

**John A Jillions, DMin, PhD**  
Holy Ghost Orthodox Church  
1510 East Main Street  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06608 USA  
[jjillions@svots.edu](mailto:jjillions@svots.edu)

### **CURRENT APPOINTMENTS**

- Pastor, Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT
- Associate Prof. of Religion and Culture, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
- Adjunct Instructor, Faculty of Theology, Fordham University
- Member, Editorial Board, *Religions*, <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions>.

### **EDUCATION**

- DMin, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary 2005
  - Dissertation: *The Language of Enemies*
- PhD New Testament, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, 2002
  - Tyndale House, Cambridge
  - Dissertation: *Divine Guidance in Corinth: Greco-Roman, Jewish and Pauline Views*
- MDiv, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY, 1980
  - Honors for Thesis: *Russian Biblical Scholarship Before 1917: the Work of Mitrofan Muretov*
- BA Economics, McGill University, Montreal, 1977

### **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

- 2018-present, Adjunct Instructor, Faculty of Theology, Fordham University
- 2015-present, Associate Professor of Religion and Culture, St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
  - Editorial Board, *Religions*, <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions>
- 2003-2013, Saint Paul University/University of Ottawa (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies)
  - 2009-2013 Associate Professor, with tenure
  - Editorial Board, *Logos: a Journal of Eastern Christian Studies*
  - 2008-10 Director, Doctor of Ministry Program
  - 2004-09 Assistant Professor
  - 2003-04 Adjunct Lecturer
- 1999-2003, Lecturer, The Cambridge Theological Federation, Cambridge, UK
- 1997-2002, Principal, The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK  
With scholars and church leaders founded, developed and ran the first Orthodox theological school in the UK. <https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk>
  - Facilitated inter-Orthodox and ecumenical collaboration to appoint Board, develop curriculum and strategic plan, raise funds, hire staff, organize premises, publicity and recruitment
  - With staff and academic advisory board created successful Certificate and Diploma programs in Orthodox Studies for weekend students; accredited by Cambridge University
  - Worked with the Cambridge Theological Federation, a consortium of Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Reformed theological colleges to join as a member school

- Developed formal relationship with European theological programs
- Was responsible for all aspects of managing the Institute and overseeing its academic, spiritual and financial development
- Established professional development office with the support of a US-based foundation
- Taught courses and seminars in New Testament, Pastoral Theology and Eastern Orthodox Christianity

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL WORK**

Chancellor, Orthodox Church in America, Syosset, NY, USA (2011-2018)

- Chief Operating Officer for central administration of church with 700 parishes, 1000 clergy in the United States, Canada and Mexico
- Chief of Staff to presiding bishop
- Worked closely with bishops, dioceses and boards of institutions on governance, strategic planning, board development, finance and mission advancement
- Board member of three theological seminaries
- Chaired Department of Pastoral Life and Office for Review of Misconduct
- Presented at events in US, Canada and internationally

Pastor, Orthodox Church 1981-present (full-time and part-time)

- Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT (current)
- St Sergius Chapel, Syosset, New York, USA (2011-2018)
- Ascension Greek Orthodox Church, Brockville, Ontario, Canada (2010-11)
- Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, Canada (2003-2009)
- Saint Ephraim Church, Cambridge, UK (1995-2003)
- Saint George Church, Thessaloniki, Greece (1994-95)
- Holy Trinity Church, Rahway, New Jersey, USA (1987-94)
  - Pastoral fieldwork supervisor for students of Saint Vladimir's Seminary
  - Chaplain (Captain), USAF Reserve (1990-92)
- Holy Annunciation Church, Brisbane, Australia (1984-87)
- Holy Protection Cathedral, New York, NY, USA (1981-84)

Assistant Treasurer, Bankers Trust Corporation, New York (1982-84)

- Project and supervisory responsibilities in Foreign Exchange Operations, Management Services and Commercial Loan Operations.

Administrator, Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home, New York, 1980-82

- Responsible for day-to-day management of 200-bed residential care facility. Annual budget \$1.25 million, 65 staff. Fieldwork supervisor in geriatrics for students of St Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY.

## **ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES**

- The Lausanne Orthodox Initiative (Evangelical and Orthodox scholars in conversation), Boston, USA (June 5-7, 2018) and Cambridge, UK (September 5-9, 2017)
- Vice-President, Canadian Council of Churches, 2009-2011
- "The Future of Ecumenical Studies," Sibiu, Romania (November, 2010)
- WCC Central Committee (February, 2011)
- Orthodox-Methodist Consultations, Bristol (2000), Crete (2002), New York (2006)
- Consultant, Orthodox and Evangelical church partners in Alaska and Siberia (2003)
- Steering Group on Orthodox Theological Education (WCC, 2001-2002)
- Consultation on "Civil Society," Conference of European Churches, Hanover, Germany (2002)
- Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools, Belgrade, Serbia (2001)

- Consultant, Conference of Anglican Church Missionary Society, Moscow, Russia (2001)
- Governing Council, Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius, UK (1998-2001)
- Keston Institute, “Religion and Social Values in Russia and the New States” (Windsor, UK 2000)
- Panelist, Conference on “Diplomacy and Divinity,” University of Westminster, London (1999)
- Evangelical-Orthodox Dialogue in the UK (with the Evangelical Alliance, 1999-2001)
- Cambridge Theological Federation, 1997-2003
- Queensland (Australia) Council of Churches (1984-87)
- Faith and Order Commission (NCCUSA, 1982-84)
- Church World Service, (NCCUSA, 1980-82)
- International Orthodox Consultation on Social Justice (WCC, Kiev, June 1982)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

Society for Biblical Literature

The Orthodox Theological Society of America

## **CITIZENSHIPS**

Canada, United Kingdom, United States

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2015, 2017, 2019**

- Ministry in a Secular Age (DMin), hybrid: online and classroom
- Qualified for Certificate in Online Education
- Member, Doctor of Ministry Committee

### **Fordham University, 2018**

- Faith and Critical Reason

### **Saint Paul University/University of Ottawa (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies), 2003-2011**

- Hermeneutics and Exegesis in Eastern Christianity (BTh)
- The Eastern Christian Fathers and the Writings of Paul (MA)
- Resources and Methods for the Study of Eastern Christianity (MA)
- Foundational Texts in Eastern Christian Church History (MA)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Orthodox Thought (MA)
- The Paris School of Russian Orthodox Thought (MA)
- Foundational Texts in East-West Ecumenism (MA)
- Classical Texts in Eastern Liturgy from Chrysostom to Schmemmann (MA)
- Eastern Christian Pastoral Theology (BTh)
- Eastern Christian Doctrine I-II (BTh)
- The Seven Ecumenical Councils in Eastern Christian Tradition (BTh)
- Ecclesiology and East-West Ecumenism (BTh)
- Foundations of Eastern Christian Theology (BTh)
- General Introduction to the Eastern Christian Churches (BTh)

### **University of Sherbrooke, 2004**

- Modern Orthodox Ecclesiology

### **The Cambridge Theological Federation and Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK, 1999-2003**

- Seminars in New Testament Texts (BA)
- Pastoral Theology: An Eastern Orthodox Liturgical Approach (MA)
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity (BA)
- Seminars in Orthodox Christian Studies (BA)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

1. *Divine Guidance: Lessons for Today From the World of Early Christianity* (Oxford University Press: 2020).
2. *The Christmas Story: Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem* [a children's book], Xist Publishing, November 2020.

### Edited Books

3. *Inward Being and Outward Identity: the Orthodox Churches in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, special issue of *Religions* (journal and e-book), 2018.  
[http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/orthodox\\_churches](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/orthodox_churches)
4. John A. Jillions and Michael Plekon, editors, of Antoine Arjakovsky, *The Way: Religious Thinkers of the Russian Emigration in Paris and their Journal 1925-1940*, English translation (by Jerry Ryan) of *La generation des penseurs religieux de l'émigration russe*, Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 2013.

### Chapters in Books

5. "Kenotic Ecumenism," in Paul McPartlan and Geoffrey Wainwright (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ecumenical Studies*, Oxford University Press: 2018.
6. "Spiritual Guidance in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition," in John Mabry (ed.), *Spiritual Guidance Across Religions: a sourcebook for spiritual directors and other professionals providing counsel to people of differing faith traditions*, Woodstock, Vermont: SkyLight Paths, 2014.
7. "How Do You See? Towards an Eastern Orthodox Approach to Practical Theology," in Karlijn Demasure and Luc Tardif (Eds.), *Théologie Pratique, Pratiques de Théologie*, Quebec: Mediaspaul, 2014.
8. "Bishops, Pentecost and Orthodox Identity," in William Mills (Ed.), *Church and World: Essays in Honor of Michael Plekon*, Rollinsford, NH: Orthodox Research Institute, 2013.
9. "Can These Bones Live? Ezekiel, Jesus and the Challenge of the 'Other,'" in Tom Dykstra and Vahan Hovhannessian (Eds.), *Festschrift in Honor of Professor Paul Nadim Tarazi : Volume 3- Studies in Intertestamental, Extra-Canonical, and Early Christian Literature*, New York: Peter Lang, 2015.
10. "Orthodox Christianity in the West: the Challenge of Ecumenism," in Mary Cunningham and Elizabeth Theokritoff (Eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Orthodox Theology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
11. "An Orthodox Reading of 1 Cor 1:18-31: Any Room for the Methodists?" in ST Kimbrough (Ed.), *Orthodox and Wesleyan Ecclesiology*, Crestwood, NY: Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2008.
12. "What is Orthodox Christianity?" chapter 2 in David Hilborn (ed.), *Evangelicalism and the Orthodox Church*, Acute/Paternoster, 2001.

### Papers in Refereed Journals

13. "Academic Freedom," *The Wheel*, Issue 21 (Summer 2020).
14. "Divine Guidance: Lessons From the Pluralistic World of Paul's Corinth," *Perichoresis: the Theological Journal of Emanuel University*, 2020 (forthcoming).

15. "Response to N.T. Wright, 'Learning from Paul Together: How New Insights into Paul's Teaching can Help Move us Forward in Mission,'" *Lausanne Orthodox Initiative* [Evangelical and Orthodox scholars in dialogue], September 2-17, Cambridge, UK, *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 62:4 (2018).
16. "'Thicket of Idols': Alexander Schmemmann's Critique of Orthodoxy," *The Wheel* 19 (Winter 2019).
17. "Obergefell v. Hodges: Questions for Orthodox Christians," *Symposium on Orthodox Pastoral Care and Sexuality*, Vrije University of Amsterdam, June 5-9, Amsterdam, *The Wheel* 13/14 (Spring/summer 2018).
18. *The Amerikanskii Pravoslavnyi Vestnik* (The Russian Orthodox American Messenger) 1917-18: in the Aftermath of Revolutions in Russia," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 61:2 (2017).
19. "The Servant Church: Nicholas Zernov's Rethinking of Christian Unity," *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 51:3-4 (Winter 2011).
20. "Three Orthodox Models Christian Unity: Traditionalist, Mainstream, Prophetic," *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 9:4 (November 2009): 295-311.
21. "The Language of Enemies," *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 50:3-4 (2009).
22. "Ecumenism and the Paris School of Orthodox Theology," *Theoforum* 39:3 (2008).
23. "Review Essay: Patrick Viscuso, *A Quest for Reform of the Orthodox Church: the 1923 Pan-Orthodox Congress, An Analysis and Translation of Its Acts and Decisions*, Berkeley, CA: InterOrthodox Press, 2006," in *Studia Canonica* 41:2 (2007), 507-514.
24. Connecting Liturgy and Spirituality: Notes from Eastern Christian Experience, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
25. Review Essay: "Communion in the Messiah: Lev Gillet and Jewish-Christian Relations," *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 47:3-4 (2006), 111-129.
26. Mary Among the Catholics and Anglicans: An Orthodox Response, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 47:1-2 (2006), 313-319.
27. Prospects for Catholic-Orthodox Relations: Toward a New Beginning, *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 46 (2005):3-4, 501-512.
28. Review Essay: "Symeon Rodger, *The Five Pillars of Life*, in *Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity* 1:1 (2005).
29. "Pastoral Theology: an Orthodox Perspective," *The British Journal of Theological Education*, 13:3 (Winter, 2003).
30. "I kathodigisi tou anthropou apo to theo stin anthropologia tou apostolou Paulou" ["Divine Guidance in the anthropology of the Apostle Paul"], in Proceedings of the International Conference, *O anthropos kata ton Apostolou Paulo* [*The human being in the anthropology of the Apostle Paul*] Veroia, Greece, 2002
31. "Jesus and Nature," *In Communion*, Issue 26 Spring 2002.
32. "Theological Education in the Orthodox Tradition: Personal Reflections," *The British Journal of Theological Education*, 10:2 (Winter 1999).
33. "Religion and Social Values in Russia and the New States," *St. Catherine's Conference Papers*, June 1999.
34. "Love and curses: searching St. Paul for a new vision of ecumenism," *Sobornost*, April 1998; condensed and re-printed in *Theology Digest*, May 1999.
35. "Self-love," *Sourozh: A Journal of Christian Life and Thought*, No.65, August 1996 (and reply to responses, *Sourozh*, No. 67, February 1997).
36. "Review Essay: The Greek New Testament, Fourth Edition," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 39:2 (1995).

#### **Translations (from Russian)**

37. Alexander Schmemmann, *The Virgin Mary*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995 [translation of selected essays]
38. Alexander Schmemmann, *The Church Year*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1994 [with introduction]

39. Alexander Schmemmann, *I Believe*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1991

### Other Papers and Invited Lectures

40. "Fasting; Jewish, Christian, Muslim," panel, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, 17 May 2020
41. "Bridging Voices: Contemporary Eastern Orthodox Identity and the Challenges of Pluralism and Sexual Diversity in a Secular Age," panel, Fordham University, 19 November 2019
42. "Bridging Voices: digital workshop," panel, Fordham-Exeter-British Council, 14 December, 2019
43. Lecture on "Differences and Discernment in St Paul's Corinth," The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Summer School, August 2019.
44. Speaker at book launch of Razvan Porumb's *Orthodoxy and Ecumenism: Towards an Active Metanoia* (Peter Lang, 2019), August 2019.
45. Orthodox Response to N.T. Wright, "Learning from Paul Together: How New Insights into Paul's Teaching can Help Move us Forward in Mission," *Lausanne Orthodox Initiative*, September 2017, Cambridge, UK.
46. "Overshadowed by the Spirit: Mary as Embodiment of Holiness," Eastern Churches Seminar, Notre Dame College, October 2017, Cleveland, Ohio
47. "The Beginning of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge," *Standing at the Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities for Orthodoxy in the West* (with Archbishop Rowan Williams and Metropolitan Kallistos Ware), June, 2017, Cambridge, UK.
48. "Obergefell v. Hodges: Questions for Orthodox Christians," *Symposium on Orthodox Pastoral Care and Sexuality*, Vrije University of Amsterdam, June 5-9, 2017, Amsterdam.
49. "The Book of Acts: A Guide for Orthodox Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Montreal Institute for Orthodox Theology (May, 2015)
50. "50 Years After 'The Letter from Birmingham Jail': an Orthodox Response," Christian Churches Together, Conference in Birmingham, Alabama (April 2013)
51. "St Alexis: Courage, Confidence and the Cross," Annual St Alexis Toth Lecture, St Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN, 2012 (May, 2012)
52. "'Thicket of Idols': Alexander Schmemmann's Critique of the Orthodox Church," American Academy of Religion, Atlanta (October, 2010).
53. "Jesus: Myth, Metaphor or Messiah?" Sheptytsky Institute Study Days, Edmonton, July 31, 2010 (revised and given as well in Ottawa, July 30, 2011).
54. "Reconciling Mary's Quarrelsome Children: the Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos Among Orthodox and Catholics in Ukraine and Canada," The Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lancashire, UK, July 20, 2010.
55. "The Changing Face of Eastern Orthodox Families in North America: Participant Observations By a Married Priest With Children," International Conference on the Family, Saint Paul University, May 2010.
56. "Integrating Orthodox Theological Education into the University: Case Studies from Cambridge (UK) and Canada," Orthodox Theological Society of America, Chicago, June 12-14, 2008.
57. "Faith and a Sustainable Economy: an Eastern Orthodox Perspective," Canadian Council of Churches consultation, Ottawa, 2009.
58. "Liturgy and Spirituality: Reflections on the Orthodox Experience," Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame University (2006).
59. "Time for the Lord to Act: the experience of time in Eastern Orthodox worship," AAR Regional Meeting, McGill University, Montreal (2005).
60. "Orthodox and Anglicans: learning from each other?" Conference on Orthodox and Anglicans, Trinity College, Toronto (2004).
61. "The Orthodox Churches Today," Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland (2004).
62. "The language of war, enemies and violence in the Eastern Orthodox tradition of baptism," AAR Regional Meeting, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (2004).
63. "Decision-Making and Divine Guidance: Greco-Roman, Jewish and Pauline Views," International Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Cambridge, UK (2003).

64. "Reading *Acts* in the Twenty-first Century," Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK (2003).
65. "Foreword in Philip Boobyer (Ed.), Henry Drummond, *The Changed Life* (Russian edition), 2002
66. "In the Flesh: the Body in Christ's Life and Ministry," *Again Magazine*, May 1997
67. "A Sign That is Spoken Against: the Witness of the Orthodox Church in Eastern Europe," *Great St. Mary's Papers* 4, 1997

### Book Reviews

68. Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev, *Orthodox Witness Today*, Geneva: WCC, 2006, in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
69. Peter Bouteneff, *Sweeter than Honey: Orthodox Thinking on Dogma and Truth*, in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 48:1-2 (2007).
70. Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev, *The Mystery of Faith*, in *The Canadian Orthodox Messenger* (Spring 2007).
71. Jaroslav Pelikan, *Acts* (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible Series, Volume 1), in *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 46 (2006):1-2.
72. John Binns, *An Introduction to The Christian Orthodox Churches*, in *The Ecumenical Review* (April 2004.)
73. Archimandrite Macarius (Christopher Hookway, tr.), *The Synaxarion: the Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church, Vol 3*, in *Friends of Mount Athos Annual Report 2002*

### Newspaper columns and blogs

74. Interview about *Divine Guidance*, <http://easternchristianbooks.blogspot.com/2020/03/john-jillions-on-gods-guidance-in-world.html>.
75. "How Roman skeptics shaped debates about God," <https://blog.oup.com/authors/john-a-jillions/>
76. "Chancellor's Diary," <http://oca.org/reflections/fr.-john-jillions> (2012-2015)
77. "Ask the Religion Experts," *The Ottawa Citizen*, (2005- 2010). Weekly column. The editors chose a question each week and asked a group of writers from eleven religious traditions to respond: Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Sikh and Christian: Roman Catholic, Anglican, United Church, Evangelical and Orthodox.