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RELIGION EXPERTS

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• Religious History • Faith and Money • Church-State Relations • Social and Cultural Aspects of Christianity



James Hudnut-Beumler, dean of the Divinity School; Anne Potter Wilson Distinguished Professor of American Religious History

An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA), he has published and presented widely in the areas of church history, ethics and philanthropy. Among his publications are the books *Looking for God in the Suburbs: The Religion of the American Dream and Its Critics* and *In Pursuit of the Almighty's Dollar: A History of Money and American Protestantism*. He is a member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

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• Jesus • Gender Issues • Discrimination • Jewish-Christian Relations • New Testament • Judaism



Amy-Jill Levine, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies

Levine examines the literary, historical and cultural implications of Scripture to understand how, when and why various interpretations arise. With a frequent dash of humor, she exposes anti-Jewish, sexist, heterosexist theologies and other forms of prejudice that directly impact people's lives. Her numerous books and articles address such topics as Christian origins, formative Judaism and the "Historical Jesus." She is the editor of a 12-volume series, *A Feminist Companion to the New Testament and Early Christian Literature* and is a

featured lecturer in audio/video projects for the Teaching Company's Great Lectures Series.

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RELIGION EXPERTS, cont.

• Separation of Church and State • Religious History • Modern American Religion



Kathleen Flake, associate professor of American religious history and attorney

Flake can discuss such controversial church-state issues such as disputes over the posting of Ten Commandments monuments in public places and court cases involving polygamy. As a Divinity School professor and an attorney, Flake has a unique perspective on the issues surrounding the separation of church and state. Flake teaches courses on American religious history and the interaction between American religion and law. Prior to her appointment at Vanderbilt, she was a litigation attorney in Washington, D.C.

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• Religion and Warfare in America • Puritanism • Colonial Religion



James P. Byrd Jr., associate dean of the Divinity School; assistant professor of American religious history

Byrd teaches a course on warfare and religion, and says that many American wars, including Iraq, have been undertaken using some degree of religious justification. He is an historian on American religions, in particular colonial America and Puritanism. His books include *The Challenges of Roger Williams: Religious Liberty, Violent Persecution and the Bible*.

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• Religion and War • Religion and Social Movements • Religion and Politics • Ethics



Melissa Snarr, assistant professor of ethics and society

Snarr studies the intersection of religion, social change and social/political ethics. She teaches courses ranging from “Religion and War in an Age of Terror” to “Religion and Social Movements” to “Christian Political Thought.” She argues that both Democrats and Republicans misunderstand the religious community in America and could improve their election results by considering the issue with more care. She has researched the alliance of religion and labor in the living wage movement, and is currently studying the United Nations and avenues for global peacemaking from a religious perspective. She is an expert on ethics.

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