

## ***Douglas L. Koopman, Ph.D.***

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### **PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY**

Douglas L. Koopman, Ph.D. is professor of political science at Calvin University. His specialties are American political institutions, practical politics, and religion in American politics. Doug joined the Calvin faculty in 1995 after working in national politics. He interrupts his academic work at times for assignments in politics, government, and higher education leadership.

Graduating from Hope College with an undergraduate degree in mathematics, after a year of seminary study in New Jersey Koopman moved to Washington, D.C. From 1980 to 1995 he was a staff person in personal, committee, and leadership offices in the U.S. Congress, expanding leadership and management responsibilities and increasingly specializing in federal budgeting and congressional reform. Concurrently, Koopman earned a Master of Theological Studies from Wesley Seminary and a Ph.D. in American Government from The Catholic University of America.

Koopman moved to Michigan to teach at Calvin, helping it start a semester in Washington, D.C. and the Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics. Later, Koopman restructured the Center for Social Research and helped begin the McGregor program of summer faculty-student research in the social sciences and humanities.

In 2005 Koopman moved to Hope College to shape a new leadership institute that continues to provide meaningful coursework, practical experiences, and mentoring for Hope students discerning gifts and calling. Koopman returned to Calvin two years later. In 2012 he was appointed by new Calvin president Michael LeRoy as Executive Associate for Communication and Planning, helping address key issues, particularly a pressing financial situation. Other tasks in which Koopman played a key role in completing were Calvin's first fully collaborative and benchmarked five-year strategic plan, dashboards and key performance indicators (KPIs) for cabinet and board, and new intentional strategies for board recruitment and development.

In 2016 Koopman returned to Washington, D.C., as Special Advisor for Strategic Communication and Public Affairs at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU). There, he helped Council leadership create a new strategy and supporting documentation to strengthen the ability to make the case for Christian higher education.

Koopman has co-authored two texts – *Understanding American Politics*, and *Religion and American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives* – and other books and articles in his areas of interest. He is a frequent state and regional media source and has also been quoted in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Koopman lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with his wife, Gayle Boss. They have two adult sons, Kai and Cotter.

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Major in American Government. Minor in Political Theory.
- M.A.** The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. American Government, with emphasis in Congressional Studies.
- M.T.S.** Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. Theological Studies.
- B.A.** Hope College, Holland, Michigan. Mathematics *magna cum laude*.

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT (1995 – Present)

- Calvin University (formerly College)**, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
August 2012 – June 2015  
Executive Associate to the President for Communication and Planning.  
January 2007 – August 2012, July 2015 – present (leave '16- '17 academic year)  
Professor of Political Science. (Spoelhof Teacher-Scholar in Residence  
January 2007 – July 2008).
- Hope College**, Holland, Michigan  
July 2005 – January 2007  
Founding director, Leadership Program. Professor of Political Science.
- Calvin College**, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
September 2004 – July 2005  
Professor of Political Science.  
September 2000 – August 2004  
Associate Professor of Political Science. September 2000 – 2002 as  
Program Director, Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and  
Politics. September 2002 – 2004 as Interim Director, Center for Social  
Research.  
September 1995 – August 2000  
Assistant Professor of Political Science. September 1997 – 2000 as  
Program Director, Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and  
Politics.
- Marymount University / The Catholic University of America**, Washington, D.C. area  
September 1991 – May 1995  
Various part-time term appointments as lecturer in political science  
(Marymount University) and politics (The Catholic University of America).

**NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT (1981 – 1995, 2016-2017)****June 2016 - August 2017**

Special Advisor for Strategic Communication and Public Affairs, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). This position was created to make progress on a backlog of tasks facing the CCCU president and board in member services, strategic communication, and government advocacy. Key products were new marketing materials, a network of accreditation councils, and a strategic plan for advocacy on issues contained in the federal higher education act reauthorization.

**January 1995 - August 1995**

Chief of Staff, U.S. House Majority Leader Richard K. Armey. This position carried out major political, legislative, and administrative duties for the Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. Duties included membership in a member-staff strategic planning council for legislation and messaging by the House majority party, managing a 15-person personal staff in Washington, D.C. and Texas, and representing the Majority Leader as needed.

**February 1994 - December 1994**

Senior Economist, Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress. This position required writing member guidance documents on a wide range of issues in fiscal and social welfare policy. The committee is a focal point for economic policy advice to members of the U.S. House and Senate. Other specialties included congressional organization and procedures. One contribution in which I was a lead participant was a package of congressional reforms implemented in early 1995.

**January 1993 - February 1994**

Chief of Staff, U.S. Representative Peter Hoekstra, (MI-2). Responsibilities included hiring for and managing offices in Washington, D.C. and western Michigan. Ongoing duties included political, press, legislative, strategic, and administrative duties.

**July 1990 - January 1993**

Professional Economist, Acting Staff Director, and then Director of Minority Research and Deputy Staff Director, Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress. These positions required major administrative, political, and topical duties for the committee. Role of acting staff director from September 1990 through March 1991 involved reshaping and realigning committee staff and purposes. Research and deputy staff director involved planning and executing writing projects and managing those who wrote them.

**September 1989 - January 1981**

Several positions with progressive responsibility for members of and candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, namely Fred Upton (Michigan) from early 1987 through 1989, Paul Henry (Michigan) from mid-1984 through early 1987, Larry Winn (Kansas) from 1983 through 1984 and Paul Findley (Illinois) through 1982.

**ACADEMIC SERVICE, GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS****Calvin University****Research and Scholarship**

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 2021. Stipend and student assistants to complete book manuscript on religious aspects of American political culture, focusing on congregational contributions to bridging and linking social capital.

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 2018. Stipend and student assistant for one or more articles on changes in American politics related to religion and political parties.

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship/Calvin Alumni Association. Academic year 2011-2012. \$10,000 for leadership of faculty-alumni reading group on civil public discourse.

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 2012. Stipend and student assistant to research and write textbook chapters on Congress, and religion in American politics.

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 2011. Stipend and student assistant for research on faith-based initiatives.

Sabbatical leave, 2009-2010 academic year. Research for articles on the federal faith-based initiative.

Bradley Foundation, 2009-2010. Co-recipient of a follow-on \$75,000 grant for the study of religion and civic responsibility, managed by the Henry Institute at Calvin College.

Bradley Foundation, 2007-2008. Co-recipient of a follow-on \$97,000 grant for the study of religion and civic responsibility, managed by the Henry Institute at Calvin College.

William Spoelhof Teacher-Scholar-in-Residence, January 2007 – August 2008. Endowed chair providing release time for research, publication, and student engagement.

Bradley Foundation, 2006-2007. Co-recipient of a follow-on \$75,000 grant for the study of religion and civic responsibility, managed by the Henry Institute at Calvin College.

Bradley Foundation, 2005-2006. Co-recipient of \$100,000 grant for the study of religion and civic responsibility, managed by the Henry Institute at Calvin College.

Center for Social Research, Summer 2003. Funding for summer research assistant investigating presidential rhetoric and religious language.

Sabbatical leave, 2002-2003 academic year. Research for book on faith-based initiatives.

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship Working Group, 2002-2003 academic year. Co-leader of “The Role of Communities of Faith in Sustaining a Just Society.”

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 2002. Stipend and student assistant for research on faith-based initiatives.

Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, 2000. Stipend and student assistant for edited volume of the writings of the late U.S. Representative Paul B. Henry.

McGregor Fellow Project, Summer 1999. Stipend and student assistant for survey research project on religion and politics.

Calvin Alumni Association Grant, 1999. Funding for local survey on religion and politics.

Fund for Improvement of Teaching, Summer 1998. Summer salary supplement award toward development of a semester in Washington, D.C. program.

Calvin Research Fellowship, 1998-99. One course reduction for research on Congress.

Calvin Summer Seminar in Christian Scholarship, Summer 1997. Summer stipend to participate in seminar entitled “Globalization and Inequality.”

**Formal Calvin University Service**

Educational Policy Committee, 2018 – 2019, 2021 - present.

Search Committee, Director of Career Services, Spring 2015.

Planning and Priorities Committee (as administrator), 2012 – 2015.

Faculty Fellow, Calvin Enrollment Division. 2011-12. One teaching course reduction each semester to provide research and personal assistance to college enrollment division.

Board Member, Calvin College Center for Social Research. Fall 2011 – Fall 2012.  
Faculty Senate, 2008-12, 2004-05, and 2000-02. Parliamentarian for 2004-05, 2001-02.  
Football Feasibility Task Force, Mission theme chair. 2010-2012.  
Search Committee, Dean for Arts, Languages, and Education, Fall 2008.  
Planning Committee for new fitness/wellness center, 2005-2007.  
Student Judicial Appeals Committee, 2004-05.  
Committee on Committees, 2000-2002.  
McGregor Summer Scholars Committee, 1999-2005.  
Interim Director, Calvin College Center for Social Research, 2002-2004.  
Program Director, Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics. 1997-2002.

**Hope College**

Founding director, Center for Faithful Leadership, 2005-2007. Shaped new leadership program, coordinating with existing curricular and co-curricular programs and external constituencies. Taught First Year Seminar, Senior Seminar, and political science.

**Other Academic Service**

Reviewer for journals including *Political Behavior*, *American Review of Politics*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Christian Scholar's Review*, ongoing.  
Christians in Political Science. *Communications Director* (and *ex officio* officer), 2004 - 2008.  
Republican National Convention, 2000. Instructor for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 22 - August 4, 2000.  
American Political Science Association, Religion and Politics Section. *Newsletter editor* (and *ex officio* officer) September 1999 – August 2002.

**Other Professional Service**

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (WHOFBCI). Volunteer, February – June 2008. Collaboratively developed with central and departmental FBCI offices the program and content for concluding WHOFBCI research conference June 26 - 27, 2008 in Washington, D.C.  
Christian Reformed Church in North America, Leadership Consultation. Board member, November 2007 - September 2009. Board conceptualized and initiated new leadership program for church and community leaders within denomination.  
Friends of Transit/Faith in Motion. Consultant, February - November 2006. Provided intensive and collaborative consulting on financing, messaging, and GOTV strategy for successful grassroots ballot committee in Holland, Michigan pursuing an expanded local millage for public bus transit funding.  
Search for Common Ground. Senior Associate, June 2001 - January 2002. Subject matter expert for collaborative interest group effort in Washington, D.C. on faith-based policy. Many recommendations became basis for later congressional and executive action.  
House Republican Conference. Legislative Fellow, January - June 2001. Supported the House Republican Conference Chair, U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr., on faith-based legislation and strategy, working collaboratively with interest groups and other government officials.  
Pat Miles for Grand Rapids City Commission, Campaign treasurer, June - November 1997.

**PUBLICATIONS (Selected)****Books authored and co-authored**

*Understanding American Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013, with Stephen Brooks and J. Matthew Wilson.

*Religion and American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives.* New York, NY: Pearson Longman, July 2010, editor with Amy E. Black and Larycia A. Hawkins.

*The Disappearing God Gap? Religion in the 2008 Presidential Election.* Oxford University Press, 2009, with Corwin Smidt, Kevin denDulk, James Penning, Stephen Monsma, Brian Froehle.

*Pews, Prayers, and Participation: Religion and Civic Responsibility in America.* Georgetown University Press, 2008, with Corwin Smidt, Kevin denDulk, James Penning, and Stephen Monsma.

*Of Little Faith: The Politics of George W. Bush's Faith-Based Initiatives.* Georgetown University Press, April 2004, with Amy E. Black and David K. Ryden.

*Serving the Claims of Justice: The Thoughts of Paul B. Henry.* The Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, April 2001, editor.

*Hostile Takeover: The House Republican Party, 1980-1995.* Rowman and Littlefield. 1996.

**Chapters or articles in books**

"The Obama Faith-Based Office: Continuity and Change," in Mark J. Rozell and Gleaves Whitney, eds., *Religion and the American Presidency.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

"Religion and Public Policy," in *The Oxford Handbook on Religion and American Politics.* Corwin Smidt, Lyman Kellstedt, and James Guth, editors. New York, NY: Oxford, 2009.

"The Status of Faith-Based Initiatives In the Later Bush Administration," in Ann W. Duncan and Steven Jones, eds., *Church - State Issues in America Today, Vol. 1: Religion and Government.* Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2008.

"The Politics of Faith-Based Initiatives," (with Amy E. Black), in Mark J. Rozell and Gleaves Whitney, eds., *Religion and the Bush Presidency.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

"Religion and American Political Parties," in Corwin Smidt, ed. *In God We Trust?: Religion and American Political Life,* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, May 2001.

"Paul Henry: A Model for Integrating Christian Faith and Politics," with Gary L. Visscher, in Timothy J. Demy and Gary P. Stewart, eds. *Politics and Public Policy: A Christian Response,* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel, 2000.

**Other published writing and interviews**

"A Great President's Second Inaugural Address," in *Perspectives: a Journal of Reformed Thought*, Vol. 28. May/June 2013, 3-4.

"Choosing Hope," in *Perspectives: a Journal of Reformed Thought*, Vol. 25:9, November 2010, 3-4.

"I Wish Him Well," in "Thoughts and Prayers, Hopes and Fears for President Obama," in *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, Vol. 24:1, January 2009, 7-8.

"Faith-based Initiatives," Ken Myers interview, *Mars Hill Audio Journal*, July/August 2004.

"Faith-based Effort Can Inspire Success," *Detroit News*, June 10, 2001, 17A.

"Reformed Christian Scholarship and American Politics," *Christian Scholar's Review* 29:3, Spr. 2000.

"Reformed Christian Citizenship in America," *Reformed Review*, Vol. 50:1, Autumn 1996.

"You Can Make A Difference," *Church Herald* 49 (October 1992) 30.

**LECTURES**

"The Re-alignment of Religion and Politics Among Younger Americans." Lecture for the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, November 29, 2012.

"Who's Sanctioning Whom? The Continuing Evolution of the Federal Faith-Based Initiative." Lecture for Paul Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 26, 2011.

"Practicing a Politics of Repentance: Authentic Christian Politics After An Age of Arrogance." Lecture for Paul Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 30, 2007.

"Starting Again at Ground Zero: Rethinking American Politics after 9/11." Presentation at Calvin Midsummer event, July 18, 2002.

"Christians in Public Office: Opportunity or Obligation?" Lecture for Paul Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, September 20, 2000.

"The House Republican Party: An Assessment After One Term." Lecture at the Southern Political Science Association annual meeting. November 1996.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association, former section officer  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Christians in Political Science