

IMAGINING A WAY

*Exploring Reformed Practical
Theology and Ethics*

Edited by Clive Pearson

WJK
WESTMINSTER
JOHN KNOX PRESS
LOUISVILLE • KENTUCKY

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. For information, address Westminster John Knox Press, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1396. Or contact us online at www.wjkbooks.com.

Book design by Sharon Adams

Cover design by Marc Whitaker / MTWdesign.net

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Pearson, Clive, editor.
Title: Imagining a way : exploring reformed practical theology and ethics / Clive Pearson, editor.
Description: First edition. | Louisville, KY : Westminster John Knox Press, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
Identifiers: LCCN 2017013698 (print) | LCCN 2017031024 (ebook) | ISBN 978161648263 (ebk.) | ISBN 9780664262983 (pbk. : alk. paper)
Subjects: LCSH: Reformed Church—South Africa. | Reformed Church—Doctrines. | Christian ethics—South Africa. | Christian ethics—Reformed authors.
Classification: LCC BX9620 .I 43 2017 (print) | DDC 284/.20968—dc23
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017013698>

© The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1992.

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible are copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission.

Scripture quotations from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible are copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971, and 1973 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission.

The following chapters are published with permission:

Dirk Smit, "Could Being Reformed Have Made a Difference? On Practical Theology and Ethics in South Africa," *Essays on Being Reformed: Collected Essays 3* (Stellenbosch: African Sun MeDIA Stellenbosch, 2009), 259–74.

Piet Naudé, "The Ethical Challenge of Identity Formation and Cultural Justice in a Globalizing World," *Scriptura* 89 (2005), 536–49.

Cynthia Jarvis, "On Not Offering Psychological Banalities as God's Word: Reformed Perspectives on Pastoral Care," *The Power to Comprehend with All the Senses: The Formation and Practice of a Pastor Theologian*, ed. Wallace M. Alston and Cynthia Jarvis (Grand Rapids: Wm.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2009), 255–71. Reprinted by permission of the publisher; all rights reserved.

Most Westminster John Knox Press books are available at special quantity discounts when purchased in bulk by corporations, organizations, and special-interest groups. For more information, please e-mail SpecialSales@wjkbooks.com.

Contents

Foreword	vii
Michael Welker	
Preface	ix
William Storrar	
WELCOMING	3
1. Imagining a Reformed Practical Theology and Ethics	
Clive Pearson	
DEFINITIONS AND DIFFERENCES	
2. Could Being Reformed Have Made A Difference?	39
On Practical Theology and Ethics in South Africa	
Dirk Smit	
3. Globalization and the Challenge of Cultural Justice	53
Piet Naudé	
4. Calvin's Theology: An Appraisal in Relation to the Indian Context	69
Hmar Vanlalauva	
EXEMPLARY PERSPECTIVES	
5. Justice Healing	85
Susan E. Davies	
6. Beyers Naudé: Public Theologian?	99
Denise M. Ackermann	
7. Created as Neighbors: A Vision for Honoring Racial and Cultural Difference	111
Nancy J. Ramsey	

ETHICAL EXERCISES

8. The Vocation of the Reformed Ethicist in the Present
South African Society
Etienne de Villiers 129
9. "In the Beginning . . .": Implications of the Reformed Doctrine
of Creation for Social Ethics in a Global Era
Max Stackhouse 145
10. Christian Ethical Distinctiveness, the Common Good,
and Moral Formation
Geoff Thompson 161
11. The Reformed Church and the Environmental Crises
Jong-Hyuk Kim 175
12. Reformed Resources for Practical Theology: The Christian
Life and Consumer Capitalism
Cameron Murchison 191
13. Human Dignity and Human Cloning: Perspectives
from the Reformed Tradition
Kang Phee Seng 201

REFORMING MINISTRIES

14. Renewal of the *Imago Dei*: Hope for the Depleted Self
Cornelius Plantinga Jr. 213
15. Preaching in the Age of the Holy Spirit
Jana Childers 223
16. The Aesthetic Profile of Reformed Liturgy
Ralph Kunz 235
17. On Not Offering Psychological Banalities as God's Word:
A Reformed Perspective on Pastoral Care
Cynthia Jarvis 247
18. Temples of the Spirit: Reforming the Reformed Congregation
in Europe
William Storrar 261

IMAGINARY ENERGIES

19. Practicing a Reformed Faith in a Land Down Under
Clive Pearson 277
- Notes 291
- Contributors 343
- Index 345

Foreword

In the middle of the 1990s David Willis, former Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, and I became aware of the fact that leading systematic theologians at important divinity schools of the United States expanded their ecumenical and interreligious profile by a decidedly Roman Catholic theological "vision" and/or "perspective."¹ This prompted us to ask thirty colleagues from ten different countries for their specific ideas about a future Reformed theology with an ecumenical profile.² The resulting publication, both in English and German, achieved a powerful resonance, yet it also generated some complaints because of the dominance of systematic theology as well as of the Anglo-American and the German-speaking parts of the world.

Around 1998 Wallace Alston, director of the Center of Theological Inquiry (CTI) in Princeton, and I pondered how these shortcomings could be compensated. We planned a series of three consultations, not only focusing on historical and systematic theological topics, but also involving biblical scholars and scholars in the areas of practical theology and ethics. Under the title *Reformed Theology: Identity and Ecumenicity* one consultation was held in Heidelberg, Germany, and two more took place in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

About eighty colleagues were involved, not only from Austria, England, Germany, Scotland, Switzerland, and the USA, but also from Africa, Australia, China, Hungary, India, Romania, and South Korea. Sadly, only two of the consultations could at that time be documented and published before Wallace Alston retired as director.³

It was the perseverance of the current director of the CTI, William Storrar, and of the Australian colleague Clive Pearson, visiting scholar at the CTI in 2008, that brought the work of the third consultation in this project to the fore again. Clive Pearson collected the manuscripts and encouraged the former participants to revise their original contributions "in light of the intervening years." He also wrote an encompassing introduction that reflected on the complete discourse "toward the future of Reformed theology" in the last twenty years. I am very grateful that this CTI initiative thus comes to fruition.

Michael Welker
Heidelberg, February 2017