

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera**

### **Contact Information**

Full Name: Nelson Rivera-García

Mailing Address: Moravian Theological Seminary, 1200 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Phone: 610-625-7868 (office)

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### **Education**

PhD (Religion), Temple University, 2006

STM (Historical Theology), Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1998

MAR (Philosophy of Religion), Temple University, 1997

M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1987

BA (Philosophy) Cum Laude, University of Puerto Rico, 1981

### **Current Position**

J. T. Hamilton Associate Professor of Doctrinal Theology, Moravian University & Theological Seminary, 2017-

### **Professional Experience**

Associate Professor, Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2008-2017

Assistant Professor, Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2000-2008

Instructor, Systematic Theology, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia 1998-2000

Visiting Professor, Luther and the Lutheran Confessions, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, 1992-1993

Ordained Minister, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1987; pastorates in Puerto Rico, 1987-1993; interim ministry in Pennsylvania, 1996-1998

Disability Determination Examiner for the Social Security Administration, Department of Social Services, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1981-1983

### **Areas of Competence**

Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Theologies of Liberation, Theology and Science, Theological Anthropology, and Lutheran Theology

### **Professional Membership**

American Philosophical Association  
American Teilhard Association  
North American Luther Forum

### **Church Affiliation**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; ordained clergy by its predecessor ecclesial body,  
Lutheran Church in America, 1987

### **Master Level Courses**

Christian Ethics  
Credo  
Introduction to Theology  
Learning in Community  
Lutheran Confessions  
The Meaning of Jesus Christ  
Theology and the Sciences  
Theology in a Broken World  
Theology from the Underside  
Word, Spirit, and Sacraments

### **Graduate Courses**

Cosmos, Creation, and Theology  
Darwin and Divinity  
Theological Engagements with Anthropology  
Theologies of Liberation

### **Fellowships/Scholarships**

Education Grant Program, Division for Ministry, ELCA, 1994-1998  
Doctoral Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, 1994-1995  
Philadelphia Scholar, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1993-1998  
Lutheran Brotherhood Scholarship, 1983-87  
Honor Student (General Studies), University of Puerto Rico, 1977-1978

### **Languages**

Spanish and English  
Reading knowledge of French, German, and Portuguese  
Classical languages: Latin, Greek, and Hebrew

### **Current Research Project**

Church in Ecumenical perspective

## Publications

### Books

*The Earth Is Our Home: Mary Midgley's Critique and Reconstruction of Evolution and Its Meanings* (Exeter: Imprint Academic, 2010).

*Ritos Ocasionales* [Editor and additional translator of Occasional Services] (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2000)

### Articles

"Darwin and Divinity" in *The Hinge: International Theological Dialog* 24/2 (Spring 2020): 3-15.

"Christian Worship: What Do We Gather for?" in *The Living Pulpit* [Online] (July 2019)

<https://www.pulpit.org/2019/07/christian-worship-what-do-we-gather-for/>

"Reflections on Don Quijote" in *Moravian Manuscript* (2018): 76-79.

"Freedom in Reading the Scripture" in *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* [Online] (January 2018)

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1220>

"Speaking of the Spirit" in *Dialog: Journal of Theology* 56/3 (September 2017): 272-278.

"Liberation Theology and Marxism" in *Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Traditions* (Timothy Wengert, ed.; Baker Academic, 2017): 423-424.

"Luther in Spanish" in *Lutheran Quarterly* 30 (Spring 2016): 60-67.

"Spirit in the World: Cry and Comfort – A Lutheran Perspective" in *Seminary Ridge Review* 18/2 (Spring 2016): 51-61.

Three theological commentaries in *Feasting on the Gospels* [Mark 15:42-47, Mark 16:1- 8, and Mark 16:9-20] (Westminster/John Know Press, 2014).

"Evolution" in *The Lutheran Magazine* 26/4 (April 2013): 18-19.

"Faith and Science" in *The Lutheran Magazine* 22/2 (February 2013): 18-19 [with Dr. Gilson Walkoenig].

"The Holy Spirit" in *The Lutheran Magazine*, 25/5 (May 2012): 18-19 [with Dr. Kirsi Stjerna].

Three theological commentaries for *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C* [Proper 27, Proper 28, and Reign of Christ] (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2010).

"On Immigration and the Immigrant Other" in *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* [Online] (December 2008) <https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/424>

Introductory essay to "Las buenas obras" de Martín Lutero, in *Lutero al habla* (México: Editorial El Faro, 2005): 347-350.

Twenty-eight articles (entries) in the *Diccionario Ilustrado de Intérpretes de la Fe* (Madrid: Editorial CLIE, 2004).

"Theological Education for Ministry: ELCA Seminaries Reaching Out to Latinos," in *Reaching the Latino Community: Approaches to an Effective Ministry* (Minneapolis: Board of Publications, ELCA, 2003).

“Prayer Alone: Luther’s Key to the Christian Life in the Large Catechism” in *Lutheran Forum: Una Sancta Issue* 34/3 (Fall 2000): 35-37.

“Mestizo Spirituality: Notes from a Latino and Lutheran Perspective” in *Lutheran Partners*, 16/5 (Sept/Oct 2000): 34-38.

### **Public Lectures**

Liberation Theology: Then and Now [Diversity House, Moravian College, October 15, 2019]

Whither Creation? [Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, Pa, October 27, 2019]

Darwin and Divinity [Chestnut Hill College, Institute for Religion and Science, April 23, 2018]

Luther and the Scripture [New York Theological Seminary, Bible Conference, October 30, 2017]

Para hablar del Espíritu Santo [Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, April 28, 2017]

God Was in Christ [Moravian Theological Seminary, January 31, 2017]

Lutherans in Public Life [Apostles’ Lutheran Church, Turnersville, NJ, October 26, 2016]

Spirit in the World: Cry and Comfort [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Fall Academy, October 28, 2015]

Language in Christology [Andrews University, Department of Religion, March 19, 2014]

Theology Is Complex, But Not Necessarily Complicated [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Convocation, December 7, 2011]

Is There a Distinctive Latino/a Pedagogy? [Palmer Theological Seminary, March 27, 2010]

Public Vocation of Scientists and Theologians [Lutheran Theological Seminary Convocation, April 21, 2009]

The Lutheran Vocation in World Christianity [Respondent to Hein-Fry Lectures—Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, February 19, 2008]

In the World of Theology, What Gifts Do Lutherans Bring to the Table? [Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary, February 9, 2008]

Una comunidad fiel—reflexiones sobre el tema [Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Hispanos—Orlando, Florida, July 8, 2004]

Speaking of Evil--In Six (Un)Easy Points [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Convocation, April 29, 2003]

In Search of Public Language: Expressions of Mission and Teaching Authority in Science and Theology [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Convocation, September 5, 2000]

### **Presentations to Churches and Pastor’s Clusters**

2022 Proclaiming Resurrection  
Sacraments” What, Why, When

2021 Teach Us How To Pray

2020 On Not Going It Alone

2019 Whither Creation?

Teach Us How To Pray

Luther the Theologian

2018 Care of Creation

- Speaking of Creation
- 2017 Reading Scripture with Luther  
Luther's Catechism
- 2016 Hispanic Culture, Religious Experience, and Theology  
Speaking of the Spirit: Word and Witness
- 2015 Creation and Science  
Speaking of the Spirit
- 2014 Darwin's Evolution  
Liberation and Lutheran Hermeneutics [Looking at the Lenten Cycle]
- 2013 Christianity in a Scientific World and an Ecological Climate
- 2012 Darwin, Evolution, and Faith
- 2011 Faith and Science
- 2010 Call to Perseverance: Reflections on the Book of Revelation  
Visions of the Cross: Understanding Atonement
- 2009 Should Evolution and/or Creation Be Taught in Public Schools?  
Evolution and Faith  
Darwin: The Faith of an Evolutionist
- 2008 Five Theology Books that Every Pastor Ought to Read
- 2007 Darwin, Evolution, and the Struggles of Faith
- 2006 Doing Theology from Diverse Cultural Perspectives  
Lutero, el sacerdocio de los bautizados y el ministerio ordenado
- 2005 How Big Is the Universe?  
Einstein's Legacy: Is God Back into Physical Science?
- 2004 Who Was Martin Luther?  
The Language of Christology
- 2003 Hispanic Theology in the U.S.  
Reflexiones sobre la misión—la de Dios y la nuestra
- 2002 God and Creation: A Close Reading of Genesis 1  
Latino/a Experience in the USA
- 2001 What Are the Lutheran Confessions?  
¿Qué significa vivir por lo que la Biblia dice?  
Hispanos: Hispanic Culture and History
- 2000 ¿Qué es fundamental en teología luterana?

### **Committee Work**

Admissions Faculty Committee, Moravian Seminary, 2022-  
 Philosophy of Science Search Committee, Moravian University, 2021-2022  
 Latiné Advisory Council, Lancaster Seminary, 2021-  
 Director for the Master of Divinity Degree, Moravian Seminary, 2021-  
 Tenure, Promotion & Review Committee, Moravian University, 2020-  
 Director of the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, MTS, 2019-2021  
 Faculty Secretary, Moravian Seminary, 2018-  
 Faculty Representative, Moravian Seminary Board of Trustees, 2018-2021

Inter-Faith Council, Moravian University, 2018-  
Dispute Resolution Group, Moravian University, 2018-  
Arts & Lectures Committee, Moravian University 2018-2021  
Advisory Board, Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College, 2012-  
Chair, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology Area, Lutheran Seminary, 2014-2016  
Candidacy Committee, Metropolitan New York Synod, 2012-2017  
Seminary Chaplain, Lutheran Seminary, 2012-2014  
Working Group on Faculty and Administration, ATS/MSA Reaccreditation, 2010-2012  
Consultant and Reviewer for the "Message on Immigration" by the ELCA, 2007-2008  
Candidacy Committee, New Jersey Synod, 2000-2006  
Renewing Worship Project, member of three Review Teams, 2001-2004  
    "Principles of Worship" (section on "Language")  
    "Holy Communion and Related Rites"  
    "Holy Baptism and Related Rites"  
Member of the Editorial Group for *Viviendo la fe: llamado al discipulado en toda la IELA: guía  
para la congregaciones*, Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA, 2000  
Multicultural Initiatives Strategy Team, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, 1999-2000