

Curriculum Vitae

Rev. Colin Bossen
American Studies
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MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

Minister
First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ashby, MA
September 2017 to present

Teaching Fellow
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
September 2014 to May 2015 and January 2016 to May 2016

Summer Preacher
First Parish in Lexington, Lexington, MA
July and August 2014

Sabbatical Minister
The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Carlisle, MA
January and February 2014

July Minister
First Parish in Milton, Milton, MA
July 2013

Minister
Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, OH
September 2007 to August 2012

Contract Minister
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown, Pottstown, PA
September 2006 to August 2007

Intern Minister
Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
September 2005 to June 2006

EDUCATION

PhD — Harvard University, Committee on American Studies (expected May 2018)
Fields of Study: Theology, American Political History, Social Reform and Revolution

Research Interests: twentieth-century United States history; social movements; social ethics, liberal and liberation theologies; secularism and secularity; relationship between religion and politics; populism; political philosophy; democratic participation; indigenous studies; African American history; race formation; and migration

Dissertation: “‘Onward, Christian Soldiers:’ Populism and the Religious Imagination in the Wake of World War I” (Dan McKanan and Mayra Rivera Rivera, co-advisors; Lisa McGirr)

MA — Harvard University, History, May 2016

MDiv — Meadville-Lombard Theological School (Affiliated with the University of Chicago)

BA — Denison University, Physics and English (Composition)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Teaching Certificate, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
(expected May 2018)

First Parish Project, Hinton Rural Life Center, Group VI

Interim Ministry Network, Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry

University of Chicago Hospitals, Clinical Pastoral Education: One Unit

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Frederick Kettner Scholarship, 2017-2018

Fund for Nurturing Unitarian Universalist Scholarship, 2017-2018

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2016-2017

Winkler Fellowship, 2015, 2016, 2017

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit/Term-Time Fellowship,
Harvard University, 2015

Joseph Sumner Smith Scholarship, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Dana McLean Greeley Sermon Award for “This Land is Your Land?,” 2014

Skinner Sermon Award for “Through Eyes that Have Cried,” 2014

Universalist Heritage Society Sermon Award for “Unknown Visions of Love,” 2012

Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalism Visibility Award, 2011

Robert and Martha Atherton Ministerial Scholarship, 2005

Max Kapp Award, 2004 — for essay “The Theological Universalism of Gerrard
Winstanley,” best piece written on Universalism by Unitarian Universalist male
seminarian

Alice and William Hinckley Fund Scholarship, 2003, 2004 and 2005

Judge Benjamin Franklin McCann Scholarship, 1998

Annie McNeil Poetry Competition 1998, 2nd place

Annie McNeil Poetry Competition 1997, 3rd place

Young Scholar, Summer, 1997

Junior Physics Department Fellow, 1997 and 1998

David Muschna Memorial Scholarship, 1996

Book Award for Top Achievement in Introductory Physics, 1995

GRANTS

Fund for Nurturing Unitarian Universalist Scholarship, 2016-2017

L’Association française d’Etudes Américaines (French American Studies Association), Travel
Grant, 2016

Charles Warren Center Summer Research Grant, 2016 (declined)

Joseph Gitler Fund for Religion and Ethics, 2015
Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, 2013, 2014
Vocational Friendship Grant, The Fund for Theological Education, 2010, 2011
Hopkins Grant, 2009
Institute for Anarchist Studies for “The Chicago Couriers Union: A Case Study in Solidarity Unionism,” Winter 2007

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent), French (reading)

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor: Social Reform and Revolution: Theory and Practice, Pre-College Program, Harvard University (Summer 2018); Religions and Social Struggle in Mexico, Meadville Lombard Theological School (Summer 2005)

Head Teaching Fellow: The Civil War from Nat Turner to the Birth of a Nation, Harvard College (Spring 2016)

Teaching Fellow: Social Thought in Modern America, Harvard College (Spring 2015); Theologies of the Body, Harvard Divinity School (Autumn 2014); Science and Religion in American History, Harvard College (Autumn 2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Resistance and Transformation: Unitarian Universalist Social Justice History, with Julia Hamilton, Boston: Unitarian Universalist, 2010 (online: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/resistancetransformation/index.shtml>)

The Bridging Program: Workshops and Guidelines, with Dawn Star Borchelt, Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2004

Book Chapters

“Black Humanism’s Response to Suffering,” in *Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, ed. Kendyl Gibbons and William R. Murry, Boston: Skinner House, 2017

“The Black Humanist Fellowship of Liberation,” in *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, ed. Mark Morrison-Reed, Boston: Skinner House, 2011

“Memory and Witness,” with Howard Bossen, in *Thy Brother’s Keeper*, ed. Geno Rodriguez, Flint, MI: Flint Institute of Art, 2006

Articles in Refereed Journals

“Recovering Abby Price: Hopedale’s Advocate for Women’s Rights,” *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*, 2014-2015

“The Chicago Couriers Union: A Case Study in Solidarity Unionism,” *Working USA*, Summer 2012

“Temporary Autonomous Zones and the Power of Ritual,” *Journal of Liberal Religion*, Spring 2006

Reviews

- Review of Kendi, Ibram X., *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*, 2018
- Review Essay of Kruse, Kevin, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America* and Marsden, George, *Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief*, *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*, 2016
- Review of Sutton, Matthew Avery, *American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism*, H-AmRel, H-Net Reviews, January, 2016 (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=44771>)

Selected Shorter Pieces

- Introduction to Jack Mendelsohn, “The Church and the Draft Resisters,” and Introduction to “Common Ground: Coming of Age, A Report of the 1982 UUA Youth Assembly” both in *Unitarian Universalist Primary Source Collection, Vol. 2*, ed. Dan McKanan, Boston: Skinner House Press, 2017
- “President Trump’s Klan-like Rhetoric,” *Huffington Post*, February 15, 2017
- “Will we accompany them?,” *UU World*, Winter 2014
- “To Stop Chemical Weapons, Go After the Arms Dealers,” *Huffington Post*, September 11, 2013
- “Benediction” and “Magical Thinking” in *Falling into the Sky*, ed. Abhi and Abhimanyu Janamanchi, Boston: Skinner House Press, 2013
- “Workers Power: Towards an Organizational Theory?,” *Industrial Worker*, May 2012
- “Eschatology and Community Gardens,” *Sightings*, October 6, 2011
- “An Open Letter to Religious Leaders in Support of Collective Bargaining,” *Huffington Post*, February 25, 2011
- “Immigration and Indigenous Theology,” *Sightings*, February 10, 2011
- “Stephen Hawking and the Religion vs. Science Debate,” *Sightings*, September 23, 2010
- “Workers Power: It Takes More Than Direct Action,” *Industrial Worker*, July 2010
- “Black humanism’s response to suffering,” *UU World*, Summer 2010
- “Workers Power,” *Industrial Worker*, September 2007
- “Chicago Couriers Union: a lesson for IWW solidarity unionism organizers,” *Industrial Worker*, August 2007

Columnist

- “Ask the Clergy,” weekly column in the *Long Beach Press Telegram*, January to June 2006.

Editor

- Editor, “Workers Power,” monthly collaborative column in the *Industrial Worker*, January 2007 to December 2015
- Managing Editor, *Journal of Liberal Religion*, Chicago, IL, October 2004 to June 2006

SELECTED LECTURES, SERMONS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Sermons, lectures, and workshops given or led at over a hundred congregations and community centers in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Highlights include:

Invited Lectures

Minns Lectures, "American Populism and Unitarian Universalism," Spring 2019

Job Talk, Assistant Professor of Unitarian Universalist Theologies, Starr King School of the Ministry of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, March 29, 2016

"The Chicago Couriers Union, 2003-2010: A Case Study in Solidarity Unionism," Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, March 17, 2014

"Religious Communities and Immigration Reform," Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, September 23, 2010

"The Chicago Couriers Union: Challenges and Potentials," The Provisions Library, Washington, DC, June 8, 2007

"The Continuing Relevance of the Zapatista Movement," Chicago Social Forum, Chicago, IL, May 1, 2005

"Beyond Parliamentary Politics: An Anarchist's Perspective on the Religious Left" We Shall Be Moved By Love; Reclaiming the Voices of the Moral Left, Conference, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 9, 2005

"Beyond the Ballot: Grassroots Democracy in Chiapas, Mexico," Denison University, Granville, OH, October 27, 2004

"The Zapatista Movement 10 Years On"
San Francisco Women's Center, San Francisco, CA, March 24, 2004
The Longhaul, Oakland, CA, March 21, 2004

"The Power of the Mask; the Zapatistas and the Struggle Against Neoliberalism"
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, March 27, 2003
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, March 24, 2003
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 21, 2002

Paper Presentations

"Unitarian Universalism and the White Supremacist Theological Imaginary," Unitarian Universalist Collegium: An Association for Liberal Religious Studies, October 21, 2017

"Marcus Garvey and Cultural Apocalypse," American Academy of Religion, November 22, 2016

"To Grow Our Souls: Grace Lee Boggs's Conceptions of Class," How Class Works: The Working Class Studies Association Annual Conference, New York State University, Stony Brook, June 9, 2016

“Onward Christian Soldiers: American Social Movements and the Religious Imagination in the Wake of World War I,” L'Association française d'Etudes Américaines (French American Studies Association), Doctoral Program, France, May 24, 2016

“Liberal Religion in a Secular Age,” Unitarian Universalist Collegium: An Association for Liberal Religious Studies, October 30, 2015

“The Ku Klux Klan, the Industrial Workers of the World, and Cultural Apocalypse,” Ways of Knowing, The Annual Graduate Student Conference of Religion, Harvard Divinity School, October 23, 2015

“With Two Lamps to Guide Me: Staughton Lynd as Theologian,” Unitarian Universalist Collegium: An Association for Liberal Religious Studies, Oceanside, California, November 21, 2014

“Recovering Abby Price,” Unitarian Universalist History Convocation, joint conference of the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society and Unitarian Universalist Collegium: An Association for Liberal Religious Studies, Chevy Chase, Maryland, November 13, 2013

“The Doctrine of Discovery and Resistance to Arizona SB1070,” Historical and Contemporary Strategies of Resistance, The History Graduate Student Association’s Annual Conference, University of California Irvine, Irvine, California, May 17, 2013

“The Black Humanist Fellowship of Liberation,” Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Winter Meeting, January 27, 2010

Workshop and Panel Presentations

“A Theology of Radical Abundance: Foraging as Spiritual Practice,” Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute, July 9 to 13, 2012

Moderator and Presenter in “Bringing the Doctrine of Discovery Back Home,” General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 23, 2012

Moderator, “A Hundred Years Hence,” Ministry Days of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, June 19, 2012

Presentation in “Rewriting the UU Narrative: Where We Went Wrong,” General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 24, 2011

Presentation in “July 29: Standing on the Side of Love in Phoenix,” General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 24, 2011

Presentation in “Moral Imagination: 50 Years of UU Social Justice,” General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 23, 2011

Presentation for the opening of Thy Brother’s Keeper with Bonnie Bucqueroux, Geno Rodriguez and Lucian Perkins, Flint Institute of Arts, April 22, 2006

Presentation in Intergenerational Worship panel with Nan Hobart, Janet French and Thandeka
District Assembly of Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Arlington Heights, IL, April 16, 2005

Presentation on the Stop NICA! Committee as part of the “Battling Bad Bosses” panel with James Dardugno and Richard Seymour
Alternative Forms of Worker Organizing Conference, Chicago, IL, June 26, 2005

“Walking Between the Worlds; A Bridging Program”
General Assembly of the UUA, Cleveland, OH, June 21, 2001 to June 25, 2001
District Assembly of the PCD-UUA, San Ramon, CA, April 20, 2001 and April 21, 2001
District Assembly of the PCD-UUA, San Francisco, CA, April 28, 2000 and April 29, 2000

Representative Guest Sermons, Homilies or Prayers

“Finding Each Other on the Road to Emmaus,” Morning Preacher, Memorial Church at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 30, 2017

Charge to the Minister at the Installation of the Rev. Aaron McEmrys, with Rev. Alan Taylor, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA, October 11, 2015

Charge to the Congregation at the Ordination of the Rev. Julia Hamilton, Fourth Universalist Church, New York, NY, April 25, 2010

Charge to the Congregation at the Installation of the Rev. Alma Crawford, First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 18, 2010

Morning Preacher, Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute, July 14 to 18, 2008

“Bridging Homily,” District Assembly of the PCD-UUA, San Francisco, CA, April 29, 2000

REPRESENTATIVE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST EXPERIENCE

Unitarian Universalist Association

UUA Representative, National Day Laborers Organizing Network Delegation to El Salvador, July 2014 — represented the UUA on a delegation to El Salvador to investigate the causes of migration and experiences of deportees

Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association

CENTER Committee, June 2009 to June 2013 — Committee that oversees continuing education for all Unitarian Universalist ministers
Secretary, Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, May 2008 to April 2010
Member, 2004 to present

Unitarian Universalist House of Study, Methodist Theological School of Ohio

Member, Advisory Board, July 2016 to present

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

JustJourney Co-Leader, August 2007 — co-led a human rights delegation to Chiapas

Young Adult Prophets Project

Coordinator and Co-Founder, September 2000 to 2007— History study group for young adult justice activists

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Trustee, July 2001 to January 2002

Pacific Central District Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network

Chair, April 1999 to October 2001 — Coordinated four district wide sub-committees and ten congregational committees

General Assembly Bridging Program, Cleveland, OH

Organizer, 2001 — Co-coordinated and co-designed coming-of-age ritual for performance in front of 3,000 people

REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITY ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Work People's College, Minneapolis, MN

Steering Committee Member, October 2011 to December 2013

Greater Cleveland Congregations, Cleveland, OH

Steering Committee Member and Spokesperson, October 2010 to June 2012

Chiapas Peace House Project, Chiapas, Mexico and Chicago, IL

Co-Founder/Chair Board of Directors, November 2001 to December 2006 — Founded a human rights organization with a center for education and witness in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. Organization was subsequently known as CASA or Colectivos de Apoyo, Solidaridad y Acción. It closed in 2012.

Center for Community Values

Labor Organizer, September 2005 to March 2007

Chicago Couriers Union and Stop NICA! Committee, Chicago, IL

Organizer, December 2003 to June 2005 — Organized Chicago area union of couriers

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion

Member, 2005 to 2007, 2013 to present

American Historical Association

Member, 2014 to present

American Studies Association

Member, 2014 to present

Unitarian Universalist Collegium: An Association for Liberal Religious Studies

Member, 2013 to present

Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society

Board Member, 2013 to present

Member, 2000 to present

Working Class Studies Association

Member, 2016 to present

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Greater Cleveland Congregations, 102.1 FM, WDOK, Cleveland, OH, July 3, 2011

Religion Today, Channel 20, Cleveland, OH, June 16, 2011

Greater Cleveland, Congregated, The Civic Commons, 88.7 FM, WLCU, University Heights, OH and 88.5 FM, WYSU, Youngstown, OH, June 14, 2011

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

“Blog Roundup, Spring 2017,” Heather Christensen, *UU World*, Boston, MA, Spring 2017

“Boston churches split over Supreme Court's gay marriage ruling,” Jan Ransom, *Boston Globe*, June 29, 2015

“Congregations Urged to Study the Doctrine of Discovery,” Donald Skinner, *UU World*, Boston, MA, Summer 2012

“Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, durable proponent of liberal theology, celebrates 60th anniversary in Cleveland Heights,” Linda Coulter, *Heights Observer*, Cleveland Heights, OH, September 2011

“Cases dismissed for many Phoenix protesters,” Donald Skinner, *UU World*, Boston, MA, Summer 2011

“Blog Roundup, Winter 2010,” Kenneth Sutton, *UU World*, Boston, MA, Fall 2010

“Blog Roundup, Fall 2010,” Kenneth Sutton, *UU World*, Boston, MA, Fall 2010

“Coventry area Unitarian-Universalists hold event to improve shared gardens,” Walter Nicholes, *Heights Observer*, Cleveland Heights, OH, September 2010

Sun Press Editorial Cartoon, Jerry King, *Sun Press*, Beachwood, August 19, 2010

“Cleveland Heights ministers travels to Arizona to protest immigration law,” *Sun Press*, Lindsay Betz, Beachwood, OH, August 5, 2010

“3 Noteworthy Things,” Laura Kuhn, John Cage Trust Blog, May 20, 2010

(<http://johncagetrust.blogspot.com/2010/05/3-noteworthy-things.html>)

“Cleveland Heights Unitarian Universalist minister is intrigued by mushrooms, too,” Kellie Tayer, *Sun Press*, Beachwood, OH, August 27, 2009