

CALVIN MERCER

CITY COUNCIL CONTACT

Greenville, NC City Council, District 4
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WORK CONTACT

Religious Studies Program
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GREENVILLE, NC CITY COUNCIL

- District 4 representative, 12/07-present
- Liaison to Board of Adjustment, 12/07-present
- Liaison to Environmental Advisory Commission, 12/07-present
- Liaison to Historic Preservation Commission, 12/07-present

TEACHING AND RESEARCH (email mercerc@ecu.edu for a complete work CV)

- East Carolina University, 1/85-present, Associate Professor and Co-director (currently), Religious Studies Program
- Mount Olive College, 1/81-12/84, Professor of Religion
- Florida A & M University, 8/79-12/80, Instructor of Religion, half-time

Dr. Mercer teaches religion at East Carolina University, where he has received a university "Scholar-Teacher" award and a UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award.

Most of his research (4 books authored or edited, 25 articles) is in the religious implications of human enhancement technologies (including radical life extension science), psychology of religion, and Biblical Studies.

He is trained in clinical psychology and practiced professionally part-time for over a decade.

Dr. Mercer is one of the few scholars considering the religious implications of human enhancement technologies, including radical life extension, a term that refers to science and technology that could provide extreme longevity of

healthy human life. He co-edited *Religion and the Implications of Radical Life Extension*, published in 2009 by Palgrave Macmillan. Whether such science should proceed or not is a legitimate question. Dr. Mercer wants to promote, among academics and faith communities, substantive reflection on this question, which he considers one of the most urgent public debates that needs to happen in this country.

Dr. Mercer is the originator of *The Monastic Project*, a comprehensive program used by him and other professors around the country. Guidelines are drawn from various monastic traditions. In addition to traditional religious experience, the *Project* can yield other transformative religious outcomes, such as improved mental and physical health, clarification of life goals and purpose, improved relationships, increased awareness, and better sleep. For more information, see his work website (www.ecu.edu/religionprogram/mercer).

For several years Dr. Mercer directed the largest study abroad program at his university, and he serves as a consultant on producing successful short-term study abroad programs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (representative list)

- Advisory Committee, Pitt County Memorial Hospital School of Clinical Pastoral Education, Greenville, NC, 3/09-present
- Ayden-Grifton-Winterville Mental Health Advisory Board, Ayden, NC; 1/94-12/99; member, served on various subcommittees
- Johnston County Harbor Rape and Spouse Abuse Network; 8/88-5/91; co-founder, Board of Directors Chair
- Contact Helpline, Smithfield, NC; 5/84-9/91; Board of Directors, president
- Approximately 50 articles on various topics published in general readership publications.
- Maintains a local and regional “Events” mailing list, providing information about religion-related cultural and/or academic area events. For more information or to get on the list, email mercerc@ecu.edu

As his schedule permits, Dr. Mercer gives public lectures on the religious implications of human enhancement technologies (including radical life extension science), humor in the Bible, monks and monasteries, and other topics. For a full list, see his work website or contact him for his professional CV.

EDUCATION

- East Carolina University: M.A. (Clinical Psychology), 1997
- Florida State University: Ph.D. (Religion), 1983
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary: M.Div. (cum laude), 1977; Th.M., 1979
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: B.A. (Journalism and Psychology), 1975