

Miranda Zapor Cruz, PhD

Professor of Historical Theology
Indiana Wesleyan University
School of Theology and Ministry

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014-Present	Indiana Wesleyan University	Marion, Indiana
2022-Present	Academic Chair, School of Theology and Ministry	
2023-Present	Professor of Historical Theology	
2018-2023	Associate Professor of Historical Theology	
2014-2018	Assistant Professor of Theology	
	Course Portfolio:	
	BIL-101: Old Testament Survey	
	PHL-202: Ethics and Values	
	REL-307: Church and Society	
	REL-382: History of Global Christianity	
	REL-384: History of Christianity in the Middle East (Online)	
	REL-392: History of Protestantism and the Holiness Movement	
	REL-510: Global Christian History (Online)	
	REL-531: American Christianity (Online and Onsite)	
	REL-650: Sociology of Religion (Online)	
	THE-101: Theology of Christian Life (Onsite and Online)	
	THE-233: Systematic Theology	
	THE-311: Ecclesiology	
	THE-420/588: Life and Legacy of Augustine of Hippo	
	THE-500: Christian Doctrine (Online)	
	THE-488/588: Special Topics in Modern Theology: Bonhoeffer	
	THE-589: The Doctrine of God	
2016-Present	Wesley Seminary	Marion, Indiana
	Adjunct Faculty	
	Course Portfolio:	
	CHST-500: Global Church History (Online and Onsite Intensive)	
	CHST-510: History of Global Missions (Online)	
	CHST-587: Religion in America	
	CHST-641: Historical Perspectives on Christian Leadership (Online)	
	MISS-650: Sociology of Religion (Online)	
	THEO-500: Introduction to Theology (Online and Onsite Intensive)	
2018-2021	Director, The Sacred Alliance Center for the Ministry of Reconciliation	
	Wesley Seminary	Marion, Indiana
2012-2014	Baylor University	Waco, Texas
	Teacher of Record in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core	
	Course Portfolio:	
	BIC 1413: World of Rhetoric I	

BIC 1323: World of Rhetoric II

2011-2014 Journal of Church and State Assistant Editorial Director
J.M. Dawson Institute of Church State Studies
Baylor University Waco, Texas

2010, 2011 LCC International University Klaipėda, Lithuania
Faculty in the Summer Language Institute
Course: Advanced Integrated English Language

EDUCATION

2014	Doctor of Philosophy in Religion, Politics, and Society J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies Baylor University Waco, Texas Dissertation: “It’s Our Country and It’s Our Cathedral: Sajūdis and the Lithuanian Catholic Church.”
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2008 Master of Divinity
Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton, New Jersey
Focus Areas: Church History, Ethics

2005 Bachelor of Arts in Religion
Whitworth University Spokane, Washington
Minors: Philosophy, Sociology, Biblical Languages
Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Faithful Politics: Ten Approaches to Christian Citizenship and Why it Matters. IVP Academic, 2024.

“A (Needed) Conversation on Baptism, Borders, and Belonging.” *Missio Alliance*. 7 August 2025. <https://www.missioalliance.org/a-needed-conversation-on-baptism-borders-and-belonging/>

“Baptism without Borders.” *Missio Alliance*. 5 August 2025.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/baptism-without-borders/>

“Spectacle and Submission: John Wesley’s Trailblazing Ministry.” *Wesleyan Life*, Winter 2025.

“Remembering Who We Are on Election Day.” *The Well*, InterVarsity Women Scholars and Professionals. November 2024.
<https://thewell.intervarsity.org/focus/remembering-who-we-are-election-day>

“Faithful Responses to Election Results.” *Missio Alliance*. 5 November 2024.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/faithful-responses-to-election-results/>

- “Faithful Approaches to Politics.” *Missio Alliance*. 10 October 2024.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/faithful-approaches-to-politics/>
- “My Country Isn’t the Kingdom.” *Missio Alliance*. 20 August 2024.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/my-country-isnt-the-kingdom/>
- “The Myth of the 93%.” *Missio Alliance*. 8 November 2022.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/the-myth-of-the-93-fathers-and-mothers-are-not-a-competitive-hierarchy-in-the-home/>
- “Burning Away Barriers and Blowing Down Walls.” *Missio Alliance*. 1 June 2022.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/burning-away-barriers-and-blowing-down-walls/>
- “When the Psalm Isn’t For Me.” *Missio Alliance*. 9 March 2022.
<https://www.missioalliance.org/when-the-psalm-isnt-for-me/>
- “Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Harris, William Wadé.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Latvia.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Lithuania.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Small, Mary J.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Tilly, Dorothy Rogers.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Waugh, Beverly.” In *The Historical Dictionary of Methodism*. Edited by Jennifer Woodruff-Tait. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2024.
- “Christian Sexual Ethics.” Curriculum and Resource Document written for internal use at Indiana Wesleyan University. 2021
- “Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz.” In *Women Who Changed the World*. Edited by Candace Goucher. ABC-CLIO, 2021.
- “Incitement to Dialogue: Josef Hromádka’s Call for Christian-Marxist Dialogue in Gospel for Atheists.” *Theology Today* 72(1) (2015) 32-46.

“The Role of Catholicism in the Development of Lithuanian National Identity.” Church History and Religious Culture 94 (2014) 1-26.

LECTURES, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, and WORKSHOPS

“Christian Nationalism: Beyond the Buzzwords.” Webinar for The Synod of the Covenant, Presbyterian Church USA, 29 April 2026.

“Faithful Politics.” Workshop for The Presbytery of the Miami Valley. 31 March 2026.

“Christian Nationalism and Faithful Leadership.” Teach the Teachers workshop for clergy in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. 22 February 2026.

“Pastoring through Political Turbulence.” Webinar for NEXT Church, a clergy development ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA, 13 May 2025.

“Salty Citizenship: Christian Faithfulness and American Politics.” Presented for Intervarsity Christian Faculty and Graduate Student Fellowship at the University of New Mexico, 1 April 2025.

“Turning Points as Pedagogy” Panel Presentation at the American Society of Church History, 3 January 2025.

“Can Evangelicals Learn from Our Hermeneutical Errors?” Panel Response to *The Ballot and the Bible* at the Evangelical Theological Society, 22 November 2024.

The Stembler Forum for Adult Faith Formation, First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA, 26 October 2024.

Faithful Politics Book Launch with Dr. John Inazu, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN, 24 October 2024.

“Authentic Civility in a Disconnected World.” Presented virtually at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria, VA, 23 October 2024.

“Pastoring Through Political Turbulence.” Clergy Webinar for The Wesleyan Church, 22 October 2024.

“Three Types of Christian Nationalism.” Presented for *The Herencia Lectures*, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 14 October 2024.

“The Untalkables: Faith and Politics.” Presented at the Fuel Conference of The Wesleyan Church, Noblesville, IN, 12 October 2024.

“Faithful Politics: Why Political Participation Matters.” Presented for *The Carol Grizzard Browning Lecture*, University of Pikeville, Pikeville, KY, 8 October 2024.

“Faithful Politics.” Adult Education program at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Carmel, IN, 6 October 2024.

“Faithful Politics.” Presented for *The Lyceum Lectures*, Grace College, Winona Lake, IN, 26 September 2024.

“Faith-Filled Political Engagement.” Presented for The Speakers and Artists Series, Whitworth University, Spokane, WA, 23 September 2024.

“Navigating Christian Faith and American Politics.” Webinar presented for *Missio Alliance*, 20 August 2024.

“Christian Citizenship in an Election Season.” Adult Education at St. Peter’s First Community Church, Huntington, IN, 19 August 2024.

“Following Jesus into the Voting Booth.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 13 February 2024.

“Always Better When We’re Together.” Panel Discussion Moderator at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 14 February 2023.

“Are Women Allowed to Do That?” Panel Discussion Moderator at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 15 February 2022.

“The Dangers of Christian Nationalism.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 18 February 2021.

“Faith and Politics.” Presented at the Kern Program First Year Student Retreat at Indiana Wesleyan University, 13 November 2021.

“Expansive or Exclusive: Christian Political Engagement.” Presented for Mountain View United Methodist Church, Boulder, CO, 17 October 2021.

“Handle with Care: The Image of God and Sexuality.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Student Leader Training, 26 August 2021.

“Learning and Unlearning White Superiority.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 16 February 2021.

Interview with Dr. Andrew Whitehead, author of *Taking America Back for God* for the President’s Author Series at Indiana Wesleyan University, 29 October 2020.

“Faith and Politics.” Workshop presented at College Wesleyan Church, Marion, IN, 10 October 2020.

- “Faithful Community: Following Christ Through Division, Disagreement, and Disunity.”
Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Student Leader Training, 11 August 2020.
- “Faithful Citizenship: Belonging to Kingdom and Nation.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 11 February 2020.
- “Doubting Faithfully.” Workshop presented at College Wesleyan Church, Marion, IN, 28 September 2019.
- “Empowering Women in Ministry.” Presented for ministry residents at College Wesleyan Church, 10 September 2019.
- “New Creation.” Sermon on 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 for Marion County Jail Inmate Chapel, Indianapolis, IN, 16 May 2019.
- “From Simple Affirmation to Sacred Alliance: Practical Steps for Mutuality in Ministry.”
Presented at The Wesleyan Church’s “The Gathering,” Orlando, FL 10 January 2019.
- “It’s Not Mexican Food, It’s Just Food.” Presented at Indiana Wesleyan University Day of Courageous Conversations, 13 February 2018.
- “Methodists, Millennials, and the Means of Grace.” Presented at the Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting, March 2017.
- “Methodists, Millennials, and the Means of Grace.” Presented for the Cox Holiness Series at Indiana Wesleyan University, 19 March 2015.
- “From Crusades to Cathedrals: A History of Catholicism and Lithuanian National Identity.”
Presented at the Keston Center Symposium: “Religion in Political Culture in Communist Countries: Past, Present, and Future.” November 2013
- “Being in Exile.” Sermon on Jeremiah 29:1-14 for Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church, Waco, TX, 17 June 2012.
- “Sajūdis and the Lithuanian Catholic Church.” Presented at the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, April 2012
- “On the Way There.” Sermon on Joshua 3:7-17 for Gerald United Church of Christ, Mexia, TX, 30 October 2011.

SERMONS AND PODCASTS

“Church History and TikTok Christianity.” Not That Kind of Christian podcast with host Dr. Dave Drury. March 2026. https://youtu.be/_LzQsxS1b-Y?si=nHMDbX7tv1HnESXu

“How Should Christians Engage in Politics?” The Thinking Christian Podcast. September 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiOwQaWqYbE>

“Disrupting the Noise.” Election special episode series of The Disrupters podcast. November 2024. <https://www.ivpress.com/the-disrupters-podcast>

InterVarsity Women Scholars and Professionals Podcast. November 2024. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/miranda-zapor-cruz-faithful-politics/id1355442756?i=1000677460911>

“Faithfully Engage Public Policy.” The Lewis Center for Church Leadership Leading Ideas Talks Podcast. October 2024. <https://www.churchleadership.com/podcast/faithfully-engage-public-policy-featuring-miranda-zapor-cruz/>

“Faithful Christian Engagement in Politics.” Church and Main Podcast. October 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi1lkLpnICY>

Interview on the Libertarian Christian Institute Podcast. September 2024. <https://libertarianchristians.com/episode/ep-380-faithful-politics-with-miranda-cruz/>

“The Bible and Politics.” Sermon on Mark 12 for Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 20 September 2024.

“How Should Christians Engage with Politics.” Thinking Christian Podcast. August 2024. <https://www.lifeaudio.com/thinking-christian-clear-theology-for-a-confusing-world/how-should-christians-engage-in-politics-a-conversation-with-miranda-zapor-cruz/>

Interview on the Faithful Politics Podcast. August 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADfJQ8bNpJY>

“Problems and Promises.” Sermon on Joshua 3-4 at Waterline Church, Fishers, IN, 24 September 2023.

“Women in Ministry: Historical Foundations.” Guest on the *Deep Grace* podcast, hosted by Faith Van Schaick and the Called Collective. 2022.

“Sacrifice and Transformation: The Gift of Marriage.” Sermon on Romans 12:1-11 for Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 18 February 2022.

“Sacrifice and Transformation: The Gift of Singleness.” Sermon on Romans 12:1-11 at Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 28 January 2022.

“The Intersection of Kingdom and Country.” Guest on *The Theologizing Life* Podcast, hosted by Rev. Anthony Cotrell, 3 February 2021.

“Christian Nationalism.” Guest on the *Tealos* Podcast of the John Wesley Honors College at Indiana Wesleyan University, 30 October 2020.

“Flag and Altar.” Presented at Castleton United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN, 2 February 2020.

“Thou Shall Not Make an Idol.” Sermon on Exodus 20:4-6 for Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 30 September 2019.

“The Stories We Tell.” Sermon on John 4:1-42 at Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 8 October 2018.

“What is a Follower?” Sermon on Matthew 7:24-27 for Castleton United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN, 7 October 2018.

“Remember Who You are Becoming.” Sermon on Romans 8:28-30 for Castleton United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN, 1 January 2017.

“The Fullness of God.” Sermon on Ephesians 3 for the Cox Holiness Series at Indiana Wesleyan University Chapel, 20 March 2015.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Memberships: Wesleyan Theological Society, Evangelical Theological Society, American Academy of Religion, American Society of Church History

2025	TheoCon Gathering of The Wesleyan Church
2025	Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference
2024	Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy
2024	TheoCon Gathering of The Wesleyan Church
2023	AALHE Annual Assessment Conference
2023	Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop Indiana Wesleyan University
2021	Academy on Race and Pedagogy with Dr. Willie Jennings Indiana Wesleyan University
2021-22	Advancing Women in Leadership Mentoring Program Indiana Wesleyan University
2018	Emerging Leaders in Assessment Seminar Higher Learning Commission
2015, 2016	Acton University The Acton Institute

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University

Chair – University General Education Council (2025-Present)

Task Force on Christian Community – CAS representative (2020-2021)

University Assessment Council (2018-2026)

College of Arts and Sciences

Task Force on the 2024 Election

Chair – CAS Assessment Committee (2018-2025)

CAS Assessment Committee (2016-Present)

School of Theology and Ministry

Women in Ministry Small Group Leader (2025-Present)

Academic Chair (2022-Present)

Assessment Fellow (2018-2024)

Curriculum Committee (2018-Present)

Graduate Studies Committee (2018-2024)

Scholarship Committee (2017-Present)