

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
John Gordon Melton

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**Personal**

Born: September 19, 1942

Address: Institute for Studies of Religion  
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**Education**

Birmingham-Southern College (1964--A.B.) in geology; minor in philosophy/religion

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (1968--M.Div.) with concentration in ancient Church history

While at Garrett named:

Howes Memorial Scholar -- 1964-65  
Bloomquist Memorial Scholar -- 1965-66  
Honors Scholar -- 1966-67  
Highest Honor's Scholar -- 1967-69  
Graduated in 1968 with Distinction in Honors at the head of the M.Div. class

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University (1975--Ph.D.) in the history and literature of religion with a concentration in American Church history and minors in American intellectual history and American Protestant theology.

While in the Ph.D. program, named:

John H. Morava Scholar -- 1968-69

**Professional Career**

2011-present	Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University
2009-2011	Distinguished Senior Fellow at Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas
1980-present	Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion, Waco, TX
1990-2011	Research Specialist, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
1989-1990	Senior Research Associate, Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, Santa Barbara, California
1985-1990	Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara

- 1971-80                      Various pastoral and administrative positions, part-time student and part-time Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion
- 1968-1971                    Student, full-time
- 1968                            Ordained elder in the United Methodist Church  
 Founded the Institute for the Study of American Religion, Evanston Illinois

American Academy of Religion. Member 1977-present.  
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Member 1975-present.  
 Society for Pentecostal Studies, 2013-present  
 Advisory Board of *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*. Member 2013-present.  
 Board of International Society for the Study of New Religions. Member 2013-present.

### Teaching Experience:

- 2011-present                Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University  
 1990-2010                    Research Specialist, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
- 1985-1990                    Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara
- 1986-1989                    Lecturer, Ernest Holmes College, Los Angeles
- 1982-                            Visiting lecturer, winter session, Loyola University, Chicago
- 1981-                            Visiting lecturer, summer session, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- 1971-                            Visiting lecturer, summer session, University of San Francisco
- 1968-70                        Graduate teaching assistant, Garrett Theological Seminary

### Publications and Papers

#### Books:

- Faiths across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History*. 4 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2014.
- African American Methodists in the Antebellum and Reconstruction Periods: A Timetable, 1760-1876*. 2013. Posted at: <http://www.historicstgeorges.org/african-american-methodists>.
- Religious Celebrations: An Encyclopedia of Holidays, Festivals, Solemn Observances, and Spiritual Commemorations*. 2 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2011. 1036 pp.
- Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices*. With Martin Baumann. 6 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, Rev. edition, 2010.
- Melton's Encyclopedia of American Religion*. Detroit: Gale/Cengage Learning, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. 2009. 1386 pp.
- Spiritual Pathways: Hong Kong. A Directory of Hong Kong's Religious and Spiritual Communities*. With Edward Irons. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute for Culture, Commerce, and Religion/Santa Barbara, CA: Institute for the Study of American Religion, 2008. 191 pp.
- Nelson's Handbook of Denominations*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007. 620 pp.
- A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. 315 pp.
- Os Meninos de Dios "A Familia"*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2007. 130 pp.
- The Encyclopedia of Religious Phenomena*. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 2007. 380 pp.

- Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. New York: Facts on File, 2005. 628 pp. Rpt.: New York: Checkmark Books, 2008. 628 pp.
- Reiki: tecnica o religione?* With Andrea Menegotto. Torino, Italy: Elledici, 2005. 120 pp.
- The Family/The Children of God*. Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 2004. 102 pp.
- L'Eglise de Scientologie*. Torino, Italy: Elledici, 2002. 102 pp.
- Cults, Religion and Violence*. With David G. Bromley. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002. 272 pp.
- Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices*. With Martin Baumann. 4 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2002. Rev. edition: 2010. 6. Vols.
- Protestant Faith in America*. New York: Facts on Files, 2002. 128 pp.
- The Church of Scientology*. Salt Lake City, UT: Signature Books, 2000. 80 pp.
- American Religion: An Illustrated History*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2000. 316 pp.
- Gehirnwäsche und Secten. Interdisziplinäre Annäherungen*. Edited with Massimo Introvigne. Marburg, Germany: Dialogonal-Verlag, 2000.
- Ninos de Dios. Secta o Movimiento Religioso, "The Family"?* Bogota, Columbia: Paulinas, 1999. 104 pp.
- A Scuola di illuminazione, gli insegnamenti dell'accademia di scienze spirituali di Ramtha*. Cesena, Italy: Macro Edizioni, 1999. 257 pp.
- Finding Enlightenment: Ramtha's School of Ancient Wisdom*. Hillsboro, OR: Beyond Words, 1998. 216 pp.
- La Chiesa di Scientology [The Church of Scientology]*. Torino: Editrice Elle di ci, 1998. 93 pp. (Reprinted in English and French editions)
- International Directory of the World's Religions: Canada*. Chicago: Institute for World Spirituality, 1998. 151 pp. With James Beverley.
- Prime-Time Religion*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1997. 413 pp. Co-authored with Phillip Charles Lucas and Jon R. Stone.
- Dai Bambino di Dio a The Family [The Children of God/The Family]*. Torino: Editrice Elle di ci, 1997. 76 pp. (Reprinted in Spanish, English, Portuguese and Japanese editions)
- Pour en finir avec les sectes: Le débat sur le rapport de la commission parlementaire*. Turin: CESNUR/Milan: Giovanni, 1996. 355 pp. Second edition: Paris: Dervy, 1996. 355 pp. Third edition: Paris Éditions Dervy, 1996. 335 pp. Co-edited with Massimo Introvigne.
- Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 4th ed., 1996. 1511 pp. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale Group, 2001. 2 vols. 1939 pp.
- Church Universal and Triumphant In Scholarly Perspective*. Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994. 160 pp. Co-edited with James R. Lewis.
- Politics of the Spirit: Religion and Multiethnicity in Los Angeles*. Los Angeles: University of Southern California, 1994. 42 pp. With John B. Orr, Donald E. Miller, and Wade Clark Roof.
- Sex, Slander and Salvation: Investigating The Family/Children of God*. Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994. 288 pp. Co-edited with James R. Lewis.
- Encyclopedia of African American Religion*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1993. 926 pp. Co-edited with Larry Murphy and Gary L. Ward.

*National Directory of Churches, Synagogues, and Other Houses of Worship*. 4 vols. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1993.

*Religious Information Sourcebook*. New York: Garland Publishing, Religious Information Systems, 1992. 569 pp. With Michael A. Koszegi

*Directory of Religious Organizations*. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1992. 800 pp.

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*Perspectives on the New Age*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1992. 369 pp. Co-edited with James R. Lewis

*New Age Almanac*. Detroit, MI: Visible Ink, 1991. 479 pp. With Aidan A. Kelly and Jerome Clark.

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*Planning and Program Priorities for the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church: A Report on a Survey of the Churches*. Chicago: Long Range Planning Committee of the Northern Illinois Conference, 1984. 15 pp.

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*An Old Catholic Sourcebook*. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 1982. 400 pp. With Karl Pruter.

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*The Encyclopedia of American Religions*. Wilmington, NC: Consortium Books, 1978. 2 vols.; Supplement. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1985. 177 pp. 2nd Edition: Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1987. 899 pp; 3rd Edition: Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1988. 1102 pp. Rpt.: New York: Triumph Books, 1991. 3 vols. 4th Edition: Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1992. 1217 pp. 5th Edition: Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1996. 6th edition: Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1998. 1243 pp. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: Detroit: Thomson/Gale, 2003. 1408 pp. 8<sup>th</sup> edition revised as *Melton's Encyclopedia of American Religion*. Detroit: Gale/Cengage Learning, 2009. 1386 pp.

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"Religious Pluralism: Problems and Prospects." *Brigham Young University Law Review* 2001, 2 (2001): 619-629.

"Emerging Religious Movements in North America: Some Missiological Reflections." *Missiology: An International Review* 28, 1 (January 2000): 85-98.

"Anti-cultists in the United States." In Bryan Wilson and Jamie Cresswell, eds. *New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response*. London: Routledge, 1999, pp. 213-233.

- "Recent Changes in the Family." In Bertrabd Ouellet and Richard Bergeron, eds. *Croyances et sociétés*. Montreal: Éditions Fides, 1998, pp. 233-45.
- "The Emergence of New Religions in Eastern Europe Since 1989." In Eileen Barker & Margit Warburg, eds. *New Religions and New Religiosity*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 45-65.
- "The Future of the New Age Movement." In Eileen Barker & Margit Warburg, eds. *New Religions and New Religiosity*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 133-49.
- "European Receptivity to the New Religions." In Helle Meldgaard and Johannes Aagaard, eds. *New Religious Movements in Europe*. Aarhus, Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1997, pp. 18-30.
- "The Case of Edward J. Arens and the Distortion of the History of New Thought." *JSSMR: The Journal of the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion* 2, 1 (Spring 1996): 13-29.
- "Historique des associations modernes anti-sectes (aux États-Unis)." In *Les Controverses en Matière de "Sectes" ou Nouveaux Mouvements Religieux: Un Regard sur les Mouvements Anti-Sectes*. Paris: CERNUR France, 1996, pp. 1-22.
- "New Thought's Hidden History: Emma Curtis Hopkins, Forgotten Founder." *JSSMR: The Journal of the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion* 1, 1 (Spring 1995): 5-40.
- "The Changing Scene of New Religious Movements: Observations from a Generation of Research." *Social Compass* 42, 2 (June 1995): 265-276.
- "The Contactees: A Survey." In James R. Lewis, ed. *The Gods Have Landed: New Religions from Other Worlds*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995.
- "Whither the New Age?" In Timothy Miller, ed. *America's Alternative Religions*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1995.
- "New Japanese Religions in the United States." In Peter B. Clarke and Jeffery Somers, eds. *Japanese New Religions in the West*. Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent, UK: Japan Library, 1994. With Constance Jones.
- "Sexuality and the Maturation of the Family." In James R. Lewis and J. Gordon Melton, eds. *Sex, Slander and Salvation: Investigating The Family/Children of God*. Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994.
- "The Family: Where Does It Fit?" In James R. Lewis and J. Gordon Melton, eds. *Sex, Slander and Salvation: Investigating The Family/Children of God*. Stanford, CA: Center for Academic Publication, 1994.
- "Paschal Beverly Randolph: America's Pioneer Occultist." In Jean-Baptiste Martin and Françoise LaPlantine, eds. *Le Défi Magique*. Lyon, France: Presses Universitaires de Lyon, 1994. Pp. 115-29.
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### Microfilm Publications

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 2: Nontraditional American Religions: Eastern Religions: Buddhism, Shintoism and Japanese New Religions*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2007. 47 reels.

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 3: Nontraditional American Religions-Eastern Religions: Hinduism, Hindu/Yoga, Jainism, Sikhism, and Sant Mat*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2007. 52 reels.

"Introduction." *American Religions Collection - Series 1: Non-Traditional American Religions: Western Esotericism from Witchcraft to the New Age*. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2006. 85 reels.

### Papers:

"Revisionism in the New Age Movement." A paper presented at the XXI Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions held at the University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany, August 23-28, 2015.

"Placing Eddy in the Historical Flow: The Role of the Key to the Scriptures." A paper presented at the conference on The Evolutions of Christian Science in Scholarly Perspective, Faculty of Comparative Studies of Religions, Antwerp, Belgium, April 23-24, 2015

"One Hundred Years of Texas Pentecostal History, 1914-2014." A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Lakeland Florida, March 12-14, 2015.

"The Uniquely Texas Religions of the Lone Star State." A paper presented at the Texas State Historical Association, meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, March 5-7, 2015.

"Getting the Big Picture of American Religion," "The Unique Course of Texas Religion," "African American Methodism," and "Unbelief in American," Lectures delivered at the annual Institute on American Society and Culture, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, December 7-13, 2014.

"American Religion: Getting the Big Picture." Keynote address for the 11th annual American Studies Network Conference, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, December 5-6, 2014.

"Apparitions and the Rise of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church." A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 22-25, 2014.

"The 'Nones' Shall Always Be with Us: Towards a Historical Perspective on the Growth of Unbelief in America." A paper presented at the 3rd International Conference of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network, Claremont, California, November 19-20, 2014.

"The Nones Shall Always Be with Us—Toward an Historical Perspective on Unbelief in America." A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 31-November 2, 2014

"New Religions and the California Dream" A paper presented on the occasion of the Opening of the Spirit Lab, an exhibit on New Religious Thought in California, San Diego State University, October 22, 2014.

“The End of Religion in America?” Presented as the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual John R. Adams Lecture in the Humanities, San Diego State University, October 21, 2014.

“Financing New Religions in Contemporary America.” A paper presented at the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture European workshop, St Chad’s College, University of Durham, Durham, England, September 5-6, 2014.

“The Uniquely Texan Religions of the Lone Star State.” A presentation at the 2014 CESNUR Conference, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, June 4, 2014.

“The Injection of Pentecostalism into China, 1907-1917.” A paper presented at the conference on The Globalisation of Christianity in China held at the Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester, England, May 15-16, 2014.

“New Religions and Sects: the Supermarket of Religion.” A paper presented at the International Congress on “Listening to America: Encounter among Peoples, Cultures, and Religions. Pathways to the future, held at the Pontificia Università Urbaniana, Rome, Italy, April 7-9, 2014.

“The Threat of Atheism” A lecture presented at Chapman University, Orange, California, March 20, 2014.

“Texas as Pentecostalism’s Second Birthplace.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri, March 6-8, 2014.

“On Doing Research on Scientology: Prospects and Pitfalls,” A paper presented at “Scientology in Scholarly Perspective,” an International Conference on the Study of Scientology, held at the Faculty of Comparative Studies of Religions, Antwerpen, Belgium, January 24-25, 2014.

“New Religions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Where have all the cults gone?” Keynote address at the conference on “New Religions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Where have all the ‘cults’ gone?” University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, May 10, 2013.

“The Liberal Catholics: The Western Ecclesial Branch of Blavatsky’s Children.” A paper presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> Congress of the l’Association Française d’Etudes Américaines, Angers, France, May 22-25, 2013.

“Texas Pentecostalism: A Test Case for the Definition of New Religions.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR), Solna, Sweden, June 21-24, 2013.

“Today’s NRM—Tomorrow’s Religions.” A paper presented at the International Society for Sociology of Religion, Turku University, Turku, Finland, June 27-30, 2013.

“Reflections on Forty-five Years of Methodist Research.” A paper for the 2013 meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, September 13, 2013.

“There’s Something Different about Texas Religion: Religious Diversity in the Lone Star State.” A paper for the “Faith and Freedom in the Lone State Program, Waco, Texas, September 19, 2013.

“Chinese Pentecostalism: The Birth and Growth of a Uniquely Chinese Version of Christianity.” A paper presented at the Global Reorient: Chinese Pentecostal/Charismatic Movements in the Global East Symposium, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, October 30-31, 2013.

“If There Had Been no INFORM: Imagining a Tragedy.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 8-10, 2013.

“Reflections on American Religious Demography.” A presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland, November 23-26, 2013.

"When Science Intervenes-Revising Claims in the New Age." Paper presented at the INFORM Seminar: Changing Beliefs and Schisms in New Religious Movements, London School of Economics, December 1, 2012.

“Spiritualism in the Twentieth Century: The Changing Face of a Nineteenth-century New Religion. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 17-20, 2012. With Constance Jones.

“What the Emancipation Proclamation Means to African American Methodists." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the United Methodist African American Archives, Los Angeles, November 12-13, 2012.

“Chinese Pentecostalism: The Birth and Growth of a Uniquely Chinese Version of Christianity.” Paper presented at the Beijing Forum, Peking University, Beijing, China, November 2-4, 2012.

“Rome, Hong Kong and Tampa Bay—New Religions in Time and Space.” Keynote address for the Conference on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on new Religions: Globalization and Sustainability, University of South Florida, March 1, 2012.

“Creating a Pluralistic Religious Culture—the Role of Popular New Religion.” Keynote address at the annual Religions in Conversation Conference, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA, February 24, 2012

“Reflections on American Buddhist Demographics from the 2010 Buddhist Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2011.

“Counting Your Blessings: Healings, Miracles, and the Empirical Study of the True Jesus Church Movement in East Asia.” Co-authored with Elisa Zhai Autry. Paper presented at the annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28-30, 2011.

“Cults in China: Genuine Threat or Classification of Convenience?” A paper presented at the conference on “Religion in the Social Transition of Contemporary China” Sino-American Perspectives” held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., October 13-14, 2011.

“Emergent Atheism in Twentieth-Century North America.” With James A. Beverley. A paper presented at the Toward a Reasonable World Conference, an International Conference in Honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of Michael Servetus, San Diego State University, September 16-18, 2011.

“New New Religions in North America: The Swaminarayan Family of Religions.” Paper for International Conference of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) meeting at Aletheia University, Danshui, Taiwan, June 21-23, 2011.

“Reflections on Hindu Demographics in America: An Initial Report on the First American Hindu Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics & Culture meeting in Washington, D.C., April 7-10, 2011.

“Religious Outsiders: Looking Beyond Conventional Christian Figures Like George MacKay for Insight into Taiwanese National Identity.” Presented at the International Conference—Tamsui, Bridge Between and Beyond Origins, Inheritance, and Legacy of George Leslie Mackay, held at Aletheia University, Danshui, Taipei, Taiwan, June 9-10, 2010.

“Reflections on Buddhist Demographics in America: An Initial Report on the First American Buddhist Census.” With Constance A. Jones. A paper presented at the meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Washington, D.C., April 2-4, 2009.

“Forty Years of the Institute for the Study of American Religion.” A paper presented at the International Conference of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) and the Information Network Focus on Religious Movements, London School of Economics, April 16-20, 2008.

“Black Participation in the Antebellum Church: The Case of African American Methodists.” A paper presented at the meeting of the United Methodist African American Archives, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 19-20, 2008.

“History as a Factor in the Social Scientific Study of Chinese Religion” A paper presented at the Beijing Summit on Chinese Spirituality and Society, Peking University, Beijing, Peoples Republic of China, Oct. 9-10, 2008.

"From the Occult to Western Esotericism: Catching up with Changes in the New Age Movement." A paper presented at the Trinity Conference on Post Christendom Spiritualities held at Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois, Oct. 17-19, 2008.

“On Reconceptualizing Types of Religious Groups: Churches, Sects, Cults, Ethnic Churches” with David G. Bromley. A paper presented at the meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, July 30-August 2, 2008.

“ISAR and the Study of New Religions” A paper presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 1-3, 2008

“The Rise of African American Methodism, 1800-1880: An Initial Demographic Exploration.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, July 20-22, 2007, held at the National 4-H Conference Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

“Approaches to Biblical Truth: Emanuel Swedenborg, Biblical Allegory, and the New Thought Movement at the End of the Nineteenth Century.” A paper presented as the annual Urbana University Swedenborg Lecture, Urbana University, Urbana, Ohio, February 17, 2007.

“The Affirmation of Charismatic Authority: the Case of the True Buddha School.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, June 7, 2007.

“The Secret: the Largest Neo-New Age Phenomenon.” A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, June 7, 2007.

“A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Christianity.” A paper presented as the Mary Olive Woods Lecture, Western Illinois University, MaComb, Illinois, September 19, 2007.

“Pentecostalism in China: The Case of the True Jesus Church.” A paper presented at the Charles Jones Celebration held at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, February 10-11, 2006.

“An Assessment of Problems & Prospect in Understanding Violence Involving New Religious Movements.” A paper presented at a conference on Dying for Faith: Religiously Motivated Violence in the Contemporary World, held at King’s College, London, September 11-12, 2006. Co-authored with David Bromley.

“Art in Vajrayana: Some Basic Issues.” A paper presented at the conference on "Art in the Vajrayana Tradition," Taipei, Taiwan, October 23, 2005.

"Zoar United Methodist Church: The Other African Methodist Church in Antebellum Philadelphia." A paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 19-22, 2005.

"Some Indigenous Chinese Religions in the West: Case of the Local Church and the True Jesus Church." With Constance Jones. A paper presented at "Chinese Christianity on the Mainland and in Diaspora Communities" A Mini-Conference Hosted by the Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Ichigaya Campus, Tokyo, March 22-23, 2005.

"The Emergence of the Vajrayana Tradition." Presented at the Conference on the Vajrayana Tradition, Taipei, Taiwan, November 15, 2004.

"African American Methodism in the M. E. Tradition: The Case of Sharp Street (Baltimore)." Presented at the American Academy of Religion meeting in San Antonio Texas, November 20-23, 2004.

"AL-Qaeda as a New Religion." Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Ontario, November 20-23, 2002.

"Self-consciousness in the Study of New Religions." Presented at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Ministries to New Religions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky February 22-23, 2002.

"The Counter-Cult Monitoring Movement in Historical Perspective." CESNUR (Center for Studies in New Religions) Conference, Salt Lake City, June 20-22, 2002.

"Brainwashing and the Cults: The Rise and Fall of a Theory." English translation of Introduction to *Gehirnwäsche und Secten. Interdisziplinäre Annäherungen*. Edited with Massimo Introvigne. Marburg, Germany: Dialogonal-Verlag, 2000. Posted at <http://www.cesnur.org>.

"The Rise of New Religions Studies." CESNUR (Center for Studies in New Religions) Conference, Bryn Athym, Pennsylvania, June 2-5, 1999. Posted at <http://www.cesnur.org>.

"Emerging New Religions: Some Missiological Considerations." American Missiological Society, Techny, Illinois, June 18-20, 1999.

"Religious Pluralism—A Global Perspective." Presented at the conference on "Religious Liberty: International Perspectives," Brigham Young University School of Law, October 4-6, 1998, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Reiki: The International Spread of a New Age Healing Movement"

"The Modern Anti-Cult Movement in Historical Perspective." Presented at the Symposium on New Religious Movements: Challenge and Response, Institute of Oriental Philosophy European Centre, April 7-9, 1995.

"Child Abuse and the Cults" Presented at the American Psychological Association, Los Angeles, California, August 12-16, 1994.

"The Future of the New Age Movement." Presented at Rennord 94, the joint meeting of the Renner Conference on New Religions and New Religiosity and the Nordic Conference on the Sociology of Religion, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 22-25, 1994.

"The Emergence of New Religions in Eastern Europe Since 1989." Presented at Rennord 94, the joint meeting of the Renner Conference on New Religions and New Religiosity and the Nordic Conference on the Sociology of Religion, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 22-25, 1994.

"The Evangelical Thrust into Eastern Europe in the 1990s." Presented at the International Conference on "New Religions and the New Europe," London School of Economic, London, England, March 25-28, 1993.

"The Emergence of Astrology: The Case of North America." Presented at conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Budapest, Hungary, July 19-23, 1993.

"New Religious Movements and Interfaith Dialogue." Presented at the World's Parliament of Religions, August 31-September 4, 1993.

"On Doing Communal Studies in a Post-Marxist Era." Presented at the Communal Studies Society meeting at New Harmony Indiana, October 14-17, 1993.

"Child Abuse, Suicide, and the Branch Davidians." Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Washington, D.C., November 20-23, 1993.

"Toward a Spiritual Environmentalism." Presented at the conference on "Understanding and Appreciating Similarities and Differences in Religious and Spiritual Practice," Larkspur, California, February 7-8, 1992.

"Paschal Beverly Randolph: America's Pioneer Occultist." Presented at the conference on "The Challenge of Magic, Spiritualism, Satanism, and Occultism in Contemporary Societies," Lyon, France, April 6-8, 1992.

"The Rise of New Religious Movements in Europe" Presented at the Fifth Annual International Conference on New Religions, Santa Barbara, California, May 1991.

"The Case of Edward J. Arens and the Distortion of the History of New Thought." Presented at the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion, Tampa, Florida, July 20, 1991.

"But Is It Really Religion: New Religious Movements and the Problem of Religious Authenticity." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-12, 1991.

"The Emergence of New Religions in Europe." With Gary L. Ward. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-12, 1991.

"What Is a 'Cult?': A Religious Studies Perspective." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, Massachusetts, August 10-14, 1990.

"Kashi Ranch: The New Age Comes to Florida." Presented at the joint conference of the Sunstone Foundation and the Pacific Coast Chapter of the National Historical Communal Societies Association, Provo, Utah, May 4-5, 1990. Rpt. as: "Kashi: A Meeting of east and West in a "New Age" Community." Rpt. in: James R. Lewis, ed. *The Encyclopedia Sourcebook of New Age Religions*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2004, 134-49.

"New Religious Movements in America and Europe: An Overview." Presented at the International Seminar on New Religious Movements: The European Situation, Lugano, Switzerland, April 2-21, 1990.

"Edgar Cayce and Reincarnation: Past Life Readings and Religious Symbology." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.

"Research on New Religions: Needs and Prospects." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.

"New Census of Religious Groups: American Membership Trends in the Twentieth Century." With Philip Lucas. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, November 9-11, 1990.

"Prediction or Spirituality? How the New Age Has Transformed Astrology." With Shoshannah Feher. Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Virginia Beach, Virginia, November 9-11, 1990.

"Contemporary Satanic Practice." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 27-29, 1989

"New Thought and the New Age." Presented at the American Society of Church History, San Francisco, California, December 27-30, 1989.

"Edward Bellamy, Universal Brotherhood and the Theosophical Society." Presented at the meeting of the Society of Utopian Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, September 29-October 2, 1988.

"Testing the Truism about the Cults." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 19-22, 1988.

"The American Buddhist Apologetic against Christianity, 1880<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>1940." Presented at the conference on "Buddhism and Christianity: Towards the Human Future," Berkeley, California, August 10-15, 1987.

"The Communal Thrust in American Theosophy." Presented at the meeting of the National Historical Communal Societies Association, Bishop Hill, Illinois, October 15-18, 1987.

"Emma Curtis Hopkins: New Thought's Forgotten Founder." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, December 10-15, 1987.

"The Evidences of Satan in Contemporary America: A Survey." Presented at the meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Los Angeles, California, March 27-29, 1986.

"Toward the Cooperation of the Academy and the Church in Facing the New Pluralism." Presented at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, November 22-24, 1986.

"A Survey of America's Second Burst of Communalism: The Post Civil War Growth of Communes." Presented at a meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association, Amana, Iowa, October 4-7, 1984.

"The History and Function of Communes in America." Presented at a meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association, New Harmony, Indiana, October 13-16, 1983.

"The Origins of Contemporary Neo-Paganism: A Report on Research in Progress." Presented at a meeting of the Popular Culture Association held at Detroit, Michigan, April 17, 1980.

"Neo-Paganism: Report on the Survey of an Alternative Religion." Presented at a meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 30-November 2, 1980.

"Deprogramming: A Response to the Rise of the Cults." Presented at a meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 30-November 2, 1980.

"The Neo-Pagans of America: An Alternative Religion." Presented at a meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Dallas, Texas, November 5-9, 1980.

"Jim Jones, Charles Manson and the Process of Religious Group Disintegration." Presented at the meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, October 28, 1979.

"Sources and Resources for Teaching the Occult." Presented at the meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association held at Bowling Green State University, October 1976.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Besides the above-mentioned items, Dr. Melton was an Associate Editor of the *Encyclopedia of World Methodism* (Nashville, TN: Cokesbury, 1968) and contributed all the articles on sectarian Methodist groups in the United States and others on the Holiness Movement. He contributed the majority of the articles for the Department of the Army's two volumes on American religious groups prepared for their chaplains: *Religious Requirements and Practices for Certain Selected Groups, A Handbook for Chaplains* (Department of the Army, April 1978, No. 165-13, 266 pp.) and *Religious Requirements and Practices of Certain Selected Groups, A Handbook Supplement for Chaplains* (Department of the Army, April 1980, No. 165-13-1. 214 pp.). A new edition was completed in 1991.

Member of the Steering Committee of the Religion and Social Sciences of the American Academy of Religion, 1980-1981. Chairman and Respondent, session on "Religion and Social Movements," AAR, 1981. Chairman, Sessions on "New Religion" AAR, 1985. Member of the Steering Committee of the New Religions Section of the American Academy of Religion, 1986-2002, 2006-present.

Member of the National Advisory Council of the National Historical Communal Societies Association (now the Communal Studies Association), 1984-1995. President of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the National Historical



Communal Societies Association, 1985-1989. Vice-president of the Communal Studies Association 1989-92. President of the Communal Studies Association, 1992-94.

Founding member of the International Board of the Center for Studies of New Religions (CESNUR), 1989-present.

Founding member of the board of the Society for the Study of Metaphysical Religion. Associate Editor of *Theosophical History* (1990-present).

In 2013, Dr. Melton was given the Distinguished Service Award by The General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church.