

K-14. - 21-2

Religious Diversity and the American Experience

A Theological Approach

by

TERRENCE W. TILLEY

and

LOUIS T. ALBARRAN

JOHN F. BIRCH

ERNEST W. DURBIN II

COLEMAN FANNIN

LORA M. ROBINSON

DANIEL E. MARTIN

MATTHEW G. MINIX



continuum

NEW YORK • LONDON

2007

The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc
80 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038

The Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd
The Tower Building, 11 York Road, London SE1 7NX

Copyright © 2007 by Terrence W. Tilley

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publishers.



Continuum is a member of Green Press Initiative, a nonprofit program dedicated to supporting publishers in their efforts to reduce their use of fiber obtained from endangered forests. For more information, go to www.greenpressinitiative.org.
Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Religious diversity and the American experience : a theological approach / Terrence W. Tilley ... [et al.].

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-8264-2794-6 (hardcover : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-8264-2794-4 (hardcover : alk. paper)

ISBN-13: 978-0-8264-2795-3 (pbk. : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-8264-2795-2 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. United States—Religion—Congresses. 2. Religious pluralism—United States—Congresses. I. Tilley, Terrence W. II. Title.

BL2525.R4696 2007

2011.5—dc22

2006036505

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
A Note on Authorship	ix
Introduction	xi
1. Siting Theology	1
2. Surveying the Construction Site The Cultural Terrain	12
3. A Building Code for a Theology of Religious Diversity	47
4. Classic Inclusivism Does God Go Incognito? <i>with John F. Birch</i>	64
5. Contemporary Inclusivism Does God Give and Gather the Traditions? <i>with Matthew G. Minix</i>	80
6. From Pluralism to Mutuality Does God Cherish All the Faith Traditions? <i>with Daniel E. Martin</i>	93
7. Is Religious Diversity a Problem to Be Solved? Not Particularly <i>with Ernest W. Durbin II</i>	110
8. Many Salvations Does God Offer Humanity Many Destinies? <i>with W. Coleman Fannin</i>	125

9. Dialogue before Theory? The Practice of Comparative Theology <i>with Lora M. Robinson</i>	144
10. Multiple Religious Belonging Can a Christian Belong to Other Traditions Too? <i>with Louis T. Albarran</i>	160
11. Theologies of Religious Diversity A "Site Specific" Evaluation	175
Notes	192
References	203
Index	215

Acknowledgments

THIS BOOK IS THE JOINT PRODUCT OF A SEMINAR IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM in theology at the University of Dayton, Winter Semester, 2006. The seminar members first of all acknowledge one another. We are thankful to one another for carefully reading the seminar's texts (all of which are discussed in this book), for creatively leading seminar sessions, for timely completion of writing assignments, and for thoughtful, good-spirited criticism of others' work. Without the camaraderie we developed as a seminar, this book would not have been possible.

Staff and graduate students at the Mater Dei Institute for Education, a college in the City University of Dublin, discussed and evaluated the ideas in chapters 2 and 3 in seminars with the seminar director in March 2006. We are grateful to Dermot Lane, rector, and Michael Drumm, dean, for facilitating those stimulating seminars. Professors Elizabeth A. Johnson and Maureen A. Tilley of Fordham University also graciously made helpful suggestions on some of the chapters.

Dr. Sandra Yocum Mize, chair of the Theology Department at the University of Dayton, and Marva Gray and Margaret McCrate, administrative assistants in the department, supported our work. They make it possible to do theology creatively at the University of Dayton.

We thank Dr. Tilley's graduate research assistant for the semester of the seminar, Timothy J. Furry, for his help with bibliography and other logistical support and his graduate assistant at Fordham, Maggie Meier, for help with proofreading. Matthew Minix toiled to bring together the references into a coherent list after the seminar's papers were submitted. We are especially grateful to our editor at Continuum, Frank Oveis, for his support, encouragement, and patience. It is a privilege to work with one of the best in the field.

As authors always are, we are deeply grateful to suffering relatives and supportive friends, far too many to list here. You know who you are. We couldn't have done it together had we not also been the beneficiaries of your love and patience.