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Yaghjian's "Writing theology well: A rhetoric for theological and biblical writers" (Book Review)

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I highly recommend this title for use in developing a multicultural mindset in one's congregation and for specifics for someone leading a worship team. The reflection sections throughout make it a great choice for a textbook and/or tool for pastoral staff, worship teams, etc. Several institutions in both the United States and United Kingdom have adopted it for their curriculums. The readability will further stimulate and stir the hearts of interested laypersons.

Reviewer

Lindsay Van Sicklen, Ouachita Baptist University

Yaghjian, L. B. (2015). *Writing theology well: A rhetoric for theological and biblical writers*. (2nd ed.). New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark. 441 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9780567499172

Featuring the collective experience of a half-century of writing in the humanities and in theology, Lucretia B. Yaghjian is more than qualified to write, let alone revise, a handbook on writing theology well. Building on her well-received 2006 release, Yaghjian's revision updates bibliographic information and incorporates concepts that she has since incorporated into her teaching as Director of the WRITE Program at Episcopal Divinity School, and as Adjunct Faculty at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. The volume has also been enlarged by the addition of two new sections on writing theology in an international and digital context.

As some will have intuited by the institutions named above, Yaghjian belongs to a mainline denomination. I mention this factor because she draws many of her best-practice exemplars and writing prompt exercises from her mainline colleagues and influences. Using these could possibly, yet need not necessarily, distract students (and even faculty) from the actual task of improving in theological writing. But it would be a shame if those more conservative students and instructors were to miss out on the pedagogically rich "Theological Memo" feature, the label Yaghjian gives to the writing prompt exercises dispersed throughout her book. Given the advanced scholarly vocabulary, the frequent allusions to figures in literary and theological criticism, and the sheer length of the volume, I would recommend this as a valuable instructor and advanced student resource worth an inch of shelf space in any academic library serving those who aspire to write theology well.

Reviewer

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