

MICHAEL TAPPER: CURRICULUM VITAE

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Professional Experience

2024-present Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

Professor, School of Theology and Ministry

- teach four theology courses per semester (i.e. THE101, THE233, WOR 300, REL490)
- manage Worship Leader Research

2017-2024 Southern Wesleyan University, Central, SC

Chair, School of Religion and Humanities

- teach four theology courses per semester (i.e. *Theology I*, *Theology II*, *Theology of Worship*, *Basic Christian Beliefs*)
- serve as administrative chair of religion and humanities department, guiding the department's vision and mission
- managed curriculum revamp and restructure
- direct \$450,000 Lilly Endowment (High School Youth and Theology Initiative) grant
- conceptualized and implemented an innovative competency-based learning approach to 16 online theology and Bible course writings
- served as student government faculty advisor
- lead various hiring committees for new faculty members
- act as university ambassador at various churches, conferences, and chapels
- co-direct Worship Leader Research
- oversee Kern student scholarship program
- co-direct SACSCOC gen ed committee
- participate in ordination and ministerial licensing meetings and interviews

2014-2017 Moncton Wesleyan Church Moncton, NB

Connection Pastor

- served as minister responsible for first impression, integration, discipleship, and community-building programs
- preached and taught on a rotational basis

2015-2017 Kingswood University Sussex, NB

Adjunct Professor

- taught *Spiritual Formation*
- taught *History and Discipline of the Wesleyan Church*

2015-2016 Crandall University Moncton, NB

Adjunct Professor

- taught *Kingdom of God and the New Testament*
- taught *Theology and the Human Person*

2010-2014 Saint Paul University Ottawa, ON

Educational Assistant

- edited publications in Catholic Vatican II studies

- reorganized archival data for Canadian Catholic-Anglican dialogue
- offered expertise in the development of an emerging research centre
- performed various administrative and technical support to faculty members

2012-2013 The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Ottawa, ON

Research Intern

- examined charities in the Canada Revenue Agency charities directory
- created a large database examining giving trends of Canadian churches
- engaged in research on sustainability of Canadian Bible colleges/universities

2011-2012 Vatican II Research Centre Ottawa, ON

National Conference Coordinator

- coordinated national event to commemorate 50 yr. anniversary of Vatican II
- offered collaborative expertise to various service providers
- accommodated 300 paid registrants for an international conference

2007-2009 Husson University Bangor, ME

Adjunct Professor

- taught post-secondary students the subject of interpersonal communication
- arranged regular contact between students and important civic leaders
- engaged students with creative topics and innovative teaching techniques

2003-2009 Pathway Wesleyan Church Bangor, ME

Lead Minister

- offered regular counsel to people in a variety of settings and contexts
- initiated multiple community building and outreach activities
- guided church congregation through a major building project

Education

2020-2022 Southern Wesleyan University Central, SC

M.Ed. Instructional Design

- Thesis: *The Impact of Christian Higher Education Strategic Partnerships and Mergers on the Resulting Curricula*

2010-2015 Saint Paul University Ottawa, ON

Ph.D. Theology (Historical Studies)

- Education assistantship, National Conference Coordinator, Thesis: *The Trinitarian Culture and Corporate Worship Practices of Canadian Pentecostals: A Contribution from the Theology of Colin Gunton,* Governor General's award

2009-2010 Saint Paul University Ottawa, ON

M.A. Theology (Historical Studies)

- Thesis: *Assessing Social Sin: A Critical Task in Contemporary Methodism*”

2000-2003 Tyndale Seminary Toronto, ON

M. Divinity (Counseling)

- Cognitive-behavioral therapy/Narrative therapy training, Counseling internship: Oshawa General Hospital

1994-1998 Kingswood University Sussex, NB

B.A. Religion (Pastoral)

- Student body president, Ministerial Association president, Dean’s list, Salutatorian, Presidential scholar, Internship: Newark, Ohio

Fellowships and Awards

- 2023 Distinguished Faculty Member Award, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (\$3,000)
- 2022 Faculty Member of the Year, Southern Wesleyan University (\$1,000)
- 2021 Vital Worship Grant (co-director), Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (\$22,000)
- 2016 Governor General’s Gold Academic Medal, Saint Paul University
- 2014-2015, Ontario Graduate Studies Scholarship, Saint Paul University (\$15,000)
- 2013-2014, Ontario Graduate Studies Scholarship, Saint Paul University (\$15,000)
- 2012-2013, Ontario Graduate Studies Scholarship (\$15,000), Saint Paul University
- 2012, Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society (distinguished intellectual achievement, Christian character, leadership ability), Kingswood University
- 2010-2011, Wesleyan Faculty Grant, Saint Paul University (\$5,000)
- 2010, Ph.D. Theology Scholarship, Saint Paul University (\$5,000)
- 2010, Ph.D. Admissions Scholarship, Saint Paul University (\$3,500)
- 2009, M.A. Theology Scholarship, Saint Paul University (\$2,000)
- 2009, Alpha Beta Kappa National Honors Society, (Most Outstanding Teacher), Husson University
- 2001-2003, Wesleyan Student Grant, Tyndale Seminary (\$5000)
- 1997, Student Government Award, Kingswood University
- 1996-1998, Presidential Scholarship, Kingswood University (\$10,000)

Memberships and Associations

- The Wesleyan Church—Ordained Minister (2001-present)
- Wesleyan Theological Society (2015-present)
- Society of Pentecostal Studies (2012-2019)
- American Academy of Religion (2010-2015)
- Canadian Society of Church History (2010-2013)
- Canadian Theological Society (2010-2013)
- Canadian Evangelical Theological Society (2010-2015)
- Sociology of Religion (2010-2014)
- American Association of Pastoral Counselors (2003-2009)

Publications

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc

Jolicoeur. “Do It Again’: Chart-Topping Worship Songs and the Churches Behind Them, *Liturgy* 39, no.4 (2013).

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “Raising the Invisible Hand,” *Worship Leader Research*, Oct 6, 2023). <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/raising-the-invisible-hand>.

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “Worship Leader Survey Report,” *Worship Leader Research*, July 11, 2023. <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/worship-leader-survey-report-is-now-available>.

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “Since 2017, 100% of Top 25 Worship Songs Have Been Singles... So What?” *Worship Leader Research*, June 6, 2023. <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/since-2017-100-of-the-top-25-worship-songs-were-singles-so-what>.

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “The Worship Industry is Younger than You Think,” *Worship Leader Research*, May 9, 2023. <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/the-worship-industry-is-younger-than-you-think>.

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “How Songs Like ‘Great are You Lord’ are Connected to the ‘Big 4’ Worship Megachurches,” *Worship Leader Research*, April 26, 2023. <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/how-songs-like-great-are-you-lord-are-connected-to-the-big-4>.

Tapper, Michael, Adam Perez, Elias Dummer, Shannan Baker, and Marc Jolicoeur. “(Almost) 100% of the Top 25 Worship Songs are Associated with Just a Handful of Megachurches,” *Worship Leader Research*, April 11, 2023. <https://worshipleaderresearch.com/100-of-the-top-25-worship-songs-are-associated-with-just-a-handful-of-megachurches>.

Tapper, Michael. “Worship at the Speed of Sound.” *Worship Leader Magazine* 30, no. 5 (April 2022).

Tapper, Michael. “The Life Cycle of Worship Songs.” *Faith Today*, March 15, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. “We’ve No Less Days to Sing God’s Praise, But New Worship Songs Only Last a Few Years,” *Christianity Today*, November 22, 2021.

Tapper, Michael. “Church Rhythm and (Ordinary) Lyrics.” *Wesleyan Life: The Wesleyan Church* (May 31, 2020).

Tapper, Michael. “The Trinity is Missing from Christian Worship.” *Christianity Today* (July/Aug, 2020).

Tapper, Michael. “Painting in Full Spectrum: The Colors with which We Choose to Worship.” *Worship Leader Magazine* 29, no. 3 (August 2020).

Tapper, Michael, "Exploring Sung Theology." *Pickens County Courier*, August 25, 2020.

Tapper, Michael. "We are what we Sing." *Canadian Journal of Pentecostal Charismatic Christianity* vol. 9, no. 1 (Dec 10, 2018).

Tapper, Michael, *The Things We Sing: Canadian Pentecostals, the Trinity, and Contemporary Worship Music*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publishers, 2017.

Tapper, Michael, "Social Sin and Needed Corporate Reform in the Wesleyan Tradition." *Wesleyan Theological Journal* (Fall 2013).

Tapper, Michael, "Can Methodism Be Saved? Wesley, Social Sin and the Church in Crisis." *The Ecumenist* 46 (March 2011).

Tapper, Michael. "Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada Participants: 1971-2011" *Ecumenism* 46th Year, No. 182 (Summer, 2011).

Tapper, Michael. "Understanding John Wesley's Complicated Wickedness." In *Historical Papers 2011: Canadian Society of Church History*, edited by Brian Gobbett, Bruce L. Guenther and Robynne Healey, 35-52. 2011.

Tapper, Michael, review of *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World* by James Davies Hunter, *Wesleyan Theological Journal* (Fall, 2012).

Presentations and Invitations

Tapper, Michael. "Shared Curriculum in Higher Education Mergers." Presentation at Association for Biblical Higher Education meeting, sponsored by ABHE, Orlando, Florida, February 2023.

Tapper, Michael. "Creative Ways to Lead Your Grant Program." Presentation at Annual High School Youth Theology Institute meeting, sponsored by Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, Indiana, January 2023.

Tapper, Michael. "Life Curves of Songs." Presentation at Southern Wesleyan University's Fall 2022 Board of Trustees Faculty Symposium, Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina, October 27, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. "How Long are Songs Lasting?" Presentation at the Shenandoah District Conference, Roanoke, Virginia, July 10-12, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. "Song Curves: Worship at the Speed of Sound." Interview by David Santisteven. *Beyond Sunday Worship Leader Podcast*. Podcast audio, July 14, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. "The Value of a Christian Higher Education." Presentation at Wesleyan Theological Network meeting, sponsored by The Wesleyan Church, Orlando, Florida, May 22, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. "The Lifespan of Worship Songs." Interview by Jason Houtsma. *Worship Artistry Podcast*. Podcast audio, May 26, 2022.

Tapper, Michael. "Episode 528: The Life and Death of Worship." Interview by Dave Hawkins. *The Antidote Podcast*. Podcast audio, April 21, 2022.

- Tapper, Michael. "The Lifespan of Worship Songs." Interview by Bob Smietana. *Religion News Service*. April 25, 2022.
- Tapper, Michael. "Trends in Christian Contemporary Music." Interview by Rick Hiemstra and Lindsay Callaway. *Faith Today Podcast*. Podcast audio, Dec 9, 2021.
- Michael Tapper, "Why Are Songs Disappearing So Fast?" Interview by Josh McNall. *Outpost Podcast*. Podcast audio, Dec 1, 2021.
- Tapper, Michael, and Joel Liechty. "Building a Competency-Based Undergraduate Program." Presentation at the CBTE Conference, Austin, Texas, Nov 11, 2021.
- Tapper, Michael, and Marc Jolicoeur. "Worship at the Speed of Sound." Interview by Joel Hunt. *Wesley Seminary Podcast*. Podcast audio, Nov 10, 2021.
- Tapper, Michael, and Jacob Clapp. "What are We Singing?" Keynote addresses at The Wesleyan Worship Project, Fishers, Indiana, March 17-19, 2021.
- Tapper, Michael. "The Things We Sing." Interview by Karen Stiller. *Faith Today Podcast*. Podcast audio, October 2020.
- Tapper, Michael. "The Things We Sing." Interview by Kurt Goff and Kate Bruington. *The Kurt and Kate Show*. Moody Radio, September 8, 2020.
- Tapper, Michael. "The Trinity is Missing from Christian Worship. Interview by Daniel Silliman. *Christianity Today*, March 26, 2020
- Tapper, Michael. "What are we Singing on Sunday?" Presentation at Wesleyan Liturgical Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, March 2019.
- Tapper, Michael. "Trinitarian Inconsistencies Among Us." Presentation at Society of Pentecostal Studies Annual Event, Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee, March 2018.
- Tapper, Michael. "Why would a 'Non-Catholic' Study at a Catholic University." Interview by Mark Slatter. Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, November 2016.
- Tapper, Michael. "The Things we Sing." Presentation at Engage Conference, Sussex, New Brunswick, October 2015.
- Tapper, Michael. "Trinitarian Beliefs and Musical Expression among Contemporary Wesleyan and Free Methodists." Presentation at Tyndale Wesley Symposium, Toronto, Ontario, March 2014.
- Tapper, Michael. "Trinitarian Beliefs and Musical Expression among Contemporary Wesleyan and Free Methodists." Presentation at Graduate Students Theological Seminar, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 2013.

Tapper, Michael. "The Future of Theological Education in Canada: Giving Trends among Evangelical Churches." Presentation at Canadian Evangelical Theological Association symposium, Victoria, British Columbia, June 2013.

Tapper, Michael. "Inconsistency among Canadian Evangelicals? An Analysis of Trinitarian Belief in Music Practices." Presentation at the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion" annual meeting, Victoria, British Columbia, June 2013.

Tapper, Michael. "Trinitarian Beliefs and Musical Expression: Exploring the Consistency within Canadian Evangelicalism." Presentation at the Canadian Theological Society annual meeting, Victoria, British Columbia, June 2013.

Tapper, Michael. "Contemporary Christianity's Task: Addressing Sinful Social Structures." Presentation at Eastern International Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Syracuse, New York, May 2011.

Tapper, Michael. "Other as Opponent: A Look at the Presuppositions of Canadian Evangelicals and their Critics." Presentation at Canadian Theological Society annual meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 2011.

Tapper, Michael. "The Perfect Storm: When Evangelical Indignation and Secular Objectivity Collide." Presentation at Canadian Evangelical Theological Association symposium, Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 2011.

Tapper, Michael. "Understanding John Wesley's 'Complicated Wickedness.'" Presentation at Canadian Society of Church History meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 2011.

Tapper, Michael. "Assessing Social Sin: A Critical Task of Contemporary Methodism." Presentation at Tyndale Wesley Symposium, Toronto, Ontario, March 2011.

Tapper, Michael. "Ecclesiological Witness through Church History." Presentation at Wesleyan Presidential Summit, Sussex, New Brunswick, 2009.

Tapper, Michael. "The Practice of Attentive Listening." Presentation at Husson University, Bangor, Maine, 2009.

Tapper, Michael. "Ecclesiological Witness through Church History." Presented at Kingswood University, Sussex, New Brunswick, 2008.

References

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