

REV. PROFESSOR JOHANNA van WIJK-BOS was born Johanna Willemina Hendrike van Wijk in 1940 in The Netherlands where she spent the first five years of her life under German occupation. After attending a preparatory high school, she began her studies in theology at Leiden University and continued these at Union Theological Seminary in New York City after she emigrated to the United States in 1966. She received her Ph. D in Biblical Studies from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1976. She also did Graduate Studies at New College, Edinburgh, Scotland (1963-64) and Advanced Studies in Hebrew Bible at the Protestant Seminary of the French Reformed Church in Montpellier, France.

In 1977, Professor van Wijk-Bos was hired to teach Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS) and moved to Louisville along with her husband Rev. David Bos and son Martin. She was ordained to the professional ministry in 1977 in Rochester, New York, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, immediately prior to moving to Louisville. In 2000, she was installed as Professor of Bible in the chair named after Dora Pierce, the first woman to graduate from the Seminary. She was one of the founders of the Women's Center at LPTS (1993-2017), for which she worked in a supervisory capacity, and served as Director (2005-2007). In 2008 the Seminary President appointed her as Faculty Liaison to the Women's Center and she served in this role until her retirement from the Seminary. Upon her retirement in May 2017, she became Professor Emerita.

Professor van Wijk-Bos is an eminent theologian specializing in Biblical Literature and Women's Studies, fields in which she taught at the Seminary for 40 years. She is a linguist of extraordinary versatility who has proficiency in Dutch, English, French, German and Portuguese. She also has reading and instruction facility in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Ugaritic and Syriac. She has taught a wide-range of courses and has also been Advisor in the Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry programs.

She has taught as a Guest Professor at a number of significant institutions both within, and outside, the U.S. These include the Protestant Seminary, Montpellier, France (Spring 1990, January 2013), ITEBA, an ecumenical seminary in Salvador, Brazil (1998), San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, California (June-July 1992), the University of Lund, Sweden, and the Swedish Institute in Jerusalem, Israel (March-June 2016). She has been a preacher and lecturer for congregations and seminars in the context of Afro-Brazilian women in Northeast Brazil (Spring 1998). She has also served as Dissertation Committee Member for Ph. D in Biblical Studies at Garrett Evangelical Seminary, Chicago (2007).

Professor van Wijk-Bos has served the church through teaching, lecturing, writing and speaking for the rights of those who are denied equality and full participation in religion and society. She contributes regularly to interfaith conferences and discussion groups, most recently through

teaching at the University of Lund, Sweden, and the Swedish Institute in Jerusalem, Israel (spring 2016).

Professor van Wijk-Bos is the author of numerous scholarly writings published by prestigious publishers. These include twelve books and a great number of articles and book reviews. She is also co-editor of two books. Her book-length publications include *Reformed and Feminist – A Challenge to the Church* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995); *Making Wise the Simple: The Torah in Christian Faith and Practice* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005); *Reading Samuel: A Literary and Theological Commentary* (Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2011); *The End of the Beginning: Joshua and Judges - A People and a Land, vol 1* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020); *The Road to Kingship: 1-2 Samuel - A People and a Land, vol 2* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020); *The Land and its Kings - A People and a Land, vol 3* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020). She is currently at work on completing a commentary on *Deuteronomy* in the Wisdom Series published by the Liturgical Press in Collegeville.

She has made several major presentations at academic as well as religious and community-based fora in Louisville and other cities in the U.S. Her presentations in Louisville have included the following: International Women's Day Celebration Presentation at Church of the Epiphany (2005), Presentation at Annual Rose v. Wade dinner of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (2008) and the Mary Keenan Lecture at Spalding University (2010), and Temple B'nai B'rith Shalom, Interfaith Shabbat, Louisville (2012). She participated in the Interfaith Community Ministries Network Conference in Louisville (2003). She also organized, and presented at "A Woman's Voice" - an interfaith conference on Women speaking with authority in religious community, held at LPTS (2010).

Professor van Wijk-Bos's many presentations, besides at learned societies in the U.S. and abroad, include the following venues: St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, North Carolina (Visiting Lecturer and Consultant, 2004); Knox Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati ("The Life of Holiness and Intimate Relations," 2005), Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia ("The Politics of Otherness," the William E. Phipps Religion and Philosophy Interdisciplinary Lecture, 2007); Interfaith conference at University of Lund, Lund, Sweden, 2011 ("Stereotyping the Other"); Protestant Faculty at Montpellier, lectures on the Bible in the Art of the Renaissance ("La Terre Promise – Une Utopie?" and "La Bible dans l'art de la Renaissance: Visages Féminins" January, 2013); University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina ("A Call to Attention: the Legacy of Compassionate Biblical Faith," - Plenary Address at Interfaith Conference and Frank B. Hall McGovern Lectureship, 2013). In the context of a Symposium "Land, Text and Self-Understanding, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden ("Border Crossing: Reading Rahab" (2016); Public Lecture at the Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem, Israel ("Legacies of Compassion," 2016); Lecturer and class presenter at Monmouth

College: Monmouth, Illinois (“Border Crossings: Encountering the Other in Text and Temple,” October 2017).

Professor van Wijk-Bos has been a core member of *The Salaam Network (TSN)* set up in 2016 in Louisville. It comprises educators, writers, artists, and peace-and-justice activists committed to countering Islamophobia and other manifestations of bigotry, hatred and mistrust in Louisville by disseminating accurate information about relevant subjects including the three Abrahamic faiths, and important contemporary issues such as those relating to women and the LGBTQ community.

In 2017, she participated in *TSN’s* Women’s Planning Group, and also made presentations representing a Christian perspective in the following programs: An Interfaith Presentation on “*Inheriting Abraham: One Ancestral Family: Three Faiths: An exploration of the legacy of Abrahamic tradition in Judaism, Christianity and Islam,*” at The Temple - Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom (April 2017) and also at St. Andrew United Church of Christ (May 2017); Class on “Women and Gender Studies” and a Community-Wide Panel-Presentation on *Crucial Contemporary Issues for Women in the Three Abrahamic Traditions*, at Bellarmine University (September 2017); an Interfaith Workshop on “*Challenges for Women: Enduring Wisdom from the Native American, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Traditions,*” at St. Agnes Church (October 2017). Her presentation was entitled “Biblical Texts: Barriers and Liberation”; Class in the Veritas course, *Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Confrontations with Modernity* at Bellarmine University, (March 2020). Her presentation was entitled “A Wrinkle in the Fabric: Women in Christian Tradition”.