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Education

Th.D. (1996), Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts (thesis: "Expediency and the Family of God: A Constructive Theological Analysis of the Early Disciples Movement")

M.Div. (1987) *summa cum laude*, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

B.A. (1984) *magna cum laude*, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas (majors: Journalism and Political Science; minor: Religious Studies)

Primary Teaching Experience

Josiah and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2005- .
Department Chair, 2008-2018.

Assistant Professor of Christian Education, Christian Theological Seminary, 1999-2005. Director of the *Indiana Camp Ministries Enhancement Program*, 2001-2005. Director of the *Disciples House for Youth* project, 2002-2004. Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree program, 1999-2002.

Research Assistant Professor of Theology, Boston University School of Theology. Director of the *Faith Formation in Children's Ministries* project, 1999-2002.

Instructor, University of Massachusetts - Boston, 1997-1998. "World Religions" and "History of Christianity"

Teaching Assistant, Harvard Divinity School and Harvard University. "Feminist Theology as Systematics," 1995. "Theological Values in American Political Discourse," 1995. "Introduction to Christian Theology," 1993. "Introduction to Theological Education for Ministry," 1992. "Advocacy, Negotiation, and Reconciliation," 1992. "Religion and Values in Contemporary American Film," 1992. "Liberalism and Orthodoxy, 1750-1850," 1990.

Junior Tutor and Senior Thesis Advisor, Harvard University. "Protestantism in Nineteenth-Century America," 1992. "Maria Steward: An American Jeremiad," 1991-92.

Courses Offered as a Visiting Professor

Faith & Human Development, Lancaster Theological Seminary (M.Div. distance program), 2019.

Intergenerational Ministries, Lancaster Theological Seminary (D.Min. intensive seminar), 2015.

Faith Formation for Christian Living, Drew University (UMC Camp Ministries certification course), 2007, 2010 & 2012.

Grant Writing and Administration

Children's Spirituality Research and Innovation Hub (Lilly Endowment), 2020- . Addresses the faith formation needs and experiences of children birth to 12 and their families by seeking to promote cutting edge research in many academic disciplines in relation to children's spirituality, assist in translating that research into resources for effective faith formation at home and in communities, provide a central public location for curated materials for and conversations about nurturing children's faith, and support experimentation and reflective practice regarding new approaches to the formation of children's religious identity in a post-Sunday School era.

Mapping Children's Faith Formation (Lilly Endowment), 2018- . Organizing scholars from multiple social science fields and facilitating interdisciplinary research on children's development, family structures and dynamics and faith formation.

Christian Faith and Life Consultation (Lilly Endowment), 2016-17. Researched and assembled groups of scholars to reflect on the state and future of faith formation; constructed a bibliography of scholarly and practical resources on the changing dynamics of American culture, religious practice and ministry.

Disciples House for Youth (Lilly Endowment), 2002-2004. A competitive grant awarded for development of a youth summer institute and youth leader education.

Indiana Camp Ministries Enhancement Program (Lilly Endowment), 2001-2005. Evaluated grant programs at 23 Christian camps and provided semi-annual camp ministries education programs.

Faith Formation in Children's Ministries (Lilly Endowment), 1998-2002. Studied congregational children's ministries and curricula as part of LEI's Education and Formation Initiative.

Publications

Books, Chapters and Curricula

"Adolescent Spirituality and Education" in Marian de Souza, Jane Bone and Jacqueline Watson, eds., *Spirituality Across Disciplines* (Springer, 2016).

"Grieving with the Rule" in *Anthology of Benedictine Spirituality* (October 2013).

"Being Faithful Together: Families and Congregations as Intergenerational Christian Communities" in Kevin Lawson, ed., *Understanding Children's Spirituality: Theology, Research, and Practice* (Cascade Books, 2012).

"Inled mig icke i frestelse" ("Lead me not into temptation": The (Mis)Use of Power when Teaching Children") in *Och han tog dem I famnen...Texter om barn i kyrka och teologi (The Child In Focus: Articles on Children in Church and Theology)* (Svenska Kyrkan, 2011).

"A World Apart: Helping with Autism Spectrum Disorders" in Cynthia Franklin and Rowena Fong, eds. *The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

"God is *Not* Your Divine Butler and Therapist!: Countering 'Moralistic Therapeutic Deism' by Teaching Children the Art of Theological Reflection" in Annemie Dillen and Didier Pollefeyt, eds., *Children's Voices, Children's Perspectives in Ethics, Theology and Religious Education* (Peeters, 2010).

- “Sanctification: Intellectual Inquiry and Holy Conformity” in Peter Heltzel, ed., *Introduction to Disciples Theology* (Chalice Press, 2008).
- “You Can Never Be Too Smart” in Allan Cole, ed., *From Midterms to Ministry* (Eerdmans, 2008).
- “(Non)Cosmetic Ministry: Reclaiming Hope Among Abused Adolescents” in Mary Elizabeth Moore, ed., *Children, Youth & Spirituality in a Troubling World* (Chalice Press, 2008).
- Taught by God: Teaching and Spiritual Formation*, coauthored with E. Byron Anderson (Chalice Press, 2006).
- Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World’s Religious Traditions*, edited volume (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).
- “The Toddler and the Community” in Felicity Kelcourse, ed., *Faith and Human Development* (Chalice Press, 2016 2nd ed. and 2004).
- Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children’s Spiritual Lives* (Jossey-Bass, 2004).
- “Cultivating a Bothersome Faith” in Jane McEvoy, ed., *Kitchen Talk: Sharing Our Stories of Faith* (Chalice Press, 2003).
- Attentive to God: Spirituality in the Church Committee* (Chalice Press, 2001).
- Secondary Religious Education*, Kenyan Institute of Education video curriculum, 1997-1999.
- Nineteen articles in Jeffrey Schultz, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Religion in American Politics*, 1998.
- “Theological Guidebook for ‘Kids Talk TV: Inside/Out,’” United Church of Christ Office of Communication, 1996.

Articles

- “Farewell” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (January 2020).
- “Cultivating Compassion: Developmentally Reframing the Religious Nurture of Young Children” in *Religious Education* (December 2018).
- “Networked disciples: How digital culture can support faith formation” in *The Christian Citizen* (September 2018).
- “Cultivating Christians: North American family cultures and religious identity formation” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (November 2017).
- “The Spiritual Challenges of the ‘Cradle to Prison Pipeline’ in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (May 2017).
- “Drama, intimacy, and vulnerability: the spiritual challenges of digital culture” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (February 2017).
- “New Discoveries about Young Children’s Faith Formation” posted on <http://advocateblog.apcenet.org/2017/01/22/new-discoveries-about-young-childrens-faith-formation/> (January 2017).
- “Pokémon Go or Pokémon No for Christians?” posted on www.facebook.com/UPSem (July 2016).
- “Foreword to the Korean edition of *Taught by God*” in Kyoo Min Lee, trans., *Taught by God* (Christian Literature Society of Korea, 2016).
- “The Challenges of Fostering an International and Interdisciplinary Conversation” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (August 2015)
- “Digital Play as a Spiritually Formative Activity” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (August 2015)
- “The Case Study Fishbowl” in *Teaching Theology and Religion* (April 2015).
- “Digital Power: Exploring the Effects of Social Media on Children’s Spirituality” in *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality* (May 2014).
- “Pastoral Perspective” for John 10:1-6, 10:7-10, and 10:11-18 in *Feasting in the Gospels, Volume 2* (Westminster John Knox, 2014).

- "Wombing: chorionic companions, amniotic companions and placental partners" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (December 2013).
- "Imagining a Life of Faith" in *The Christian Citizen* (October 2013).
- "Dear William and Kate: Some Advice on Caring for Your Child's Spiritual Life" posted on www.patheos.com (August 2013). Reposted on www.faithinrichmond.com (August 2013).
- "Campaigning with Children's Lives" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (December 2012).
- "Children as Targets of Violence" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (October 2012).
- "'Ais Christ/Christin aufwachsen': Kindertheologie im US-amerikanischen Kontext" ("To Grow Up Christian": Child Theology in the American Context") in *Jahrbuch für Kindertheologie* (Yearbook of Child Theology) (Calwer Verlag Stuttgart, 2011).
- "How Will Our Children Know God? Resisting Cultural Epistemologies that Hinder Spiritual Wisdom" in *Journal of Childhood and Religion* (May 2011).
- "Child, Children: Other Religions" in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception 4* (Walter de Gruyter, 2011).
- "Cyber spirituality II: Virtual reality and spiritual formation" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (February 2011).
- "Cyber spirituality: Facebook, Twitter, and the adolescent quest for connection" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (November 2010).
- "Defining childhood at the beginning of the twenty-first century: children as agents" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (February 2010).
- "Remembering Sara Little" in *Religious Education* (December 2009).
- "The International Journal of Children's Spirituality enters adolescence – without leaving childhood behind" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (November 2009).
- "Traveling in Different Directions on the Liturgical Highway" in *Crosscurrents* (June 2009).
- "Playing with Mirrors: Narrative Inquiry as a Method of Congregational Consultation" in *Religious Education* (January-February 2009).
- "Pastoral Perspective" for Propers 10, 11 & 12 in Barbara Brown Taylor & David Bartlett, eds., *Lectionary Commentary Series, Year B, Volume III* (Westminster John Knox, February 2009).
- "'Let Those Who Have Ears to Hear, Listen': Practicing Silence with Young Children" in *Lifelong Faith*, 2:4 (January 2009).
- "Saying No to Relevance, Popularity, and Power: Challenges for Christian Teaching Today" in *The Education Connection* (Winter 2009).
- "Transforming Practices: Emerging Literature on Children, Youth and Christian Formation" online at www.resourcingchristianity.org (September 2008).
- "Forming a Critical Imagination" in *Religious Studies News: Spotlight on Theological Education* (AAR, March 2008).
- "From Toddler to Teenage Theologians," Association of Christian Church Educators Newsletter (Fall 2007).
- "Childhood and spiritual wisdom: constructing a critical conversation for the 21st century" in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 12:1 (April 2007).
- "Being a Child, Becoming Christian" in *Lifelong Faith*, 1:1 (April 2007).
- "Creating an Idyllic World for Children's Spiritual Formation" in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 11:1 (March 2006).
- "Childhood Faith and Teaching Faithfulness," Association of Christian Church Educators Newsletter (September 2005).
- "Selecting Congregational Curricula," *Presbyterian Outlook*, 187:19 (May 23, 2005).
- "Creating a Spiritual World for Children to Inhabit," *Family Ministry*, 18:4 (Winter 2004).
- "More Than a Glimpse of Worship," *Liturgy*, 19:1 (Winter 2003).

- "The Construction of Denominational Identity by Negation: The Separation of the Stone-Campbell Movements from the Baptists and Presbyterians," *Discipliana*, 63:3 (Fall 2003).
- "Toddler Spiritual Formation and the Faith Community," *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 8:2 (August 2003).
- "Looking Past the Cover: Selecting the Best Curricula for Your Congregation," *Education Exchange* (Fall, 2002).
- "Teaching Seminarians to be Practical Theologians," *Encounter* 63:1-2 (2002).
- "Mommy, were children on those planes?" *The Disciple* (November 2001).
- "Reflections on Faith" six-part series, *Indiana Christian* (2001).
- "Addressing the 'Youth Problem' in Our Churches," Association of Christian Church Educators Newsletter (Fall 2001)
- "Practices for Faith Formation," *EcuMiniNet* (June 2001)
- "Disciples Mission Imperatives Shape Education Strategies," Association of United Church Educators Newsletter (July 2000)
- "The Christ Child and the Children in Our Midst," Association of Christian Church Educators Newsletter (January 2000).
- "Small steps became leaps," *The Disciple* (July/August 1999).
- "Planting Churches in 21st Century Soil," in *The Disciple* (October 1998).
- "Women Re-Making Ministry," in *The Disciple* (June 1998).
- "Keeping Faith on Both Sides of the Prison Fence," in *The Disciple* (November 1997).
- "Who's Kicking the Pew? How to Make Room for Children in Worship," in *The Disciple* (December 1996).
- "'If I Perish, We Perish': A Collective Interpretation of Competition," in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, 45:1-2 (1991). Written cooperatively with seven other authors.
- "Adolescent Pregnancy: A Call for an Empowering Church Response" in *Paradigms: Theological Trends of the Future*, 6:1 (Summer 1990).

Book Reviews

- "No Avatars Allowed: Theological Reflection on Video Games" in *Interpretation* (forthcoming July 2021)
- "Always On: Practicing faith in a new media landscape" in *Interpretation* (forthcoming January 2021)
- "Identity, Culture and Belonging: Educating Young Children for a Changing World" in *Religious Education* (published online August 2020)
- "Enhanced Learning and Teaching with Technology: What the Research Says" in *Reflective Teaching* (2019).
- "Growing Down: Theology and Human Nature in the Virtual Age" in *Interpretation* 73.3 (2019).
- "The Story of Monasticism" in *Interpretation* 72.1 (2018).
- "Theological Reflection across Religious Traditions" in *Interpretation* 71.3 (2017).
- "Feasting on the Word: Children's Sermons for Year C" in *Interpretation* 71.3 (2017).
- "Valuable and Vulnerable: Children in the Hebrew Bible, Especially the Elisha Cycle" in *Interpretation* 70:3 (July 2016).
- "The Hungry Mind" in *The Christian Century* (January 20, 2016).
- "The faith lives of women and girls" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 19:3-4 (August-November 2014)
- "Sex + Faith: Talking with Your Child from Birth to Adolescence" in *Interpretation* (2014).
- "What Does Dead Mean?" in *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 19:1 (February 2014).
- "Text, Image, & Otherness in Children's Bibles" in *Interpretation* 67:3 (July 2013).
- "Sins of the Fathers: The Law and Theology of Illegitimacy Reconsidered" in *Theology Today* 67:3 (October 2010).

- "The Child in the Bible" in *Theology Today* 67:2 (July 2010).
- "The Child in the Bible" and "The Vocation of the Child" in *Interpretation* 64:2 (April 2010).
- "Conceiving Parenthood: American Protestantism and the Spirit of Reproduction," by Amy Laura Hall. *Theology Today* (April 2009).
- "When Prayer Fails: Faith Healing, Children, and the Law," by Shawn Francis Peters. *Religious Studies Review* (March 2009).
- "Sex, Marriage, & Family in World Religions," by Don Browning, Christian Green & John Witte Jr., eds. *Theology Today* (2007).
- "In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice," by Bonnie Miller-McLemore. *Interpretation* (October 2007).
- "Children and Our Global Future: theological and social challenges," by Kristin Herzog. *Interpretation* (March 2007).
- "Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood," by Joyce Mercer. *Interpretation* (October 2006).
- "Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe," by Elisheva Baumgarten. *Family Ministry* (Summer 2006).
- "What Do You Believe?" by Sarah Feinbloom (DVD/study guide), *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (2005).
- "The Ministry of Children's Education," by Margaret Krych et al. *Religious Education* (Fall 2005).
- "Religious Education between Modernization and Globalization: New Perspectives on the United States and Germany," by Richard Osmer and Friedrich Schweitzer. *Family Ministry* (Summer, 2004).
- "Post Holocaust Christianity: Paul van Buren's Theology of the Jewish-Christian Reality," by James H. Wallis. *Encounter* (Winter, 1999).
- "Setting the Table: Women in Theological Conversation," by Rita Nakashima Brock, et al., eds. *Encounter* (Autumn, 1997).

Papers

- "Children, Adolescents, Spirituality and Technology", Children's and Adolescents' Spirituality Seminar, University of Laval (Quebec), 2019.
- "Reframing Christian Formation Developmentally", Religious Education Association, 2018.
- "A Developmental Look at Traditioning", International Conference on Children's Spirituality, 2018.
- "Spiritual Vulnerability on the Digital Playground: Relational Aggression, Cyberbullying and Adolescent 'Drama'", American Academy of Religion, 2017.
- "Cultivating Care: Developmentally Reframing the Religious Nurture of Young Children", Religious Education Association, 2017.
- "Drama, Intimacy and Vulnerability: The Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture", 15th International Conference on Children's Spirituality, 2016.
- "Moral Inclinations: Religion as Friend or Foe?", 15th International Conference on Children's Spirituality, 2016.
- "Speaking of Faith: Young Children's Moral Development and the Cultivation of Child Theologizing", Network Conference on Child Theology, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), 2015.
- "Digital Play as a Spiritually Formative Activity", 14th International Conference on Children's Spirituality, 2014.
- "Cultivating Christians: Family Cultures and the Formation of Religious Identity", St. Paul University (Ottawa), 2013.

- “Digital Power: Exploring the Effects of Social Media on Children’s Spirituality”, 13th International Conference on Children’s Spirituality, 2013.
- “Methodologies: Researching Videogaming and Cyberspirituality”, American Academy of Religion, 2012.
- “Standardized testing epistemologies as obstacles to children’s spiritual knowing”, 11th International Conference on Children’s Spirituality, 2011.
- “How Will Our Children Know God? Resisting Cultural Epistemologies that Hinder Spiritual Wisdom”, Children, Youth, Church, and Culture Conference, Austin Seminary, 2010.
- “Lead me not into temptation”: The (Mis)Use of Power when Teaching Children”, Church of Sweden Conference, 2009.
- “The Temptations of Power,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2008.
- “Reading ‘Losers, Loners, and Rebels’ as a Woman, Sister, Mother, and Feminist Scholar,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2007.
- “God is *Not* Your Divine Therapist and Butler,” Children’s Voices, Children’s Perspectives in Ethics, Theology and Religious Education Conference (Leuven, Belgium), 2007.
- “Playing with Mirrors: Narrative Inquiry as a Method of Congregational Consultation,” Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, 2006.
- “(Non)Cosmetic Ministry: Nurturing Hope Among Troubled Adolescents,” Seventh International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Winchester, UK), 2006.
- “Adolescents and Hope,” Children, Youth, and Spirituality in Troubling Times Conference, 2006.
- “Childhood and Spiritual Wisdom,” Sixth International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Malta), 2005.
- “Creating an Idyllic World for Children’s Spiritual Formation: an Analysis of Camp Ministries,” Fifth International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Lincoln, UK), 2004.
- “A Critical Analysis of Children’s Ministries: Implications for Scholarship in Practical Theology,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2003.
- “The Cultivation of Spiritual Knowledge and Wisdom,” Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education Annual Meeting, 2003.
- “Faith Communities and the Care of Children in Crisis,” Fourth International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Victoria, BC), 2003.
- “Challenges of Faith Formation in Children’s Ministries,” Children’s Spirituality – Christian Perspectives Conference, 2003.
- “Toddler Spiritual Formation and the Faith Community,” Children’s Spirituality – Christian Perspectives Conference, 2003.
- “Children as Strangers in the Church,” Association of Practical Theology Pre-AAR Meeting, 2002
- “Theology, educational theory, and children’s faith formation: Findings from the *Faith Formation in Children’s Ministries* Project,” Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education Annual Meeting, 2002.
- “Toddler Spiritual Formation and the Faith Community,” Third International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Winchester, England), 2002.
- “Ministry with Children in a Troubled World,” Association of Practical Theology Spring Meeting, 2002.
- “Celebrating the Work of Hans van der Ven” panel remarks, Association of Practical Theology Fall Meeting, 2001.
- “Spirituality and the Development of Compassion in Children,” Second International Conference on Children’s Spirituality (Haifa, Israel), 2001.
- “Cultivating a Bothersome Faith,” Christian Theological Seminary Knothole Lecture, 2001.
- “Millennialism in the Campbell Tradition: The 1840s, A Response to Mark Toulouse,” Kirkpatrick Historians’ Seminar, 2000.

- “Looking for Our Children in Christian Education’s Methodological Jungle,” Children and Religion Project, 1999.
- “Developing Compassion in Children,” New Jersey Hospital Association Spring Conference, 1997.
- “The Family of God: Disciples Identity and American ‘Family Values’ Rhetoric,” SSSR/RRA Annual Meeting, 1996.
- “The Politics of Irish Charity: Nineteenth-Century Women Religious in Ireland,” AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, 1992.
- “A Barthian and Process Look at God,” Southwest Regional Meeting of the AAR/SBL, 1987. Revised and presented as a lecture in the “Ethics from a Theological Perspective” course at Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1989.

Presentations

- “Back to School: Race, Faith, and Covid-19” panel, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2020.
- “Faith and Digital Culture: Opportunities for Individuals and Families” and “Drama, Intimacy & Vulnerability: Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture”, Anabaptist Mennonite Brethren Seminary Pastors and Leaders Conference, 2020.
- “Strengthening Faith Formation among Children”, Union Matters! Podcast, 2019.
- “Digital Culture and Faith”, Manakin Episcopal Church, 2019.
- “Easter Baskets and the Empty Tomb” and “Digital Culture & Children’s Spirituality”, Salisbury Presbyterian Church, 2019.
- “Faithfully Charting the Course of Change”, River Road Presbyterian Church, 2019.
- “Social Media & Spirituality”, Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 2018.
- “Let the Children Come to Me: Growing in Christ for Children and Youth”, St. James Episcopal Church, 2018.
- “Drama, Intimacy & Vulnerability: Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture”, American Baptist Home Mission Society’s Space for Grace Conference, 2018.
- “Christmas Trees & the Christ Child”, Reveille United Methodist Church, 2017.
- “Faithfully Tracking the Course of Change” and “Following God into the Future”, Manakin Episcopal Church (Powhatan, VA), 2017.
- “Easter Baskets & the Empty Tomb”, United Methodist Alumni/ae Luncheon, 2017
- “The Science of Faithful Learning”, Randolph-Macon College Convergence Program, 2017.
- “Screen Smart Parenting” (Three Parts), Chester Presbyterian Church (Chester, VA), 2017.
- “Intergenerational Challenges in Christian Education”, Manakin Episcopal Church (Powhatan, VA), 2017.
- “Cultivating Curious Christians”, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (Denver, CO), 2017.
- “Cultivating Faith: Families and Spiritual Formation” and “Speaking of Faith with Young Children”, Binkley Baptist Church Education Conference (Chapel Hill, NC), 2016.
- “Being Faithful Together: The Blessings of Intergenerational Faith Communities” and “Cultivating Christians: Family Faith Formation”, Grace and Holy Trinity Church (Richmond, VA), 2016.
- “Easter Eggs and the Empty Tomb”, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (Richmond, VA), 2016.
- “New Discoveries in Preschool Faith Formation”, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (Chicago, IL), 2016.
- “Digital Culture and Spirituality”, Seminary on the Move, 2015.
- “Cultivating Christians”, Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Conference (Baltimore, MD), 2015.
- “Cultivating Family Spirituality”, ATS/PSCE Centennial Celebration, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2014.

- "We Are the Church Together", Coastal Carolina Presbytery *Equipping the Saints* Day
"Fishbowl Case Study", Wabash Teaching Presentation, AAR/SBL, 2013.
- Master's seminar guest lecturer, Pastoral Institute of Dominican University (Montreal), 2013.
- Keynote speaker and church school teacher, Sandia Presbyterian Church Family Ministry event (Albuquerque, NM), 2012.
- Keynote speaker, Children's Ministry Conference, Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA (Mechanicsburg, PA), 2011.
- Keynote speaker and workshop leader, Children's Summit, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona (Phoenix), 2011.
- Consultant, Baptist General Association of Virginia "Emerging Leaders" Project, 2011.
- "21st Century Challenges in Faith Formation", UCC Outdoor Ministry Association, 2010.
- "Parents as Primary Spiritual Nurturers" and "Intergenerational Worship," LOGOS Live!, 2010.
- Children's Ministries Lecturer, Pastoral Institut, Lund, Sweden, 2009.
- "Family Spirituality" and "Teaching as a Spiritual Practice," Disciples of Christ General Assembly, 2009.
- "Real Families, Real Faith: Spiritual Practices for 21st Century Homes and Congregations," Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives Conference, 2009.
- "Nurturing Faithful Children in a Troubling World," Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 2009.
- "Contemporary Trends & Horizons for 21st Century Curricula," Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association Annual Meeting, 2009.
- "Life Together as Teacher and Learner," Richmond Resource Center Educators Appreciation Banquet, 2008.
- "Lifelong Learners in God's School" and "Life Together as Teacher and Learner," Presbytery of Carlisle Education Symposium, 2008.
- "Life Together as Teachers and Learners" and "Contemporary Practices of Contemplative Prayer," Regional Assembly for the Christian Church in Virginia, 2008.
- "Children's Faith Formation," Virginia Baptist Mission Board Pastor/Deacon/Church Leadership Conference, 2008.
- "Real Kids, Real Faith," Indianapolis and Fort Wayne Centers for Congregations, 2008.
- "Reflections on Ghanaian Church and Society," St. John's United Church of Christ, 2008.
- "Faith Practices for Busy Families" Adult Forum Series, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2008.
- "Parenting Q&A" Adult Forum, St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 2007.
- "Collaborative Teaching: A Pedagogical and Intercultural Exploration," Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, 2007.
- "Collaborative Teaching," Teaching Religion Section and Wabash Center Roundtable Discussion, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2007.
- "Spiritual Practices for Youth," Project Burning Bush course, 2007.
- "Christian Teaching and Being Taught by God," Christian Educators Fellowship Retreat (Southern California Chapter), 2007.
- "Real Kids, Real Faith," Abiding Presence Lutheran Church (San Antonio), 2007
- "You Can Become All Flame: Igniting Spiritual Passion Across the Lifespan," Union-PSCE Continuing Education course, 2007.
- "Real Kids, Real Faith," St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (Richmond), 2007.
- "Christian Education for the 21st Century," Presbytery of the James Educators Luncheon, 2006.
- "And God Created Children...Nurturing Faith from Birth through Adolescence," Moravian Church in America Education Conference, 2006.
- "Real kids, real faith: Practices for encouraging a child's journey of faith," St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Day of Grace, 2006.
- "Real Kids, Real Faith," Luther Seminary Children's Summit, 2006.
- "Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives," First Presbyterian Church (Richmond), 2006.

- "Children's Ministry," Congregational Church of New Canaan, 2006.
- "Contemporary Camp Ministries: Findings from the Indiana Camp Ministries Enhancement Program," National Council of Churches outdoor Ministries Committee, 2005.
- "Contemporary Christian Education with Children," Episcopal Educators Luncheon, 2005.
- "Children's and Family Ministries," Perkins School of Theology *Ministry with Small Churches* course guest lecture (via video stream), 2005.
- "Practicing the Life of Faith with Youth," New Visions of Youth Ministry Conference, 2004.
- "Let the Children Come: The Church in Ministry with Children," Trinity Lutheran Seminary Center for Educational Ministry in the Parish, 2004.
- "The Landscapes and Horizons of Children's Ministries," Brethren Press Address, Church of the Brethren Annual Meeting, 2004
- "Becoming a 21st Century Sunday School Teacher," Church of the Brethren Annual Meeting, 2004.
- "Selecting Sunday School Curriculum," Church of the Brethren Annual Meeting, 2004.
- "Cultivating a Bothersome Faith," First Congregational Church Chautauqua Lectures, 2004.
- "Faith Formation" and "Moral Formation," Benedict Inn Spiritual Direction Internship Program, 2003 and 2001.
- "Roundtable on Children's Spirituality Research Methods," Children's Spirituality – Christian Perspectives Conference, 2003.
- "Families and Faith" Panel, Faith, Families and Congregations Conference, 2003.
- "How Faith Forms in Children," Parish Resource Center (Lancaster, PA), 2003
- "Spirituality and the Church Committee," Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia, 2003.
- "Growing Together in Faith," Indianapolis Conference of the ELCA Learning Roundtable, 2002.
- "Spirituality and the Business of the Congregation," Indianapolis Center for Congregations, 2002.
- "Teaching Across the Lifespan," Southport Christian Church, 2002.
- "Spiritual Disciplines," Joint Annual Meeting of the Indiana Region of the Disciples of Christ and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ, 2002.
- "In the Presence of the Burning Bush: Christian Learners as Interpreters of God's Word," Pennsylvania Southeast Association of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting, 2002.
- "Story-linking as a Way of Nurturing Faith", Pennsylvania Southeast Association of the UCC Annual Meeting, 2002.
- "Choosing Curriculum," Congregational Resource Center Curriculum Fair, 2002.
- "Spirituality and Church Business," Southeast Association Clergy Group of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ, 2002.
- "Ministry as a Seminary Professor," Indiana CYF Conference, 2001.
- "Faith on Film," Indiana CYF Conference, 2001.
- "The 'Youth Problem' and Congregations," University of Indianapolis IN-Conversation Gathering, 2001.
- "Teaching a Welcoming People to Pray," Disciples of Christ/United Church of Christ General Assembly/Synod, 2001.
- "Spirituality in the Church Committee," Disciples/UCC General Assembly/Synod, 2001.
- "Parents and Kids Together: Making a Home for Faith," Naples, Florida, 2001.
- "Being Former in Faith Together," Children Welcome! Conference, 2001.
- "Children's Ministries for Faith Formation," San Diego Disciples Center, 2000.
- "Sexuality and Spiritual Formation," Christian Theological Seminary Focus on Ministry Week, 2000.
- "Planning for Effective Adult Discipleship," Roberts Park United Methodist Church Retreat, 2000.
- "The Learner as Interpreter," United Church of Christ Partners in Education National Meeting, 2000.
- "Being Formed in Faith," First Congregational Church Adult Educational Series, 2000.
- "Children and Spirituality," Association of Christian Church Educators National Meeting, 2000.
- "Choosing Curriculum for Your Church," United Church of Christ Indiana Key Leader's Seminar, 2000.

“Forming Children in Christian Faith,” CTS Focus on Ministry Workshop, 1999.
“Children, Spirituality and Religious Traditions,” Harvard University, 1999.
“Faith Formation in a Bottle,” Christian Educator’s Breakfast, Disciples General Assembly, 1999.
“Getting to Know the Disciples of Christ,” Massachusetts Area Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1993 and 1996.

Consultations and Boards

Chair, International Association of Children’s Spirituality
Consultant, Search Institute *Building Intentional Relationships with Youth* Project
Vocational Programs Consultant, Lilly Endowment Religion Division
Manuscript reviewer, African Sun Media
Article reviewer, multiple journals (*Medical Hypotheses, Theology Today, Religious Education, International Journal of Children’s Spirituality*)
Nominations Committee member, Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
Academic Disciplines Committee member, Religious Education Association
Co-editor, *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality*, 2014-2019
Consultant, UCC Central Atlantic Conference Ministry Institutes, 2014-2018
Consultant, Church World Service Working Group on Children in Disaster, 2014-2015
Review Board member, *Religious Education*, 2004-2014
Consultant, “Religion & Identity Survey of Bosnian Youth” project, 2009
Advisory Board Member, *Lifelong Faith* journal, 2008-2011
Co-Chair, AAR Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation, 2008-2010
Consultant, Center for Ministry Development “Lifelong Faith Formation” project, 2008
Consultant, Christian Reformed Church Curriculum Development project, 2008
Theological Advisor, Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence, 2007-2010
Children Task Force Chair and Academic Forum Steering Committee Member, Religious Education Association, 2006-2009
Institute of Reformed Theology “Scandal of Particularity” Consultation Member, 2006-2008
Spiritual Director, *Women Touched by Grace* Project, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, 2003-2006
Consultant, Wabash Center *Teaching Youth Ministry* Consultation, 2003-04
Advisory Board Member, *Crossings Project*, University of Indianapolis, 2002-2005
Consultant, Louisville Institute Summer Stipend Program, 2002
Pre-AAR Program Coordinator and Executive Committee Member, Association of Practical Theology, 2000-2004
Consultant, Incubation Center for Congregational Resources Project, Christian Board of Publication, 1999-2004
Consultant, Children and Religion Project, University of Indiana - Bloomington, 1999-2000
Disciples Care for Children Task Force Member, Division of Homeland Ministries, 1998-2001
Discipliana Editorial Board Member, 1999-2002
Religious Education and Formation Project Consultant, Lilly Endowment, 1997

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion
Religious Education Association
International Association of Children’s Spirituality

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
Association of Practical Theology

Community Service

Volunteer, International Rescue Committee
Volunteer, LifeNet Health "Donate Life" Campaign
Volunteer, Faith in Public Life
Volunteer, It Gets Better Project
Volunteer, Virginia League for Planned Parenthood