Practical Theology: A New Approach

Practical Theology—Marcel Viau 1999

Why speak about a new practical theology, when practical theology seems to be as old as theology itself? Is another "new approach" really necessary? The work aims to set practical theology on a new foundation as it explores the discipline’s modes of discourse, leaving aside the question of contents. Practical theology is examined from the point of view of its workings, as it attempts to grasp and give account of faith practices. In the course of this examination, questions relative to the linguistic apparatus are raised. Is this apparatus always coherent? Does it allow for the creation of a relevant theological discourse? On what philosophical traditions does it depend? Experience, language and belief are key notions around which the whole system revolves. The perspective adopted here is largely indebted to contemporary American philosophy. Pragmatism (Peirce, James, Dewey, Rorty) and Analytic philosophy (Quine, Goodman, Putnam, Davidson) are employed in a quest for new epistemological footings. While the result is at times disconcerting, it brings with it a surprisingly rich contribution to reflection in the field. This book offers theologians a tool which allows them to construct theological discourses which are anchored in faith practices. It fills a void in contemporary theology. Many theologians, no longer content to simply teach at a university, have chosen to work in close collaboration with church congregations, and with group sessions in regard to the group relationships between religion and society. Up to this point, theologians such as these have not had the tools at their disposal which would allow them to take account of their own practices. Opening out into many fields, "Practical Theology. A New Approach" will also be of interest to any researcher, philosopher or scientist, who is interested in the questions surrounding the construction of discourse based on human practices, whatever their provenance.

The Shape of Practical Theology—Ray S. Anderson 2001-01-31

Ray S. Anderson lays out a new and renewing theological foundation for engaging in Christian ministry. Illuminated by discussion and case studies, he shows how a biblically informed approach addresses real issues in Christ’s power. Pastoral Theology from a Global Perspective—Henry S. Wilson 2005-01-17

Multi-cultural and global in design, ‘Pastoral Theology from a Global Perspective’ brings concrete and applicable resources to Christian leaders around the world who are struggling with problems of pastoral care. This practical, easy-to-use approach to pastoral theology is designed to hone pastoral skills in five central areas: the role of women in church and society - empowering marginalized peoples - economic justice and ecology - reconciliation and peacemaking - caring for human needs. Fifteen case studies, accompanied by teaching notes and case studies, illustrate the diversity and commonalities of pastoral care in different parts of the world: an ordained Indian woman assigned as an associate pastor is threatened by male church members who say she is not permitted to preach from the pulpit or serve the Eucharist; missionaries to Haiti face critical decisions about supplying chemical fertilizer to a destitute hillside village; a Hispanic community considers illegally occupying a government nature reserve to save their community sheep herd; a Ugandan pastor deals with violence and healing in a community struggling to recover from civil war.

The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology—Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore 2011-12-27

Through a series of essays contributed by leading experts in the field, The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology presents an introduction to practical theology as a major area of Christian study and practice, including an overview of its key developments, themes, methods, and future directions. The first comprehensive reference work to provide a survey, description and analysis of practical theology as an area of study A range of leading scholars in the field provide original contributions on the major areas, issues, and figures in practical theology Reviews an extensive range of methods for studying theology in practice, along with sub-disciplines in theological education such as pastoral care and preaching Covers developments in the discipline in a range of global contexts and distinct Christian traditions Shows how practical theology is relevant to everyday life Along with sub-disciplines in theological education such as pastoral care and preaching Covers developments in the discipline in a range of global contexts and distinct Christian traditions Shows how practical theology is relevant to everyday life

Opening the Field of Practical Theology—Kathleen A. Cahalan 2014-04-10

Opening the Field of Practical Theology introduces students to practical theology through an examination of fifteen different approaches—ranging from feminist to liberationist, Roman Catholic to evangelical, Asian American to Latin/o. After an introduction to the field of practical theology and its broad range of practice today, the book features chapters written by leading experts in the discipline. Each chapter has an identical structure to facilitate comparison, covering historical context, key features and figures, norms and sources of authority, theory-practice, contexts, interdisciplinary considerations, areas of current and future research, and suggested readings. Opening the Field of Practical Theology is an ideal introduction to the field, highlighting the diverse ways practical theology is engaged today.

Practical Theology in Church and Society—Joseph E. Bush Jr. 2016-07-20

The church exists in the world, and our ministry is inextricably social in nature. Practical theology takes this seriously and asks us to reflect on our practice of ministry in both church and society. This book attends to our practice as individuals in ministry, to our corporate practice as congregations in ministry, and to our practice as Christians within the wider social and natural world. Practical Theology in Church and Society brings into sharper focus two perspectives on practical theology. One is the view through the wide-angle lens of justice-oriented action, which hopes for liberation. This view encompasses a broad vista of social forces for justice and injustice when evaluating local movements and local ministries. The other perspective takes the narrower focus of the action-reflection model as it is used to zoom in on individual actions and particular practices of ministry such as pastoral care. The purpose of the book is to integrate these two perspectives on practical theology. It explicates a cyclical method for doing theology that has corollaries within the disciplines of practical theology, liberation theology, missiology, congregation studies, and ministerial leadership. The volume provides resources for developing more socially and ecologically engaged ministries, and it draws implications for ministerial education.

Practical Theology and Qualitative Research—second edition—John Swinton 2016-10-30

Practical Theology is a growing discipline in its own right, and the latest thinking in practical theology; of how to use theological learning in practical situations, is fully explored in this new edition of an established textbook. The authors examine methodologies of the social sciences and questions how they can enable the task of theological reflection; examine the relationship between qualitative and quantitative methods and highlight the significance of both for the task of practical theology. They also take the reader through the actual process of developing and carrying out a research project using the author’s own research as case study examples. Practical Theology and Qualitative Research is an ideal introductory text for the novice researcher, as well as a valuable reference book for the more experienced researcher. In addition, the book offers theologians a tool which allows them to construct theological discourses which are anchored in faith practices. It fills a void in contemporary theology. Why speak about a new practical theology, when practical theology seems to be as old as theology itself? Is another "new approach" really necessary? The work aims to set practical theology on a new foundation as it explores the discipline’s modes of discourse, leaving aside the question of contents. Practical theology is examined from the point of view of its workings, as it attempts to grasp and give account of faith practices. In the course of this examination, questions relative to the linguistic apparatus are raised. Is this apparatus always coherent? Does it allow for the creation of a relevant theological discourse? On what philosophical traditions does it depend? Experience, language and belief are key notions around which the whole system revolves. The perspective adopted here is largely indebted to contemporary American philosophy. Pragmatism (Peirce, James, Dewey, Rorty) and Analytic philosophy (Quine, Goodman, Putnam, Davidson) are employed in a quest for new epistemological footings. While the result is at times disconcerting, it brings with it a surprisingly rich contribution to reflection in the field.
the many large and small stories that make up the discourse embedded in our multi-sensory social experience. It is this postmodern understanding of identity and reality that has prompted the authors to fashion a new way of thinking about doing research in faith communities today, particularly through a Doctor of Ministry program. It is our belief that, in order for faith communities to define themselves and to know what to do in ministry, they must first understand the multiple stories which intersect with a given ministry situation in their specific context.

Practical Theology and Qualitative Research: John Swinton 2016-11-03 Practical Theology and Qualitative Research examines methodologies of the social sciences and questions how they can enable the task of theological reflection. The authors offer the latest thinking on how to use theological learning in practical situations.

Consensus and Conflict-Kenda Creasy Dean 2019-05-15 Most students of practical theology recognize Richard R. Osmer as the originator of the “consensus model” of practical theology, one of the most accessible and widely used models of practical theological model in the world. Yet Osmer’s influence extends beyond practical theological method. Over his long career, his writing and teaching spanned Christian education, youth ministry, and evangelism as well as, giving each of these congregational practices new theological substance. A pastor as well as a scholar at heart, Osmer writes with the American congregation in mind, insisting on making theology central to every Christian practice. Consensus and Conflict traces Osmer’s multi-faceted intellectual career from his days as seminarian through his professorate at Princeton Theological Seminary and his role in the founding of the International Academy of Practical Theology. These themes unfold against the backdrop of ecclesial change that Osmer barely anticipated as a young pastor in New England and western North Carolina. The contributors to this volume bear witness to Osmer’s indebtedness to several colleagues like Moloney, his longstanding interest in mission, his involvement in redemptive agriculture to church planting, and his deep hope that the theological disciplines will play a more vital role in practical theology’s future.

Practical Theology in Progress-Nigel Rooms 2020-06-30 Practical Theology has emerged as an important discipline in recent decades, making a major contribution both in the academy and amongst reflective practitioners on the ground. The Journal Practical Theology celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2018 and this book presents ten journal articles chosen from over 180 that were published in that period. Reflecting on the progress the discipline has made and indicating some future directions in the field, the book is a showcase of examples of good practical theology utilising a wide range of methodologies and written by an interesting cross-section of authors from a variety of backgrounds. This is a book which answers the question ‘what is practical theology?’ with real live examples that are accessible, readable and engaging.

From Strength to Strength-Robert London Smith 2007 Drawing on his experience as a member of the clergy and the questions and concerns that arose in the course of ministering to congregants, Robert London Smith, Jr. explores exactly what function the black church performs and, importantly, why. In this provocative and carefully crafted book, Smith is less authenticating the black church than constructive today because it can be understood by certain values and meanings that are themselves rooted in a historical black thematic universe that is fading and being replaced by a new set of values and meanings located within a contemporary black thematic universe. Using a practical theology method, Smith develops a theological framework (context-praxis) to create an approach to understanding and creating an informed praxis for the black church. He then sets forth a bold project that calls for the critical engagement of black church praxis and what he calls the black thematic universe in its historical and contemporary manifestations. The goal is to transform this praxis so that it remains authentic to the Gospel and the religious traditions and history of those who come to interpret and live out its message in the world, while being relevant to the issues and challenges of the present historical context in which the black church lives out its meaning and purpose, and constructive for the building up and equipping of the Body of Christ. Smith’s creation of a black existential and theological hermeneutic is an approach that moves toward the realization of this ambitious goal.

This book challenges many traditional views of black church praxis, including pastoral care, worship, and fellowship, and creates a space for a renewed and much-needed dialogue about the acts of the black church within contemporary America. As such, it is an important text for students of practical theology, African American studies, and American religion as well as those interested in developing a critical understanding of the implications of the intersection of faith and culture.

Postfundamentalist Reflections in Practical Theology-Brian C. Macallan 2014-06-09 Postfundamentalist Reflections in Practical Theology seeks to explore the implications of a Postfundamentalist theology for the discipline of Practical Theology. While moving beyond the modernist and postmodernist debates, it charts a way forward for a theology that is bound by neither relativism nor certainty. It believes that Practical Theology is well suited to this task by its very nature and methodology.

The Encyclopedia of Christianity-Jan Lochman 2005 Containing more than 300 articles, covering the alphabetical entries P-Sh, this book also includes articles on significant topics ranging from Paul, political theology and the Qur'an, to religious liberty, salvation history and scholasticism.

Practical Theology-Mark J. Cartledge 2012-04-04 Mark Cartledge’s book is unique in integrating charismatic and empirical perspectives in practical theology. It exemplifies both qualitative and quantitative methods of research, and suggests a way forward for the emerging field of charismatic theology. In part one, Cartledge offers a proposal for the development of a charismatic practical theology. He surveys the different models of the interaction of practical theology and social sciences and defends one that is consistent with charismatic spirituality. The section also explores how charismatic spirituality affects theories of truth and knowledge by making testimony an integrating center, before concluding with a clear explanation of the methods of research employed. Part two progresses into six empirical studies on charismatic worship, glossolalia and postmodernity, women and prophetic activity, the Toronto Blessing, healing, and socialization. Each chapter of this important book ends with a methodological reflection and suggestions from renewed theological praxis, enforcing the values of such methods of study for a clearer understanding of charismatic Christianity.

Qualitative Research for Practical Theology-Pavel Zubkov 2021-04 Qualitative research fits naturally within the field of practical theology as it delves deeper into the essence of human experience and the meaning of lived experiences. With a great diversity of data collection and analysis methods, it provides a wide spectrum of resources to evaluate, explore, and understand and address issues related to practice, context, and application of Christian faith to everyday life. It is highly flexible in dealing with multiple data sources to ensure the multidimensional perspective of the issue under exploration. This book is an indispensable tool for Christian researchers as it presents a balanced approach to a practical research from several perspectives. It brings together the strengths of social science research methodologies and practical theology. Moreover, this book guides the researchers step by step through the process of qualitative research from conceptualizing the study to collecting, analyzing, interpreting data, and reporting the results. Graduate and doctoral students, as well as novice and experienced qualitative researchers in practical theology will find this book very useful, user-friendly, and practical. To make writing the dissertation project a successful enterprise, the book provides essential exemplars of various parts of the research paper. Last, the book provides several illustrations in different chapters.

Practical Theology and Qualitative Research-John Swinton 2016-11-03 Practical Theology and Qualitative Research examines methodologies of the social sciences and questions how they can enable the task of theological reflection. The authors offer the latest thinking on how to use theological learning in practical situations.

Qualitative Research for Practical Theology-Pavel Zubkov 2021-04 Qualitative research fits naturally within the field of practical theology as it delves deeper into the essence of human experience and the meaning of lived experiences. With a great diversity of data collection and analysis methods, it provides a wide spectrum of resources to evaluate, explore, and understand and address issues related to practice, context, and application of Christian faith to everyday life. It is highly flexible in dealing with multiple data sources to ensure the multidimensional perspective of the issue under exploration. This book is an indispensable tool for Christian researchers as it presents a balanced approach to a practical research from several perspectives. It brings together the strengths of social science research methodologies and practical theology. Moreover, this book guides the researchers step by step through the process of qualitative research from conceptualizing the study to collecting, analyzing, interpreting data, and reporting the results. Graduate and doctoral students, as well as novice and experienced qualitative researchers in practical theology will find this book very useful, user-friendly, and practical. To make writing the dissertation project a successful enterprise, the book provides essential exemplars of various parts of the research paper. Last, the book provides several illustrations in different chapters.

Practical Theology-Courteney Goto 2018-08-30 In Taking on Practical Theology, Courtney T. Goto explores the regnant paradigm that shapes knowledge production and that preserves power, privilege, and historic communal injury even as scholars intend to enlighten and transform communities.

Salvation as Praxis-Wayne Morris 2013-12-19 Will people of other faiths be ‘saved’ and to what extent should the response to this question shape Christian engagements with people of other faiths? Historically, the predominant answer to these questions has been that the person of another faith will not be saved and is therefore in need of conversion to Christianity for their salvation to be possible. Consequently, it has been understood to be the obligation of Christian persons to convert people of other faiths. More recent theologies of religions for the past half century and more have sought to reconsider these approaches to soteriology. This has sometimes led to a reaffirmation of the status quo and at other times to an alternative soteriological understanding. In seeking to articulate soteriologies that make logical and doctrinal sense, too often these new approaches to salvation and people of other faiths have put little attention to questions of practice. Drawing on alternative understandings of soteriology as deification, healing, and liberation, each perspective having ancient roots in the Christian tradition, it is argued that salvation can be understood as form of concrete earthly practice. Understood in this way, this book considers how these alternative theologies of salvation might shape Christian practices.
in a way that departs from a history in which the person of another faith has been perceived as a threat to Christianity and therefore in need of conversion. Further it asks how the complex multi-faith world of the twenty-first century might better inform and shape the way in which Christian theologians frame soteriological understandings.

Christian Education and the Emerging Church-Rev. Dr. Wendi Sargeant 2015-07-24 All signs point to Christian education having lost its theological location and prominence in the life of the Western Protestant church. The Emerging Church movement, as an intentionally postmodern approach to ministry in the contemporary context, may, however, offer insights to reinterpret Christian education. This significant movement in today's church gives Christian education a new interpretive framework that is theologically located at an intersection of doxology and doctrine. In her examination of postmodern faith formation, Wendi Sargeant explores the importance of the Christian worshipping community as the most appropriate setting for Christian education. Practitioners and students will benefit from the ready-to-use teaching and learning matrix, and all those with interest in the formation of faith in themselves and others will draw much from the way Sargeant situates worship as the basis for enhancing Christian formation and ethos.

Pastoral Theology and Care-Nancy J. Ramsay 2018-03-19 Leading pastoral theologians explore a wide variety of themes related to pastoral practice. Pastoral Theology and Care: Critical Trajectories in Theory and Practice offers a collection of essays by leading pastoral theologians that represent emerging trajectories in the fields of pastoral theology and care. The topics explored include: qualitative research and ethnography, advances in neuroscience, care across pluralities and intersections in religion and spiritualities, the influence of neoliberal economics in socio-economic violinism, gender, theory and religion in caring for black women, and the usefulness of intersectionality for pastoral practice. Each of the essays offers a richly illustrated review of a practice of pastoral care relationally and in the public domain. The contributions to this volume engage seven critical directions emerging in the literature of pastoral theology in the United States and internationally among pastoral and practical theologians. While coverage of these topics does not exhaust important points of activity in the field, it does represent especially promising resources for theory and practice. This important work: Offers unique coverage of new directions in the field Includes contributions from an exceptional group of experts who are noted leaders in their areas of study Introduces the newest perspectives on pastoral care and offers constructive proposals Filled with case illustrations that make chapters pedagogically useful, Pastoral Theology and Care is essential reading for faculty, seminarians and students in advanced degree programs, and pastors.

Pastoral Care, Health, Healing, and Wholeness in African Contexts-Tapiwa N. Mucherera 2017-02-28 Pastoral theologians from Congo, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe address, in this book, the issues of leadership, Ubuntu (community), gender-based violence, political violence, healing, and deliverance faced by pastors and ministers in African contexts today. Drawing on biblical, theological, social scientific, and cultural contextual perspectives, these African Christians offer much needed insights to assist in the care and counseling of persons towards healing, health, and well-being.

Practical Theology and Pierre-André Liégé-Nicholas Bradbury 2016-03-03 Pierre-André Liégé, one of the foremost French theologians of the 20th century, inducted John XXIII and Paul VI, and sat on Vatican II committees with both the future John Paul II and Benedict VI. Fifty years on from Vatican II is a good time to remember the decade of dramatic struggle and pioneering work that preceded it, and review what it accomplished. This book explores the life and work of Pierre-André Liégé, presenting it to an English speaking readership for the first time. Discussing the impact and profound challenges Liégé's work raises for spirituality and church life today, Bradbury tackles issues including: the organisation of parish life rooted in theological criteria; cradle to grave corporate Christian formation; a compelling vision of what the church is for and why, and how should this be expressed in practice. Bradbury argues that for faith to match real life, the church today needs to let go of much baggage, align its talk to its action, and radically re-examine the question of what the church needs to do to conform to the Gospel. This book takes critical issues confronting practical theology and the church, breaking them open in a lively and accessible style.

Faith-Gerrit Immink 2005 Addressing faith as it is lived, rather than as a system of doctrine, F. Gerrit Immink emphasizes that having faith means more than assenting to certain opinions about God; it involves a dynamic relationship, or dialogue, with God. As he investigates the practice of faith, Immink holds together the poles of divine activity and human experience, external Word and indwelling Spirit. At its heart, this book is about God. How can faithful people speak about God and understand God's presence? Well versed in both philosophical analysis and the theological tradition, the author argues for an understanding of God as a speaking, acting person, genuinely experienced in faith. In so doing, he issues a compelling plea to reevaluate the theoretical foundations of practical theology. Applying his work particularly to the theories of preaching and pastoral care, Immink brings to bear insights garnered from years as an academic theologian, as the dean of a theological seminary, and as a minister. Scholars, ministers, and seminary students alike will benefit from his careful reflections on the Christian life of faith.

Keeping Faith in Practice-James Sweeney 2013-02-12 Keeping Faith in Practice is an addition to SCM's growing Practical and Pastoral Theology list. Most books in this field are written by authors from various Protestant backgrounds. Catholic teachers in this field are frequently asked by colleagues for suggestions of Catholic resources, and find themselves at a loss. The central subject of this book is an exploration of how theology engages with the dimension of practice in the life of the Church and contemporary society and culture. The book covers the main focal points of a Catholic view of pastoral/practical theology - its foundations and different fields.

Pastoral Theology for Public Ministry-Stephen Burns 2015-10-10 What does it mean to be engaged in Christian ministry in a shifting spiritual and religious landscape? Stephen Burns invites readers to think anew about the distinctiveness of public practices of pastoral presence. Rather than narrowly defining pastoral care and pastoral theology (pastoral counseling, preaching, youth groups, visits to elders, etc.) and theological academic categories (history, pastoral theology, liturgy, ethics and contemporary sociology), he argues for a new imagination and practice of pastoral presence - a presence that is representative, public, integrated, and expansive. * Financial wellness book for individuals; views financial planning and decision-making through the lens of personal spirituality * Respected workshop leader and CREDO faculty member * Study guide included The Mediation of the Spirit-Mark Cartledge 2015-07-22 How might a distinctively Pentecostal and charismatic theological perspective inform and enrich the discourse of academic practical theology? In order to address that question, Mark Cartledge in this book probes the relationship between Spirit, experience, and the Holy Spirit by means of the concept of mediation - that is, how the divine is experienced in the world. An expert in both Pentecostal theology and practical theology, Cartledge offers a unique intervention into practical theology through the lens of the Holy Spirit. He presents an original reading of Pentecost and the Spirit-reception texts in the book of Acts and engages with current literature in both Pentecostal studies and practical theology. Further, Cartledge places his whole discussion within a broader Protestant theological framework, and he interrogates an existing congregational study to provide a real-life example of theological intervention.

New Dictionary of Christian ethics & pastoral theology-DAVID J ATKINSON 2020-05-21 This dictionary breaks new ground by combining articles on pastoral care and offers constructive proposals Filled with case illustrations that make chapters pedagogically useful, New Dictionary of Christian ethics & pastoral theology is essential reading for faculty, seminarians and students in advanced degree programs, and pastors.
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