the Schooling Model,” *Religious Education, Vol. 100:4* (Fall 2005)
- “Lessons for Religious Education from Cognitive Science of Religion,” *Religious Education, Vol. 100.2* (Spring 2005)
- “Educating for Formative Participation in Communities of Faith,” *Religious Education, Vol. 96:3* (Summer 2001)
- “Politicized Knowledge and Imaginative Faith in Religious Education,” *Religious Education, Vol. 94:1* (Winter 1999)
- “Christological Tensions in a Pluralistic Environment: Managing the Challenges of Fostering and Sustaining Both Identity and Openness,” *Religious Education, Vol. 90:2* (Spring 1995)
- Editor-in-Chief, Religious Education Journal, 2001-2004*

#### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Religious Education Association: An Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education (Board of Directors 2001-2004, and 2011-2015)
- Executive Council, United Church of Christ New York Conference, Western Association, and Western New York Area Churches in Covenant (UCC and DOC), 2012-2018, 2019-present
- Department of Community Ministries, United Church of Christ New York Conference, Western Association, and Western New York Area Churches in Covenant (UCC and DOC), 2011-present, chair 2016-present