

KENDA CREASY DEAN

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Young people and religious faith
Practical theology
Christian education/discipleship formation
Creativity, pedagogy and theological education
Christian social innovation and redemptive entrepreneurship

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1997. *Dissertation: "Youth Ministry as the Transformation of Passion"* (Richard R. Osmer, advisor)
M.Div., Wesley Theological Seminary, 1988 (*summa cum laude*)
M.A., Miami University (Ohio), 1981, speech communication/rhetoric (*summa cum laude*)
B.S., Miami University (Ohio), 1980, speech education (*magna cum laude*)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic:

- *Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church and Culture*, Princeton Theological Seminary (2013 – present)
- *Professor of Youth, Church and Culture*, Princeton Theological Seminary (2010-2013)
- *Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture*, Princeton Theological Seminary (2003-2010)
- *Director*, Tennent School of Christian Education (2001 -- 2008)
- *Assistant Professor of Youth, Church and Culture*, Princeton Theological Seminary (1997-2003)
- *Founding director*, Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry (1994-1998)
- *Instructor of Speech Communication/Forensics Coach*, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN (1982-1985)

Pastoral:

- *Coordinating pastor*, Kingston United Methodist Church (2012-2017).
- *Associate pastor*, University United Methodist Church, College Park, MD (1988-91)
- *Campus minister/Director*, Wesley Foundation, U. of Maryland, College Park (1988-91)
- *Assistant minister*, Walker Chapel (United Methodist Church), Arlington, VA (1987-88)
- *Middle high minister*, Rockville Christian Church, Rockville, MD (1987)

- *Ordination*: United Methodist elder in full connection (1997), member, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference

Consultant:

- *Co-founder*, Ministry Incubators, Inc. Consulting/training to assist judicatories, churches, schools and individuals in spiritual entrepreneurship/social innovation (2014-2025).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- [2024 Distinguished Locke Innovative Leader Award](#) (inaugural recipient), [Wesleyan Impact Partners](#) (national nonprofit of investors, borrowers, and philanthropists investing in innovative ministry leaders). Honors “extraordinary impact” on the ecosystem supporting innovation in ministry.
- *START National Fellowship* (competitive national fellowship program for spiritual entrepreneurs, Columbia Business School/Glean Network), 2020-21
- *Society of John Wesley Award of Merit*, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC (distinguished alumni award, 2014).
- *World Changers Award*, Young Christian Leaders Scholarship Program (2014).
- Named *Outstanding Youth Ministry Educator*, Association for Youth Ministry Education, Dallas, Texas (2012).
- *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry* (InterVarsity, 2011), with Andrew Root.
--2011 *Christianity Today* Book “Award of Merit” (Church/Pastoral Leadership)
- *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church* (Oxford, 2010).
--2010 [Christianity Today Book Award](#) (top book, Church/Pastoral Leadership)
--*Preaching Magazine*, named one of “[2010’s Best Books for Preaching](#)”
- *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church* (Eerdmans, 2004)
--One of the Top Ten Books of 2004, Academy of Parish Clergy
--One of five “must read books” in practical theology, *Christian Century* (March 2005)
--Chosen as the basis for Youth Specialties “The Core” curriculum training (2006)
(20,000 youth ministers received this training).
- *Hall of Fame*, National Forensics Association. Juried selection for outstanding lifetime achievement in/contribution to forensics and education, and continued use of public speaking in a professional field. Unsolicited. Awarded 2003.

GRANTS AWARDED:

- [Teaching Spiritual Entrepreneurship in Theological Education](#), Trinity Wall Street Foundation (\$1 million) – to research, design, prototype, and share educational ecology for [forming spiritual entrepreneurs in 9 North American seminaries](#). Principle investigator/senior strategist.
- [Polaris Young Adult Leadership Network](#), Lilly Endowment (\$4 million) – to develop strategies that increase capacities of young adult Christian leaders, and develop a supportive infrastructure that connects them, 2023-2027. Principle investigator/senior strategist.
- [The Ministry Collaboratory with Young Adults](#), Lilly Endowment ([\\$1.25 million](#)) – to develop and disseminate findings originating in original young adult innovation hub, and test

hypothesis of spiritual seeking through young adult domains (*The Zoe Project*, below), 2022-2025. Principle investigator/senior strategist.

- *The Isaiah Partnership*, Lilly Endowment (\$1 million) – to experiment with innovation in theological education at Princeton Theological Seminary, 2021-2024. Project design/Steering committee.
- *The Zoe Project: Young Adult Ministry Innovation grant*, Lilly Endowment (\$1.5 million)– to create/test innovation processes in congregations for developing relationships with and nurture the spiritual lives of young adults, 2017-2021. Principle investigator/senior strategist.
- *Reynolds Foundation grant* (\$15,000) to develop discipleship coaching model, Reynolds Foundation, Charlotte, NC, 2019. Project director. <https://ptsem.edu/about/the-quad/news/news-flipping-the-script/>
- *Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Project*, co-director with Harold Masback, Yale University, “Center for Faith and Culture” 2017-2020 (part of Templeton’s \$4.3 million “Joy and Human Flourishing” project). Miroslav Volf, principal investigator. Personal subgrants included:
 - *Life Worth Living: Joy and Pedagogy* grant, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, “Life Worth Living” project (\$23,000) – to explore pedagogical approaches that adapt the Yale undergraduate “Life Worth Living” course for other (academic and non-academic) contexts with young people. Project director/manager, 2018-2020.
 - *Joy and Passion* grant, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, “Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing” project (\$25,000) – to research the connection between passion, joy, and Christian theology for adolescents. Project director/manager, 2016-2018.
- *Young Clergy Initiative, United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry*
 - *New Ministry Apprentice Program* (\$100,000) – to design and implement pilot program for training student pastors in new ministry development for small churches. Project director, 2014-2020. Project director.
 - *Campus Ministry Chaplains’ Corps* (\$100,000) – to design and implement pilot program for training teams of student campus ministers to help churches near campus build bridges to campus communities. Project director, 2014-2016. Project director.
- *High School Theology Seminars Program Evaluation* (2011-2014). Designed research and supervised research team to assess impact of leadership development in 2 decades of high school youth and theology projects. Principle investigator/project director.
- *Faithful Practices Project*, Lilly Endowment (\$1 million) to Tennent School of Christian Education to discern best practices by which churches engage people in coming to faith, growing in faith, and serving in faith. Co-director/steering committee, 2004-2006.
- *Ten Year Assessment of Youth Ministry Projects for High School Students in ATS Seminaries* (2003-2004). Principle investigator. Evaluated Lilly Endowment programs on theological education with high school students, at one-decade mark.
- *Wabash Study Leave Grant* (\$60,000) to study apprenticeship models of pedagogy in youth/young adult ministry and theological education. Project director, 2008-2009.
- *Louisville Institute Summer Stipend Award* (\$10,000) research on passion, youth, church. Awarded 2001.
- *Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith Grant* to research adolescent passion and Christian theology. Awarded 1999.

- *John Wesley Scholar*, Foundation for Theological Education award for outstanding potential for teaching in theological education from a Wesleyan perspective. Awarded 1991.
- *Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development*, research grant, “A Matter of Time” project on youth development. Principle investigator. Awarded 1990.
- *Time to Change*, Lilly Endowment grant to chart new course for youth ministry in the 1990s. Project director. Awarded 1989.

OTHER MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS::

- [*National Study of Youth and Religion*](#) (2000-2005). Co-investigator for Wave I findings. Largest study ever undertaken on the religious lives of teenagers. The first broad descriptive mapping of the religious beliefs and practices of youth in the U.S. Christian Smith, principle investigator.
- *Princeton Globalization and Youth Ministry Project* (1998-2003). Co-director. Coordinated and led international team of senior research scholars investigating the impact of globalization on ministry with adolescents, and the implications for practical theology.

Other research leadership:

- “*The Log College Project*,” 2018-2021, Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry. Research advisor. Advise research associates as they direct and interpret findings from national research project around innovation and youth ministry.
- *International Advisory Board*, “*Theology of Joy and the Good Life*” project, 2014-2018, with Yale University Center for Faith and Culture. My focus was on pedagogy with young people. Templeton-funded initiative sponsored by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Miroslav Volf, principle investigator.
- *The Confirmation Project* (2014-present). Multi-institutional, Lilly-funded research project on the state and future of confirmation in United Methodist, Presbyterian (PCUSA), African Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Episcopal churches in the US. Sponsored by Princeton Theological Seminary. Katherine Douglass and Richard Osmer, principle investigators. Steering committee.
- *Youth Ministry Innovation Project* (2015-2017) with Fuller Theological Seminary. Lilly-funded research project on youth ministry innovation, sponsored by Fuller Youth Institute. Kara Powell, principle investigator. Advisory council
- *Churches Engaging Young People Project* (2013-2017), with Fuller Theological Seminary. Lilly-funded research project on congregations that successfully engage young people (Fuller Youth Institute). Kara Powell, principle investigator. Advisory council.
- *Christians’ Callings in the World Project* (2009-2013), multiple institutions. Lilly-funded research project on theological education and vocation, involving Princeton faculty/pastors and three other theological schools. David Lose/Rolf Jacobsen (Luther Seminary), principle investigators. Steering committee.
- *Lilly Endowment Youth Ministry Think Tank* (2008-2012), with the Center for Youth Ministry Training. Lilly-funded research on strengthening connections between academic and practitioner training in youth ministry. Dietrich Kirk, principle investigator.

COURSES TAUGHT:

Ph.D. seminars:

Coming of Age in a Culture of Creativity
Practical Theology, Popular Culture and Adolescence
Theories of Teaching in America, 1860-present
Practices of Christian Education in Congregations
Models of Adolescent Formation in Contemporary Christianity
Graduate Teaching Colloquium
First Year Interdisciplinary Seminar
Teacher Apprenticeship Program (2-year mandatory program for doctoral students)

M.Div./M.A. courses:

Advanced Studies in Youth, Church and Culture
Adolescent World (*Wesley Theological Seminary*)
Advanced Readings in Youth Ministry
Anti-Racism Design Lab (article about class [here](#))
Church as Social Entrepreneur (travel course) (article about class [here](#))
Collaboratory: Special Topics for Ministry with Young Adults

- Case Studies on Young Adult Ministry
- Faith Formation in a Secular World
- Fundraising: Raising Confidence, Cash, and Connections
- Race and Youth Ministry (with Carmelle Beaugelin)
- Jesus, Zombies, and Dinosaurs: Science and Youth Ministry
- Visual Storytellers: Social Media for Christian Leaders (with Jeff Chu)

Cross-Cultural Research in Youth Ministry (travel course to South Africa)
Desolation and Grace in Young Adult Spirituality (travel course to England/Scotland; article about class [here](#))
Ecologies of Faith Formation (video from class [here](#))
Failing Well
Faith, Film and Spiritual Formation of Young Adults
Field Education Supervision
Incarnational Pedagogy
Interfaith Leadership (co-taught with Dr. Eboo Patel, Interfaith Youth Core)
Introduction to Christian Education
Introduction to Speech Communication
Laboratory in Models of Sustainable Ministry
Laboratory in Entrepreneurial Ministries
Missional Innovation and Young Adults
Models of Ministry with College Students and Young Adults
Passion, Joy and Adolescents
Practicum in Entrepreneurial Ministry
Practicum in Theology, Ecology, and Faith Formation
Preaching to Youth
Readings in Theology and Adolescence
Life Together: Readings in Young Adult Spirituality

Sermon Delivery Workshop
 Sex and Teenagers: Teaching from Christian Perspective
 Start Up Bus: Immersion in Entrepreneurial Ministry (travel course, multiple sites, USA)
 Teaching the Gospel to Adolescents
 Teaching the Bible to Children and Youth
 Theological Foundations of Youth Ministry
 Toward a Theology of Church Leadership
 When (Youth) Ministry Goes Online: Now What?
 Youth Ministry Forum Course
 Institute for Youth Ministry Research Course

D.Min. courses:

Case Studies in Pastoral Ministry (Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton NJ)
 Introduction to Missional Entrepreneurship (Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN)
 Entrepreneurial Faith: The Future of Ministry with Young Adults (Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. and Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K.)

Online courses:

Innovation and Youth Ministry, Carey Theological College, Auckland, New Zealand (May 2018)
 The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry (PTS Institute for Youth Ministry, 2019)
 Theological Foundations for Innovation (PTS Institute for Youth Ministry/Log College Project, 2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul-Tending for Youth Ministry*, with Ron Foster and Megan Dewald, **revised 25th anniversary edition** (Nashville: Upper Room), 2023 (see below)
- *Innovating for Love: Joining God's Expedition through Christian Social Innovation* (Knoxville, TN: Market Square Publishing), 2022. Final volume in The Greatest Expedition Series, ed. Kay Kotan. A theological rationale for congregational innovation, framing faithful innovation as a Christian practice in a post-Covid world.
- [*Delighted: What Teenagers Are Teaching the Church about Joy*](#) (editor; co-authored with Wesley Ellis, Justin Forbes, and Abigail Visco Rusert [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans], 2020). Author of preface and introduction; co-author of remainder of book, collaboratively written. Posits joy as the starting point of ministry with young people, rather than its culmination, illustrated in 3 common practices in youth ministry: friendship, celebration, and confession.
- *Consensus and Conflict: Practical Theology for Congregations in the Work of Richard R. Osmer*, [festschrift in honor of Richard R. Osmer]. Senior editor, with Andrew Root, Amanda Drury, and Blair Bertrand (Pickwick Press, 2019). Single author of Chapter Four ("Richard R. Osmer and the Theological Turn in Youth Ministry"); co-author of introduction and conclusion. *Festschrift* honoring Osmer's impact on and contributions to practical theology.
- *How Youth Ministry Can Change Theological Education (If We Let It)*, (Eerdmans, 2016). Senior editor and author of multi-author book on pedagogies for leadership development, Lilly Endowment's High School Theology Seminar. Christy Lang Hearlson, co-editor.

- *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry*. Co-author with Andrew Root (InterVarsity Press, 2011). Collection of previously published articles and essays on practical theology and youth ministry by A. Root and K.C. Dean. (See “Awards and Recognitions” for more)
--Mandarin translation, Taipei City, Taiwan: Campus Evangelical Fellowship Press, 2017.
- *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church* (Oxford University Press, 2010). Book resulting from “National Study of Youth and Religion” research project (above) on the significance of religious practice for American young people. (See “Awards and Recognitions”)
- *OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook* (Abingdon Press, 2010). “State of the field” textbook on ministry with young people. Editor and co-author.
- *Youth, Religion and Globalization, New Research in Practical Theology*, eds. Richard R. Osmer and Kenda Creasy Dean (Zurich: LIT Verlag GmbH Co., 2007). Summarizes research findings from international team of researchers conducted during the Globalization and Youth Ministry Project (1999-2003). Wrote chapter interpreting my research on globalization, youth and youth ministry in the U.S. and was second author on concluding chapter (see below).
- *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*, (Eerdmans, 2004). Posits Christian passion, as enacted in historic practices of the Christian community, as the core curricula for faith formation, and argues for youth ministry’s location in practical theology.
- *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry*, eds. Kenda Creasy Dean, Chap Clark, and Dave Rahn. (Zondervan/Youth Specialties Academic, 2001). Edited two of book’s four sections and wrote all chapters on practical theology; provided practical theological framework for volume designed to introduce undergraduates to a practical theology based framework for youth ministry.
- *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul-Tending for Youth Ministry*, co-author Ron Foster (Upper Room, 1998; revised edition 2010; major revision 2023). Conceived and developed book’s governing thesis/ framework, wrote conceptual sections and some practical sections.
--Korean translation (Seoul: The Blessed People), 2006.
--Chinese translation (Hong Kong: Fellowship of Evangelical Students), 2001.
--Revised 25th anniversary edition (Nashville: Upper Room), 2023, co-authored with Ron Foster and Megan DeWald (see above).
- *Covenant Discipleship on Campus*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1991. Co-author, Kim Hauenstein-Mallet. Wrote chapters on Wesleyan models of discipleship and on practical linkages between campus covenant groups and local churches.

Editorships and Editorial Boards

- Editorial boards:
 - *Journal of Youth and Theology*, 2001-present (academic journal of the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry)
 - *Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika/Practical Theology in South Africa*, 2009-2020 (academic)
 - *Immerse Journal*, 2009-2013 (popular)
 - *Journal of Student Ministries*, 2006-2009 (popular)
- Contributing editor, *Youthworker Journal*, 2001-2004. (popular)
- Editor, campus ministry section, *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly*, 1989-1991 (popular)

Chapters in Books

- Forewords
 - *Youth Theology Network Book of Practices*, Brian Hull et al. (publisher tba), 2026.
 - *Worship with Teenagers*, Eric Mathis (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 2022.
 - *Wrestling with Rest: Youth, Sabbath, and the Hope of a Grace-Rooted Identity*, Nathan T. Stucky (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 2019.
 - *Mentorship and Marketplace: A New Approach to Youth Ministry*, Matthew Overton (El Cajon, CAL: Youth Cartel), 2019.
 - *Cultivating Teen Faith: Insights from the Confirmation Project*, Katherine Douglass and Richard R. Osmer, eds. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 2018.
 - *Trust by Design*, Amy Valdez Barker (Nashville: Abingdon Press), 2017.
 - *Flipped Church*, Michael Baughman, ed. (Nashville: Abingdon Press), 2015. Co-authored with Mark DeVries.
 - *The Gospel According to The Little Prince*, Stefano Giannatempo (Milan, Italy: Claudiana Publishing House), 2015.
 - *Almost Christian Parent Guide*, Dietrich Kirk, ed. (YMPress), 2012.
 - *The God-Hungry Imagination*, Sarah Arthur (Upper Room), 2007. Co-authored with R. Foster.
 - *Soul-Tending: Spiritual Practices for Youth and Young Adults*, ed. Jenny Youngman (Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House), 2002. Co-authored with Ron Foster.
- “Stranger Things: Reclaiming the Oddness of Jesus for Youth Ministry,” in *Five Views on the Future of Youth Ministry*, ed. Mark Oestreicher (Youth Cartel), 2021.
- “Ode to Joy” and “Losing Our Scales: The Adolescent Experience of Joy as Arousal,” in *Delighted: What Teenagers Are Teaching the Church about Joy* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 2020. (Co-author on all other chapters in book)
- “Ain’t Never Had a Friend Like Me,” with Wesley Ellis, in *Joy: A Guide to Youth Ministry* (Nashville: Abingdon), 2020.
- “Introduction,” “Accidental Prophet,” “Conclusion,” in *Consensus and Conflict: Practical Theology for Congregations in the Work of Richard R. Osmer* (Pickwick Press), 2019.
- “Introduction,” *Cultivating Teen Faith: Insights from the Confirmation Project* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018). Co-authored with Katherine Douglass.
- “Married, with Children: When Childbearing and Job-Seeking Collide,” in *It Happens: Dealing with the Everyday Stuff of Youth Ministry*, Will Penner, ed. (YMPress), 2012.
- “Take Risks,” in *You Lost Me*, David Kinnaman, ed. (Baker Books), 2011.
- “Introduction,” “Enduring Understandings in Youth Ministry,” “The Maturing Discipline of Youth Ministry,” in *OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook* (Abingdon), 2010.
- “Preface,” *Youth Ministry 3.0*, Mark Oestreicher (Youth Specialties/Zondervan), 2008.
- “God vs. Glitz: Globalization, Youth and Religion in the U.S.” In *Youth, Religion and Globalization, New Research in Practical Theology*, eds. R.R. Osmer and K.C. Dean (Zurich: LIT Verlag GmbH Co.), 2007.
 - Revised chapter reprinted in Terence Linhart and David Livermore, *A World of Youth Ministry* (Zondervan/Youth Specialties Academic, 2010).
- “Ambivalences and Ambiguities.” 2nd author with Tony Jones. In *Youth, Religion and Globalization, New Research in Practical Theology*, eds. R.R. Osmer/K.C. Dean (Zurich: LIT Verlag GmbH Co.), 2007.

- “Moshing for Jesus: Adolescence as a Cultural Context for Worship,” *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*, eds. B. Blount/L. Tisdale (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox), 2000.
 - Reprinted in *More Than a Worship Band: A Reader for Multidimensional Contemporary Worship*, eds. T. Dearborn and S.H. Coyle (Grand Rapids: Baker), 2003.
- “Passion: A Theological Starting Point for Youth Ministry.” In *Youth Ministry: The Basics and Beyond--Youth Specialists Explore the Challenges of Youth Ministry in the 21st Century*, ed. D. Kitching and D. Robbins. Cape Town: Youth Specialties-South Africa, 1997, 13-26.

Articles

Academic:

- “Mapping the Protestant Landscape of Young Adult Christians in the United States,” with Abigail Visco Rusert (second author), *Theologische Literaturzeitung* (in press).
- “Scaling Niceness: Is Christian Social Innovation a New Social Gospel Movement?” *Theology Today* (Fall 2025).
- “Ode to Joy: Adolescents’ Experience of Joy as Arousal,” white paper, Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing consultation, Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School (Fall 2014).
- “Pointing the Finger in the Wrong Direction: Thomas Bergler’s *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*,” *Theology Today* (Spring 2013).
- “Practicing Youthfulness: Youth Ministry as Ecclesial Laboratory,” *Journal of Youth and Theology* 10 (2012), 79-92.
- “Translating the Gospel for Teenagers,” *Catalyst* (abridged by Nathan Stucky). Reprinted from K. Dean, *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church* (Oxford, 2010), January 2012.
- Response to Cynthia Rigby’s review of *Almost Christian*, *Conversations*. In press.
- “Youth,” *The New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*, vol. 5, S-Z, eds. K. Sakenfeld et al., (Abingdon), 2009.
- “‘We Will Find the Answers As We Go’: Reflections on Chap Clark’s Vision of Youth Ministry as Practical Theology,” *Journal of Youth Ministry* (Fall 2008).
- “Preaching to Youth,” in *The New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook for Preaching*, eds. Cleophus LaRue and Jana Childers (Nashville: Abingdon Press), 2008.
- “A Response to the Review of Kenda Creasy Dean’s *Practicing Passion*,” *Journal of Youth and Theology* 4:1 (April 2005), 102-111.
- “The New Rhetoric of Youth Ministry,” *Quarterly Review* 23 (Fall 2002), 317-327.
- Reprinted in *Journal of Youth and Theology* 2:2 (November 2003), 8-18.
- “X-Files and Unknown Gods: The Search for Truth in Postmodern Adolescents,” *American Baptist Quarterly* 19 (Mar. 2000), 3-21.
- “Proclaiming Salvation: Youth Ministry in the Twenty-First Century,” *Theology Today* 56 (Jan. 2000), 524-539.
- “Approaching Youth Ministry as Practical Theology,” *Catalyst* 26 (February 2000), 1-3.
- “Practical Theology and Adolescence in America: Research Report,” *International Journal of Practical Theology* 2, (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1998), 132-154.

Popular: (print)

- "The Last Human Job: 2025 Fall Convocation Address," *Theology Today* (in press).
- "Love Made Me an Inventor: Why Churches Should Be Talking about Social Entrepreneurship," *Caring* (June 2017).
- "Courage to Step Out: Reflections on Matthew 14:22-33," *Open Me* series (Youthscape: London), Spring 2015. Multimedia platform.
- "How Can We Better Reach Nominal Christians Before They Become 'Nones'?" *Christianity Today* (March 2014).
- "Beyond Truthiness: The Juvenilization Thesis in Youth Ministry," *Immerse* (November 2012), 11-16.
- "How Not to Raise Nice Teenagers," *Christian Research Journal* (Spring 2011).
- "[Faith—Nice and Easy](#)," *The Christian Century* (August 10, 2010)
- "Rethinking Youth Sunday," *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching & the Arts* (Fall 2008). Second author with Amanda Drury.
- "Timothy Scholars: Preparing Professors for Positions in Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry," *Forward* (Summer 2006), n.p.
- "Reflection: The Eschatological Significance of Summer Camp," *Insight: The Faculty Journal of Austin Seminary* 120 (Spring 2005), 18-21.
- "God's Passion—and Ours," *Leader* (Winter 2004/2005), 2-4.
- "Proclaiming Passion: The Theological Challenge of Youth Ministry in the 21st Century," *Congregations* (Fall 2004), 2-4.
- "A Faith to Die for," excerpted from *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Search for a Passionate Church*, in *Congregations* (Fall 2004), 5.
- "Proclaiming Passion: The Theological Challenge of Youth Ministry in the 21st Century Church," Alban Inst./WETA Discussion Guide (accompanied WETA public television special, *The Congregation*), 2004.
- "Something to Live for," excerpted from *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Search for a Passionate Church*, in *The Christian Century* (March 3, 2004).
- "Come to the Waters," *Information: United Methodist Newsletter Series for Family and Life-Span Ministries* (May 2001), 2-3.
- "Pastoring in the Dark," *Group* (September/October 1999), 124-127.
- "Desperately Seeking Sinews: The Campus Covenant Discipleship Community." *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly* 6 (October 1990), 4-5.
- "What to Do When Your Covenant Group Gets Delinquent." *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly* 5 (July 1989).
 - Reprint, *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly* 13 (Spring 1998), 2-3, 11.
- "Commitment on Campus: Introducing Covenant Discipleship to Campus Ministry." *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly* 4 (January 1989) 4-5, 7.

Published Lectures:

- "Searching for Issachar: Reimagining Church as a Missional Incubator," The Payton Lectures, Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA), 2017.
- "Love Made Me an Inventor," Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2016.

- “Ascension Deficit Disorder: Youth Ministry as a Laboratory for Hope,” *Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2010.
- “The Problem with Passion—Or, Why the Church of Mel Gibson Is Doing Just Fine.” [*Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture*](#) (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2004.
- “Somebody Save Me: Passion, Salvation, and the Smallville Effect.” [*Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture*](#) (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2004.
- “Holding on to Our Kisses: The Hormonal Theology of Adolescence.” [*Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture*](#) (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2000.
- “The Sacrament of One Another: Recovering a Theology of Desire for the Twenty-First Century Church.” [*Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture*](#) (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Theological Seminary), 2000.

Curriculum

Innovating for Love Guidebook, with Beth Putney (YouUnlimited, 2022), self-published digital resource. Second author. For independent and study group use for *Innovating for Love*, YouUnlimited, Inc.

Reviews

Books:

- Review of “*Abiding in Amen*,” by Wesley W. Ellis, *Flourish: A Journal for Progressive Ministry* (November 2025).
- “The Dance of Joy,” *Joy: A Guide for Youth Ministry*, ed. David F. White and Sarah F. Farmer, *Insights: The Faculty Journal of Austin Seminary* (Fall 2021).
- “[Growing Youth](#),” *Greenhouses of Hope*, by D. G. Baker, *The Christian Century* (May 10, 2011)
- “[After Youth Group](#),” review of *Souls in Transition*, by C. Smith, *The Christian Century* (February 9, 2010)
- *After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty- and Thirty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, by R. Wuthnow, *Theology Today* 65:2 (July 2008), 256-262.
- *Branded: Adolescents Converting from Consumer Faith*, by K. Turpin, *Theology Today* (Fall 2007), 403-406.
- *Youth Ministry in Modern America, 1930-Present*, by J. Pahl, *Theology Today* (Summer 2001), 628-31.
- *Reshaping Religious Education: Conversations on Contemporary Practice*, by M. Harris and G. Moran, *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* (Summer 1999).
- *The Dirt on Learning*, by Thom and Joani Schultz, *Group Magazine* (March 1999).
- *Teaming Up: Shared Leadership in Youth Ministry*, by G. W. Holderness, with R. Hay. *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* (Fall 1998).
- *Crucified Love: The Practice of Christian Perfection*, by R. Maas. *Living Light* 26 (Spring 1990), 284-85.

- *Theological Themes of Youth Ministry*, by W. Myers; *A Teen's Guide to Ministry: You Can Make It Happen*, by J. Moore; *Letters with Teens: Hopeful Words From an Archbishop*, by R. Weakland. *The Living Light* 25 (October 1988).

Television:

Theological reflection/reviews written and broadcast for the Hallmark Channel's *Sunday Morning Movie* program (William Turpie, producer), 2004-2006.

Noah (Hallmark Channel, July 2, 2006)
The Maldonado Miracle (Hallmark Channel, July 9, 2006)
Judas (Hallmark Channel, July 16, 2006)
Christy: A Change of Season (Hallmark Channel, July 23, 2006)
Christy: A New Beginning (Hallmark Channel, July 30, 2006)
Lily Dale (Hallmark Channel, October 8, 2005)
Jeremiah (Hallmark Channel, October 1, 2005)
Esther (Hallmark Channel, September 24, 2005)
[*Daisies in December*](#) (Sept. 17, 2005)
After Jimmy (Hallmark Channel, September 10, 2005)
Against Her Will (Hallmark Channel, September 3, 2005)
Thursday's Child (Hallmark Channel, June 12, 2005)
Dodson's Journey (Hallmark Channel, June 5, 2005)
A Brother's Promise – The Dan Jansen Story (Hallmark Channel, May 29, 2005)
Forget Me Never (Hallmark Channel, May 22, 2005)
The Secret (Hallmark Channel, May 15, 2005)
Brothers on the Frontier (Hallmark Channel, February 6, 2005)
Storm in the Summer (Hallmark Channel, January 30, 2005)
To Dance with Olivia (Hallmark Channel, January 23, 2005)
My Louisiana Sky (Hallmark Channel, January 16, 2005)
Summer's End (Hallmark Channel, January 9, 2005)
A Season of Hope (Hallmark Channel, January 2, 2005)
The Christmas Box (Hallmark Channel, December 26, 2004)
Captains Courageous (Hallmark Channel, December 19, 2004)
Homecoming (Hallmark Channel, December 12, 2004)
Devil's Arithmetic (Hallmark Channel, December 5, 2004)
Love Comes Softly (Hallmark Channel, November 28, 2004)
In a Class of His Own (Hallmark Channel, November 21, 2004)
In the Presence of Mine Enemies (Hallmark Channel, November 14, 2004)
Face of a Stranger (Hallmark Channel, October 31, 2004)
His Eye is on the Sparrow (Hallmark Channel, October 24, 2004)
A Promise to Keep (Hallmark Channel, October 17, 2004)
Brian's Song (Hallmark Channel, October 10, 2004)

Interviews: (representative sample)

- [“Professor Kenda Dean Discusses Christian Social Innovation, Youth Ministry, and Theological Chutzpa,”](#) Princeton Theological Seminary website, March 7, 2024
- “New Futures for the Post-Pandemic Church,” with Paul Nixon and Ben Yosua-Davis, Bangor Theological Seminary Center, May 2021.

- “Youth Ministry in a Post-Pandemic Church,” Limitless Oxygen, national movement of Elim Pentecostal Churches (UK and Ireland), September 2020.
- “[Youth Ministry Now That We’ve Had a Pandemic](#),” #NowWhatYS, conference plenary (online), Youthscape, Luton, England, July 2020. One participant’s feedback:
- “[The Future of Faith Communities After Covid-19](#),” with Paul Nixon, Bangor Theological Seminary Center, June 2020 (June 2020)
- “The State of Youth Ministry,” in *Children’s Ministry Magazine*, Youthscape UK (Fall 2017).
- “[Youth Ministry Myths](#),” in *Christianity Today*’s “Gifted for Leadership: Women Called to Ministry” series with Margot Starbuck (October 14, 2013).
- “Identity Formation and Youth Ministry,” *Youthworker Journal* (October 2012).
- “Who Is Jesus?” *National Youth Workers’ Convention* video (November 2012).
- David Crumm, “[Read the Spirit](#),” (September 12, 2010).
- Neels Jackson, [Verslaggerwen Beeld](#) (Pretoria, South Africa) (September 7, 2010).
- [Aaron Ironside, Rhema Broadcasting Group](#) (Auckland, New Zealand), (September 21, 2010).
- John Blake, “[More Teens Becoming ‘Fake’ Christians](#),” *CNN.com*, (August 27, 2010).
- Jennifer Bradbury, “[Called but Not Committed](#),” *Youthworker Journal* (July 2010)
- Deborah Arca Mooney, “Almost Christian: An Interview with Kenda Creasy Dean,” *Patheos*, <https://bit.ly/3B6nexQ> (June 22, 2010).
- Anna Krishnan, “[Not Kid Stuff](#),” *Faith and Leadership* (Duke University), 2009.
- Rick Lawrence, “The State of Youth Ministry,” *Group* (January 2009).
- “Transformational Youth Ministry: A Roundtable Discussion,” *Network Magazine* (Fall 2007), n.p.
- Mark V. Purushotham, “[Opening Ourselves to Grace](#),” DVD (Discipleship Resources), 2007. M. V. Purushotham, Mercy Pictures, Producer.
- “Getting Out of God’s Way: Freeing Your Inner Theologian,” *Youthworker Journal* (Feb. 2004), 26-35.

Podcasts: (representative sample)

- “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism Revisited,” *Youth Pastor Theologian* podcast, Mike McGarry (May 2024).
- “The Godbearing Life, revised edition,” with Megan DeWald. *Big Ideas in Youth Ministry* Podcast, Michelle Thomas-Bush (August 2023).
- “[Innovating for Love](#)” (series based on my book), *Igniting Imagination* podcast, Texas Methodist Foundation/Dr. Lisa Greenwood (April 2023)
- “[Innovating for Love](#),” *Leading Ideas* podcast, Lewis Leadership Center/Dr. Douglas Powe (July 2022).
- “The State of Religious Formation,” *Our Jewish Futures* podcast, Dr. Samantha Vinokor-Meinrad (April 2022).
- “Innovation in Youth Ministry,” *Youth Ministry Innovation* podcast, Matt Overton, Columbia Future Forge (March 2022).
- “Millennials, Innovation, and Ministry,” *The Weight* podcast, Chris McAlilly, Oxford University United Methodist Church (February 2022).
- “Innovation and Ministry,” *Edge of the Roof* podcast, Brian Foreman (February 2022).

- [“Building Trust with Young Adults,”](#) Limitless Leadership Podcast (Feb. 2021)
- “Women in Youth Ministry,” *Women in Youth Ministry* podcast (December 2021).
- [“Reframing Failure as Learning,”](#) *Missing Voices Project*, Flagler College (October 27, 2021).
- [“Awakening Series: A Family Conversation,”](#) *Invitation* Podcast with Josh Banner (May 2021).
- “New Futures for the Post-Pandemic Church (A Continued Conversation with Kenda Creasy Dean and Paul Nixon),” *BTS Center* podcast, Ben Yoshua-Davis (May 2021).
- [“Being the Church in the Time of Covid,”](#) *Institute for Youth Ministry/Black Church Studies*, Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2020.
- “The Future of Faith Communities after Covid-19 (with Paul Nixon,” *BTS Center* Podcast, Ben Yoshua-Davis (June 2020), webinar.
- “Young Adult Ministry: Insights from the Zoe Project,” Halee Scott, *Curious Christian Radio* (Denver Seminary), May 2020.
- [“Reclaiming Innovation in the Church,”](#) Luke Edwards, *The Church Is Changing* (Western North Carolina Conference/Fresh Expressions), December 2019
- [“Youth and Innovation,”](#) *Controlled Chaos*
- [“Doing Innovative Ministry,”](#) *Leadership* (Lewis Leadership Center, Wesley Theological Seminary), March 2019
- [“Reports from the Spiritual Frontier,”](#) Ben Yoshua-Davis (Summer 2019)
- “Youth and Innovation,” *Center for Youth Ministry Training* (Summer 2018).
- “Families and Ministry with Young People,” *Thinking Together about Our Civil Society* (August 2013).
- “Mission and Youth Ministry,” *Youth Specialties Academic Support Network*, Nov. 2012.
- “The State of Youth Ministry,” *Group Magazine* (January 2009)
- [“Youth Ministry and the Missional Church,”](#) Institute for Youth Ministry (Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2008)
- [“Issues in Youth Ministry,”](#) *Youth Ministry Journal* (Nov. 2006).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

International:

Lectureships:

- “The Good News of Shipwreck,” *Simpson Lecture Series, Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada* (June 2025).
- “Love Made Me an Inventor,” *Det Teologiske Menighetsfakultet (Department Praktisk-teologisk), Oslo, Norway* (November 2016).
- “Going Viral for Jesus: Youth Ministry as Missional Theology.” *Convocation lecture, Trinity Theological College, Singapore* (July, 2008).
- “Somebody Save Me: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church.” *Alumni lectures, Queen’s Theological College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada* (October 2005).
- “Roaming Charges and God’s Mission to Move Us,” *Eliza Ferrie Lecture, United Theological College, North Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia* (June 2005).

- “The Godbearing Ministry,” *Det Teologiske Menighetsfakultet (Department Praktisk-teologisk). Lecture series, Oslo, Norway* (September 2001).
- “The Globalization of Adolescence.” *Academic lecture series, University of South Africa*, delivered in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria, Spring 2000.
- “Youth Development in Congregations.” *Lecture. Huguenot College, Faculty of Youth Ministry and Social Work, Wellington, South Africa*, March 19, 1997.
- “Unlearning Youth Ministry for the Twenty-First Century.” *Invited lecture. Africa University, Faculty of Theology, Mutare, Zimbabwe*, March 12, 1997.

Other international academic presentations:

- “Beyond Ecclesiocentrism,” respondent to paper by Peter Ward, University of Durham, UK and panelist, International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, Manchester, England (January 2024).
- “Next Steps Toward Preventing Violent Extremism with Youth and Congregations,” panelist (with Asle Toje, Nobel Peace Institute; Erik de Haedt, Carnegie Peace Palace-The Hague; Felix Bivens, The Regenerative School). Symposium organizer, “*A Child Shall Lead Us: Preventing Violent Extremism with Youth and Congregations*,” Princeton Theological Seminary (May 20, 2021).
- “Renewal of Theological Training/Formation,” presentation/panel, *Universtat Fribourg Study Days*, Fribourg, Switzerland (June 2019).
- “Transcendence in Youth Ministry,” *Highland Theological College* (Youth Ministry programme), Dingwall, Scotland (November 2018).
- “Youth Ministry as Vocational Training Ground,” paper/panel, *International Academy of Practical Theology, Toronto, Canada* (April 2013).
- “Mission as Translation: Responding to the National Study of Youth and Religion,” Youth Ministry Winter School Lectures (April 2012), Stellenbosch University, The Free University (Bloemfontaine), and Pretoria.
- “Youth Ministry as Ecclesial Laboratory,” paper/panel, *International Academy of Practical Theology*, Amsterdam, Netherlands (July 2011).
- Teaching colloquium, *International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry*, Pretoria, South Africa (January 2011).
- “Teaching Future Scholars in Youth and Young Adult Ministry as a Model for Theological Education,” *International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry*, Cambridge, England (January 2009).
- Respondent, “Youth Ministry in a World of Diversity: The International Research Project on Youth Spirituality,” by Dr. Paul McQuillan, Australian Catholic University. *International Assn. for the Study of Youth Ministry*, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge Univ., Cambridge (January 2007).
- “Passion, *Paideia*, Practical Theology,” *Research day, Kings’ College, London* (May 2006).
- “Canadian Responses to the National Study of Youth and Religion in the U.S.” *Youth ministry symposium, Presbyterian Church of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada* (Oct. 2005).
- “Numb and Numb-er: Youth and the Church of Benign Whatever-ism.” Keynote lecture, *International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry*, London, England (January 2005).

- “Where R U? The Cellular Theology of Adolescents.” *Youth Ministry and Education Seminar Week, United Theological College, North Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia* (June 2005).
- “X-Files and Unknown Gods: The Search for Truth of Postmodern Adolescents.” *International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry*, Oxford, England, Jan. 1999.
- “The Passion of Adolescence: Getting It Out of the Car and Into Christian Education.” Academic paper/lecture. *Univ. of Stellenbosch, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch, S. Africa*, Mar. 21, 1997.
- “Adolescents as Symptoms of American Culture.” *Academic paper. St. Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary, Moscow, Russia*, October 1995.

United States:

Lectureships:

- “30 Years of Youth Ministry,” Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary (May, 2025)
- “Innovating for Love,” Hoxie Thompson Lecture, Austin Theological Seminary (Austin, TX), December 2022 (online).
- “Imagine If...How Young People Will Change the Post-Pandemic Church,” Albright-Deering Lectures, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, February 2021 (online).
- “Reimagining Youth Ministry: Failing Well,” Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry (Princeton Theological Seminary – online), April 2020.
- “Not B.S.,” Sikes-McLugin Lecture (McMurry University (Abilene, TX), March 2019.
- “Pedagogy for the Good Life: Loving Your Students,” Yale University, Center for Faith and Culture “Life Worth Living” conference (New Haven, CT), August 2018.
- “[Reframing Transcendence: Restoring Joy through Celebration](#),” lecture, Yale Divinity School (with Abigail Visco Rusert), New Haven, CT (March 2017).
- “[Reimagining Belonging: Restoring Joy through High Risk Hospitality](#),” lecture, Yale Divinity School (with Justin Forbes), New Haven, CT (Sept., 2017)
- “Rethinking Friendship,” lecture, Yale Divinity School (with Wes Ellis), New Haven, CT (October 2016)
- “Ah or Aha? Reframing the Christian Story with Young People,” Trinity Days Lectures, Trinity Lutheran Theological Seminary (Columbus, OH), September 2016.
- “Love Made Me an Inventor,” Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary (April 2016)
- “Equipping Faithful Leaders: The Future of Theological Education,” Murdock Foundation/Duke Divinity School/A Foundation for Theological Education/Seattle Pacific University (Seattle, WA), scheduled for October 2015.
- “Almost Christian: The Nones and the Dones,” lecture, Tennessee Wesleyan College (Athens, TN), Nov. 2014.
- “Preparing Young People for Church Leadership in an Almost Christian World,” United Theological Seminary Heck Lectures, October 2013.
- “What the Faith of Our Teenagers Means for Christian Formation,” Buechner Institute, Kings College (Bristol, TN), March 2013.

- Fall Lecture, Ecumenical Studies Center, Mt. Aloysius College (Cresson, PA), October 2012.
- ["What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling Parents,"](#) *Wilson-Addis Lecture, Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University* (Waco, TX), February 2011.
- "Practicing Passion" and "The Spirituality of Emerging Adulthood," *May lecture series, Seattle Pacific University* (Seattle, WA), May 2010.
- "Hoping Mechanisms: Prayers for an Anxious Church" and "Ascension Deficit Disorder," *Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary*, October 2010 and April 2011.
- ["Faith and Hope in the Age of Obama,"](#) *Aus Lectures, Luther Theological Seminary* (St. Paul, MN), March 2010.
- "Rediscovering Sacrifice: Why Generation OMG Is the Theological Stimulus Package We Need," *Hickman Lectures, Duke Divinity School Convocation/Pastors' School* (Durham, NC), Oct. 2009.
- "Going Viral for Jesus: How Youth Ministry Helps the Church Reclaim a Missional Mindset," *Alumni Lectures, Gordon College, Gordon, Massachusetts* (November 2007).
- *Warren Lectures, Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa* (November 2007).
- "Missional Youth Ministry," *Jones Lectures on Christian Education, Austin Presbyterian Seminary* (Austin, TX), February 2007.
- "A Case for Doubt," *Freitas Lectures, Asbury Theological Seminary* (Wilmore, KY), March 2006.
- "Somebody Save Me: Passion in an MTD World," *Discipleship Lectures, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary* (Elkhart, IN), March 2006.
- "Meaning and Christian Vocation," *Lecture, Mt. St. Mary's University* (Emmitsburg, MD), April 2005.
- "Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church," *Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary* (Princeton, NJ), April 2004.
- "Somebody Save Me: Addressing God-Haunted Youth in a Soul-Numbing Culture," *Lecture series, Maryville College* (Maryville, TN), February 2004.
- "Holding on to Our Kisses: The Hormonal Theology of Adolescence" and "The Sacrament of One Another: Recovering a Theology of Desire through Youth Ministry for the Twenty-First Century Church," *Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture (St. Simon's Island, GA)*, January 1999.

U.S. conference, guild, or higher education presentations: (representative sample)

- "Making Your Best Ideas Better," workshop, Children and Worship/Children and Parenting Lilly Endowment gathering (Indianapolis, October 2023, 2024, 2025).
- "Another Way," Lilly Endowment Christmas Gathering (Indianapolis), keynote (December 2024).
- "Teaching Spiritual Entrepreneurship in Seminaries," Neighborhood Economics Conference panel with Elan Babchuck (San Antonio, TX), February 2024.
- "(Not) Departing," Lilly Endowment Parenting and Children's Ministry coordinating program meeting (Indianapolis, IN), November 2023.

- “Innovation and Youth Ministry,” Yale Youth Ministry Institute (New Haven, CT), May 2022.
- “The Missing Voices Project,” keynote, Flagler College (St. Augustine, FL), August 2020.
- “The Purpose of Capital,” respondent to Jed Emerson and Edgar Villanueva, Faith and Finance Conference (online), May 2020.
- “Future Directions in Confirmation,” The Confirmation Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, keynote presenter. Team presentation with Dr. Katherine Douglass (Princeton, NJ), October 2018.
- “Science and Youth Ministry” conference, Luther Theological Seminary, keynote presenter (St. Paul, MN), May 2018.
- Flagler College Youth Ministry Convocation, keynote (St. Augustine, FL), January 2017.
- “Abundant Life: Helping Young People become Agents of Change,” Princeton Theological Seminary with Giving Point, keynote speaker (Princeton, NJ), November 2014.
- “High School Theological Programs for Youth Conference,” Lilly Endowment Religion Division, keynote speaker (Indianapolis, IN), January 2014.
- “Seminary for a Day,” keynote, Union Theological Seminary (Richmond, VA), Sept. 2013.
- “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism and the Theological Training of Church Leaders,” *National Association for Professors of Christian Education*, keynote speaker (Fort Worth, TX), October, 2012.
- “*Almost Christian* and Theological Education,” *John Wesley Fellows Christmas Conference* (Houston, TX), January 6-10, 2012.
- “The Impact of *Almost Christian* on Western Missionary Societies,” *Mission Leadership Forum, Overseas Mission Study Center* (New Haven, CT), scheduled for December 2-3, 2011.
- “Passion and Vocation,” *Foundation for Theological Education* (Atlanta), keynote, Oct. 2008.
- “What Is Required for a Spiritually Mature Youth (Ministry)?” *Association for Youth Ministry Educators* (Atlanta, GA), keynote speaker, October 2008.
- “The God-Barren Life.” Keynote speaker, *Methodist Theological School in Ohio*, Seeking the Sacred Conference on Youth Ministry (Delaware, Ohio), October 2004.
- “The Adolescent Hermeneutic,” *Luther Theological Seminary*, Consultation on Theology and Youth Ministry (Minneapolis, MN), plenary speaker, June 2004.
- “Ten Year Assessment of the Lilly Endowment’s Youth Ministry Initiatives for High School Students in ATS Seminaries.” Featured lecture, *Lilly Endowment*, meeting of seminary presidents and program administrators (Indianapolis, IN), January 2004.
- “A Critique of Globalization Theory from the Perspective of Adolescents,” Abraham Kuyper Consultation, Princeton Theological Seminary, response to Max Stackhouse, March 2003.
- “From Martyrs to Ministers: What Theological Education Can Learn from the Youth Theology Institute.” Lecture, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (Atlanta, GA), Sept. 2002.
- “We Aren’t the World: The Effects of Globalization on American Adolescents.” Lecture, Pennsylvania State Universities’ Honors Program/International Program (South Africa), West Chester University (West Chester, PA), May 2001.
- “Preparing Leaders for Higher Education in a Global Context.” Lecture. Kellogg Leadership Seminar for Academic Leadership in Higher Education (West Chester, PA), July 2000.

- "Youth Ministry at the Millennium: Themes and Trends in Mainline Churches." Lecture. Garrett-Medill Center for Religion and the News Media, Northwestern University, "Religion in an Age of 'Whatever': Reporting on Children, Youth and Young Adults" (conference for twenty leading religion reporters in the U.S.). November 1998.
- World Vision/Princeton Theological Seminary Globalization Conference. Respondent to David Tracy, "Fundamental Theology, Hope, and Mass Media: Can the Muses Still Inspire?" Oct. 1998.
- "Religious Communities' Role with At-Risk Youth." Lecture. Religious Education Assn., Fall 1994.
- "Practical Theology as the Basis for Ministry." Presented *in absentia* to the Council of Bishops' Task Force on Ministry (United Methodist Church), Summer 1994.
- "The Bus to Detroit: Reconceiving Youth Ministry as Practical Theology." Academic paper. Professors of Religious Education of the Eastern Seaboard, Spring 1994.
- "Practical Theology and Ministry with Adolescents." Academic paper. A Foundation for Theological Education, December 1993.
- "Policy Recommendations for Positive Adolescent Development and Religious Youth Organizations." Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, Spring 1990.
- "The Rhetoric of Feminist Theology." Academic paper. Religious Speech Communication Association, SCA National Convention, Fall 1986.
- "The Rhetorical Roots of Methodism: John Wesley's Use of Hymns as Persuasion." Academic paper, co-authored with Kevin W. Dean. Speech Communication Association, Fall 1983.
- Numerous national convention presentations, speech education pedagogy, 1981-1985.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

International:

- "The Good News of Shipwreck," keynote (and pre-conference teacher), Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend, Birmingham, England (November 2024).
- "The Ministry of the Young Church for a Covid-Shaped World," keynote, Nairobi Synod Youth Rally, The United Methodist Church, Nairobi, Kenya (online, September 2022).
- "Not B.S.: Giving Young People a Big-Enough God," keynote, Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend, Birmingham, England (November 2018)
- "How to Get a Big Idea in an Hour," workshop (with Martin Saunders), Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend, Birmingham, England (November 2018)
- "The Future of Youth Ministry," presentation, ecumenical youth ministers' gathering, Inverness, Scotland (November 2018).
- "Missional Innovation in Youth Ministry," keynote, Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend, Birmingham, England (November 2017)
- "Our Special Relationship," Platform 2 presentation, Youthscape National Youth Ministry Weekend, Birmingham, England (November 2018).
- "Almost Christian in the United Kingdom," Youthscape National Summit, Birmingham, UK (May 2014).

- “Seasons in Youth Ministry.” Keynote lecture series, Irish Summer School for Youth Ministry, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church and Church of Ireland, Belfast, No. Ireland (Aug. 2008).
- “The God-Barren Life,” Youth Ministry Education Seminar, Methodist Church (Chinese, Indonesian, and Malaysian Annual Conferences), Singapore (July 2008), keynote.
- “The Cellular Theology of Adolescents,” Oxford Ctr. Youth Ministry, Oxford, England (May 2006).
- “Numb and Numb-er: Youth and the Church of Benign Whatever-ism,” Guildford Diocese (Anglican Church), Guildford, England (May 2006).
- Presbyterian Church of Canada Synod Consultation on Youth Ministry (Ontario, Canada), Oct. 2005.
- Canada Youth 2003 (Ontario, Canada), August 2003, keynote speaker.
- Symposium based on my book *The Godbearing Life*, co-sponsored by the Lutheran Church of Norway and the Methodist Church of Norway, Hedalen Pilgrimssenter, Norway (September 2001), presentation of series “The Godbearing Ministry.”
- Metodistkirke, Gurnerlokka (Oslo, Norway), “Passion in Adolescents” (Sept. 2001), keynote.
- Mennonite Church in Canada youth worker’s conference, Winnipeg (November 2000), keynote.
- National Youth Ministry Forum of South Africa (ecumenical), Pretoria, June 2000.
- Summer Institute of Theology, Church of Scotland (St. Andrews, Scotland), “Youth Ministry and Christian Practices” (May 1998).
- “Ethical Decisions Facing American Adolescents.” School N 70, Ykaterinburg, Russia, 1995.

Judicatories, Ecumenical Conferences, and National Ministry Gatherings (U.S.):
(representative sample)

- Keynote, Montreat Youth Leaders' Conference, Montreat, NC, scheduled for October 2026.
- Keynote, Clergy Leadership Symposium, Wisconsin Annual Conference and Northern Illinois Annual Conference, scheduled for September 2026.
- Keynote, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship National Pastor's Conference (Orlando, FL), scheduled for June 2026.
- “*Doing Ministry on Malta*,” keynote, Florida Annual Conference (Sanford, FL), November 2025.
- “*The Good News of Shipwreck*,” Great Rivers Annual Conference (Mt. Vernon, IL), November 2025.
- “*Ministry after Shipwreck*,” Level Up Conference, Susquehanna, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia Annual Conferences (UMC), Pittsburgh, PA (November 2024).
- Florida Annual Conference Quadrennium Training, United Methodist Church (September 2024).
- Western North Carolina Annual Conference Quadrennium Training, United Methodist Church (June 2024).
- “[*The Good News of Shipwreck*](#),” Wesleyan Impact Partners, Houston, TX (March 2024)
- “*Spiritual Entrepreneurship That Works*,” Neighborhood Economics Conference, San Antonio, TX (February 2024).

- *“Doing Ministry on Malta,”* West Ohio Annual Conference (UMC) Clergy Day Apart (UMC), Worthington, OH (February 2024).
- *“Doing Ministry on Malta,”* North Carolina Annual Conference (UMC), Raleigh-Durham, NC (February 2024).
- *“The Good News of Shipwreck,”* Baltimore Washington and Peninsula Annual Conferences (UMC), Dover, DE (October 2023).
- *“Innovating for Love,”* United Methodist Congregational Developers/Church Planters National Gathering (Denver, CO), April 2023.
- *“Ministry on Malta,”* United Methodist Directors of Connectional Ministry National Gathering (Chicago, IL), Feb. 2023.
- *“Innovating for Love,”* Baltimore Washington Annual Conference Clergy Day Apart (Dover, Delaware), October 2023.
- *“What Churches Need to Know about Young Adults,”* The Gathering, The Wesleyan Church national clergy conference (Orlando, FL), January 2023.
- *“Not B.S.: Reclaiming the Upside-Down Ape of Jesus in Youth Ministry,”* National Children’s and Youth Conference, Church of Christ (Colorado Springs, CO), January 2023.
- *“Now What? Ministry with Young People in a Covid-Shaped Church,”* Ignite Youth Conference, youth leaders track (Wildwood, NJ), October 2022.
- *“The Landscape of Church Innovation in the United Methodist Church,”* Innovators’ Greenhouse, General Board of Discipleship/Path1, The United Methodist Church, Palm Springs, CA (July 2022)
- *“Innovation and Youth Ministry in a Covid-Shaped Church,”* Dakota Conference United Methodist Youth Leader Training (Watertown, SD), May 2022.
- *“Innovation and Youth Ministry,”* Yale Youth Ministry Institute (New Haven, CT), May 2022.
- *“Innovating in Youth Ministry,”* Susquehanna Annual Conference Youth Workers (Harrisburg, PA), February 2022.
- *“Innovation in Youth Ministry,”* The Kern Family Foundation (January 2022).
- *“Community Discovery Tool,”* Mycelium Network/Rooted Good (July 2021).
- *“Youth Leader Summit,”* Presbyterian Church (USA), Mo Ranch (February 2020)
- *Navigate: Equipping Leaders for Innovative Ministry – “Why Innovation is the Wrong Word,”* plenary speaker (Northeast, Southeast, and North Central Jurisdictions, United Methodist Church), Harrisburg, PA (August 2019).
- *“Almost Christian 2.0,”* New York Annual Conference Missional Engagement Gathering, United Methodist Church, White Plains, NY (May 2019)
- *Annual Conference session keynote speaker/plenary leader,* Horizon Annual Conference (Texas, June 2026), Wisconsin Annual Conference (June 2026), New York Annual Conference (June 2019), Upper New York Annual Conference (2017), Mississippi Annual Conference (2017), [East Ohio Annual Conference](#) (June 2014), Central Texas Annual Conference (June 2013); Texas Annual Conference (June 2013); North Texas Annual Conference (June 2013); Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Indiana Annual Conference, Missouri Annual Conference (June 2012); Minnesota Annual Conference, Great Rivers Annual Conference [Illinois] (June 2011).
- *United Methodist Campus Ministers national gathering,* keynote speaker, Delaware, Ohio (July 2018).

- *United Methodist Church Network of Congregational Developers*, keynote speaker, Richmond, VA (May 2018).
- *Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida*, “Youth Ministry Beyond Youth Group,” keynote speaker, North Palm Beach, FL (February 2018).
- *Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference “Taste and See” events*, United Methodist Church, keynote speaker, Washington DC and Catonsville, MD (September 2017 and January 2018).
- *Southeast Jurisdiction District Superintendents and Conference Council Directors consultation*, United Methodist Church, keynote speaker, Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon’s Island, GA (January 2018).
- *Mississippi Annual Conference*, youth preacher, Annual Conference, Jackson, MS (June 2017).
- *Dakotas Annual Conference*, United Methodist Church, youth ministry training event, keynote speaker, Bismarck, SD (April 2017)
- *“Ignite” Youth Ministry Training Event, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference*, keynote speaker, Neptune, NJ (February, 2017)
- *Great Plains Annual Conference*, United Methodist Church, conference wide convocation, keynote speaker, Wichita, KS (January 2017).
- *Northern Illinois Annual Conference Church Planters and Youth Ministers*, keynote speaker, Chicago, IL (December 2016).
- *Meneilly Conference*, keynote speaker, Prairie Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS (November 2016).
- *Northern Maine District, New England Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*, plenary speaker, Hampden, ME (March 11, 2016).
- *“The Rock” presenter*, Baltimore Washington Annual Conference youth event, Ocean City, MD (Feb. 2015).
- *Capitol District, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, United Meth. Church*, presenter (Jan. 2015).
- *National Youth Workers Convention*, keynote speaker, Atlanta, GA (November 2014).
- *Central Massachusetts District, United Methodist Church*, plenary speaker, Holden, MA (May 2014).
- *Disciples Youth Ministry Network*, national conference, Tuscon, AZ (March 2014).
- *Mennonite Educators’ National Conference* keynote speaker, Fairfax, VA (February 2014).
- *Mars Hill Youth Ministry Training* keynote speaker, Grand Rapids, MI (February 2014).
- *Tri-Synodical Youth Ministry Conference*, New Braunsfels, TX (January 2013).
- *Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Youth Ministry Gathering*, Ft. Worth, TX (February 2013).
- *Montreat*, consultation for future planning (April 2012, April 2013).
- *National Council of Churches Ecumenical Youth Ministry Staff Team*, Princeton, NJ (December, 2012).
- *Large Church Initiative*, UMC training for large church pastors (Tampa, FL), April 2013.
- *youTheology*, St. Paul School of Theology (Oklahoma City, OK), April 2013.
- *Atlanta PCUSA Parenting Series* (Atlanta, GA), April 2013.
- *Murdoch Trust*, “Biblical Literacy for Leaders of NonProfits” (Seattle, WA), November 2012.

- *Text-2-Speech Conference*, “Ministry as Translation,” Center for Youth Ministry Training, Nov.2012.
- *C3 Conference*, Nashville, keynote, St. George’s Episcopal Church, March 2012.
- *Salvation Army Youth Workers’ Conference*, keynote, Suffern, New York, February 2012.
- *Mission to Ministers Conference*, *Western North Carolina Annual Conference*, United Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC, keynote speaker, scheduled for February 2012.
- *Mullens Lectures*, *First Presbyterian Church*, Greensboro, NC, February 2012.
- *Parents’ Symposium*, *Myers Park Presbyterian Church*, Charlotte, NC, February 2012.
- *Bishop’s Pastors Event*, *Myers Park United Methodist Church*, Charlotte, NC, February 2012.
- *Youth Specialties National Convention*, Atlanta/San Diego, general session speaker, Sept./Nov. 2011.
- *Episcopal Diocese of Trenton*, “Almost Christian,” keynote, February 2011.
- *Bishop’s Convocation*, *Greater New Jersey Annual Conference*, keynote, Jan. 2011.
- *Washington Island Forum*, *The Christian Century/Wisconsin Council on Churches*, keynote, June 2010.
- *Congress of Evangelism*, The United Methodist Church (New Orleans, LA), keynote (Jan. 2010).
- *Covenant Network National Gathering*, Presbyterian Church (USA) (Cleveland), [keynote](#) (Nov. 2009).
- *Greater New Jersey Annual Conference District Leadership Day*, The United Methodist Church (Somerset, NJ), keynote speaker (November 2009).
- “Journey” *Youth Workers’ Conference*, *Western Theol. Seminary* (Holland, MI), keynote (May 2009).
- *Ohio Conference WeCare for Students* (Upper Sandusky, OH), keynote (April 2009).
- [National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry](#), Cleveland (Dec. 2008), [keynote](#);
- *LOGOS national meeting*, St. Louis, MO (February 2008), keynote speaker.
- *North Alabama Annual Conference Youth Academy*, Florence, AL (Feb.2008), keynote.
- *Confirmation Conference*, *Episcopal Diocese of New York*, New York, NY (Oct. 2007), keynote.
- *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Assn. Youth Ministry*, Ocean Grove, NJ (August 2007), speaker.
- *Youth Specialties National Convention*, Anaheim, CA and Charlotte, NC (November and December 2006), general session speaker.
- *Eastern Assn. of Presbyterian Christian Educators*, Princeton, NJ (May 2006), workshop leader.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Youth Ministry “Extravaganza,”* Phoenix (February 2006), [keynote](#).
- *National Urban Convocation*, *General Board of Global Ministries/United Methodist Church and National Urban Strategy Council*, Minneapolis, workshop leader (November 2005).
- *New Jersey Annual Conference Youth Convention*, Ocean City, NJ, keynote speaker (Sept.2003).
- *Bible Hour teacher*, *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association*, Ocean Grove, NJ (July 2003).
- *Mennonite Youth Ministers*, *Mid-Atlantic Conference*, Camp Hebron, PA, keynote (March 2003).

- *Connection 2002 (Tampa, FL), national youth worker's convocation, The United Methodist Church*, January 2002, keynote speaker, "The God-Barren Life."
- *National Conference for Directors of Camps and Conference Centers* (United Methodist Church), YMCA of the Rockies, CO (January 2001), keynote.
- *East Ohio Conference "Youth Annual Conference,"* Lakeside, OH, June 2000, keynote.
- *Presbyterian Youth Worker's National Conference*, Phoenix, January 2000, keynote.
- *Diocese of Richmond* (Episcopal) youth worker's conf., Richmond, Jan. 2000, keynote.
- *Youth Specialties National Convention*, Cincinnati/San Diego, October/November 1999, speaker.
- *Lutheran Theological Seminary Magnet Church Conference*, "Strengthening Youth Ministry in Large Congregations," Philadelphia, March 1999, speaker.
- *Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Youth Worker's Equipping Conference*, "The Godbearing Life," September 1999, keynote speaker.
- *Youth Workers' Equipping Conference*, Presbyterians for Renewal, Atlanta, Mar. 1999, speaker.
- *Forum for United Meth. Youth Workers* (Tampa, FL), Jan. 1998, conference Bible study leader.

Princeton Theological Seminary:

- "[Failing Well](#)," last chapel sermon, Princeton Theological Seminary Chapel, March 6, 2026.
- "The Last Human Job," Fall Convocation Lecture, September 2025. [2025.09.03 Opening Convocation \(Kenda Creasy Dean\)](#)
- "Can We Hold Together in a World Coming Apart?" PhD Studies Forum, panelist, September 2024.
- "[The Good News of Shipwreck](#)," Alumni Reunion 2024 (Princeton, NJ), May 2024. (Preview at 8:00)
- "Doing Seminary on Malta: Young Adults and Innovation in a Post-Covid Church," presentation to the PTS Board of Trustees, January 2023.
- "Holy Innovation – What Is Different When God Is the Innovator," The Isaiah Partnership Pathways Retreat (February 2023)
- "The Responsibility of Mainline Protestantism in 2022," Princeton Theological Seminary faculty presentation, April 2022.
- "Failing Well: Reimagining Church," Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, with Eric Barreto, April 2020.
- Online course for Certificate in Youth and Theology, celebrating 20th anniversary of my book *The Godbearing Life*, with Ron Foster, Spring 2019.
- Online course, Institute for Youth Ministry, "Youth Ministry and Innovation," Fall 2018.
- Board alumni and friends, presidential workshop, 2017.
- Field Education Training Workshops, 2015-2016.
- Bicentennial Celebration Panel, Oct. 2012.
- Convocation address, Opening Convocation, Sept. 2011.
- School of Vocation and Mission Family/Intergenerational Ministry Conference, Oct. 2011
- Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry, numerous seminars and preaching, 1996-present.

- L.I.V.E. Symposium, “Missional Entrepreneurship,” Oct. 2014, “Spirituality, Theology and Culture,” October 2009.
- Board of Trustees presentation, “Adolescents and Spirituality,” May 2003.
- Abraham Kuyper Consultation, respondent, March 2003.
- Institute of Theology, keynote speaker, June 2002.
- Advisory council, Kuyper Institute for Theology, 2002-2005.
- John Templeton Foundation and Princeton Theological Seminary, “Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Formation during Adolescence,” March 2002.
- National Coalition for Christians and Jews/Princeton Theological Seminary
- Continuing Education, “Understanding and Preventing Anti-Social Behavior in Youth” (*videotaping*). Panelist, responding to Dr. David Elkind for broadcast to NJ educators and public servants, Feb. 2001.
- Young Adult Conference, “The Spirituality of Young Adults,” keynote, March 1998.
- Rian Alumni Lectures, May 1998.
- **Field education supervisor:**
 - Princeton Art Museum Field Education, Elizabeth Steel (Princeton Theological Seminary), 2020.
 - Spiritual Innovation Fellowships, Princeton Theological Seminary (conceived and designed alternative ministry placements with students for field education credit, taught practicum course that accompanied these placements) (2024-2025)
 - Princeton Art Museum Field Education, Elizabeth Steel (Princeton Theological Seminary), 2020.
 - Campus ministry initiative “Chaplains Corps,” Princeton University and Rutgers University (2015-present).
 - Faculty consultant, “New Ministry Apprentice Program,” small church pastoral leadership development, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference/Princeton Theological Seminary (2015-2020).
 - Princeton Theological Seminary/Kingston United Methodist Church. Mentored twelve seminary interns serving in various capacities, coaches preaching, taught theological reflection and brokers congregational relationship with seminary (2012-2014).

Commencement speeches:

- Wesley Theological Seminary (National Cathedral, Washington, DC), May 2011.
- Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI), May 2009.

Other presentations: (representative sample)

- “Youth Ministry in a Pandemic,” Orange United Methodist Church/North Carolina Annual Conference (May 2020).
- “Innovation and Youth Ministry,” Cultivate 2020, Center for Youth Ministry Training, keynote (February 2020).
- “Adulthood 101,” Rio Verde Presbyterian Church, Rio Verde, AZ (February 2019).
- “*Faith and Young People*,” Westminster Presbyterian Church Lecture Series (Kettering, OH), keynote speaker, January 2017.

- *Healing the Waters Lecture Series*, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, speaker (Houston, TX), February 2015.
- *Youth Ministry Academy*, keynote speaker (Orlando, FL), January 2015.
- *Perkins School of Theology/North Texas Annual Conference*, United Methodist Church (Dallas, TX), keynote speaker, Perkins School of Youth Ministry, January 2015.
- *Ministry Study Commission*, The United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, keynote speaker (Nashville, TN), October 2014.
- *Vandercamp Center Pastors' Event* (Cleveland, NY), April 2014.
- "Finding God in College," *Youth of Trinity Church*, Greenwich, CT (Ocean Grove, NJ), June 2013.
- *Messiah College Youth Workers' Conference* (Mechanicsburg, PA), keynote (March 2008).
- *Center for Youth Ministry Development/Faithful Practices Project* (Nashville, TN), keynote speaker/workshop leader (February 2007 and December 2006).
- *Bonner Foundation*, "Volunteers Exploring Vocation: Exploring Seminary Education," conference presenter (March 2006).
- *Pfeiffer College/South Carolina Annual Conference* "Inter-Connect," keynote speaker (Myrtle Beach, SC), keynote speaker; February 2004.
- *Perkins School of Theology/North Texas Annual Conference*, United Methodist Church (Dallas, TX), keynote speaker, Perkins School of Youth Ministry, January 2004.
- *Christian Theological Seminary/University of Indianapolis* (Indianapolis, IN), keynoter, "The Godbearers' Conference," Sept. 2003, event based upon my book *The Godbearing Life*.
- *Drew Theological Seminary/Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association*, "Bible Hour" speaker, Drew Week (Ocean Grove, NJ), July 2003.
- *Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology* (Chicago, IL), keynote speaker and preacher, "Soul Tending for Youth Ministry," November 2002. Symposium based on my co-edited book *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically about Youth Ministry*.
- *Columbia Theological Seminary* (Decatur, GA), Fall Colloquium, keynote, April 2002.
- *Wesley Theological Seminary* (Washington, DC), September 2001, youth ministry and partnership churches convocation, keynote speaker.
- *United Methodist Theological Schools consultation on teaching youth ministry*, Atlanta (Oct. 1999), moderator.
- *Augsburg College Family Life Institute Symposium*, Minneapolis, August 1999, keynote.
- *Gettysburg Theol. Seminary Christian Educators' Conference*, Gettysburg, PA, (July 1990), keynote.
- *Numerous local church presentations.*

Innovation training with Ministry Incubators, Inc.:

Conference convenings, judicatory and local church consulting, design sprints and [hatchathons](#), pivot conferences and speaking for judicatories, schools, congregations, etc. (2013-present)

- [Sample](#) offering
- Sample [responses](#)

Guest lecturer, courses at other schools:

- *Baylor Theological Seminary*, “Innovation in Ministry,” Waco, TX (February 2024), Dustin Benac, professor-of-record.
- *Candler Theological Seminary*, “Innovation in Ministry,” Atlanta, GA (April 2024), Danielle Tumminio-Hansen, professor-of-record.
- *Austin Theological Seminary*, “Innovating for Love,” Austin, TX (April 2023), Andrew Zirschky, professor-of-record.
- *Highland Theological College*, “Practicing Passion,” Inverness, Scotland (April 2023), Jonathan Fraser, professor-of-record.
- *Luther Seminary*, “Contemporary Issues” course, “Missional Innovation in Youth Ministry,” St. Paul, MN (June 2015). Andrew Root, professor-of-record.
- *Canadian Mennonite University*, Winnipeg, CA, “Almost Christian” (April 2013), John Berard, prof-of-record.
- *Youthfront Learning Cohort*, “Vocation” (October 2012). Mike King/Erik Leafblad, teachers-of-record.
- *University of Notre Dame*, STEP course, “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church” (February 2011). Meghan Shepherd, teacher-of-record.
- *Candler School of Theology*, Youth Ministry class (Jan. 2011). Elizabeth Corrie, prof-of-record.
- *Fordham University*, Practical Theology course (November 2010). Tom Beaudoin, prof-of-record.
- *Calvin College*, Youth Ministry class (September, 2008). Lynn Barger-Elliott, professor-of-record.
- *Wesley Theological Seminary*, Youth Ministry class (March, 2009), Jessicah Duckworth and Rhonda van Dyke Colby, professors-of-record.
- *Biblical Theol. Seminary*, online youth ministry course (Feb. 2006), John Franke, professor-of-record.
- *Drew Theological Seminary*, Doctor of Ministry Seminar, “Faith and Film: Discovering a Holy Hermeneutic for a Conversation with Culture” (Ocean Grove, NJ), July 2005.
- *Wesley Theological Seminary*, Youth Ministry class (April 1998), Susan Willhauck, prof-of-record.
- *Wesley Theological Seminary*, summer course, “Adolescent World” (June 1996).

SERVICE TO THE BROADER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Senior International Advisor, *Collegium Emmaus*, Fribourg, Switzerland, 2019-ff.
International post-doctoral research and spiritual/professional development guild dedicated to the renewal of the church.

Advisory Group, “**Future and Faith Collaborative**,” Ashoka, Washington, DC, 2023-2025.

Presidential Search Committees, Wesley Theological Seminary, 2025-2026; Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 2021-2022.

innoFaith Advisory Board, multifaith network and platform for social innovation, 2022-present.

Theologian-in-Residence, *The Missing Voices Project* (Innovation and Design Thinking Workshop), 2020, Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL. Work with project staff and IDEO representatives to bring a theological lens to design thinking.

Planning team/advisory group, Christian Social Innovation and Christian Leadership Convocation (Duke Divinity School); 2018-2019.

Grant selection reader: Duke L.E.A.D. “Reflective Leadership Projects,” October 2018; Templeton “Science and Youth Ministry” project, August 2017.

Program mentor (primary leadership), *United Methodist Cohort*. Provides advising and mentorship to United Methodist seminarians at PTS (2016-2017); *Scripture and Faith Formation Cohort* (with Dr. Shane Berg) - advising and mentorship to voluntary cohort of students in 2-year program of in-depth community formation based on scripture and faith practices (2011-2013); *Timothy Scholars Program*. Provides scholarships, teaching experience, and mentoring for Ph.D. students in youth/young adult and/or campus ministry (2006-2015).

Boards of Directors/Trustees/Advisory Councils:

- *Wesley Theological Seminary Board of Governors* (2014-present).
- *Advisory Board, Center for L.I.F.E., Miami University*, Oxford, OH (2024-present) (faith and entrepreneurship center in of major state/public land grant university business school).
- *Board of Reference, “Being With” Global Initiative*, St. Martins-in-the-Fields, London (2024-present)
- *Advisory Board, “Mapping Spiritual Innovation” Project*, Glean Network/Chaplaincy Innovation Lab (2024 – present).
- *Advisory Board, “InnoFaith,” nonprofit connecting faith and entrepreneurship education and advocacy in partnership with New York University* (2024-present)
- *Project Leadership Team, 10x10 (ecumenical) Youth Ministry Initiative*, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2021-present.
- *Stewardship Cohort, Spiritual Changemaking Initiative* (Ashoka, Co-Creative, Soularize) (2023-present)
- *Next Generation Ministries Board* (2017-2023), Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.
- *Path I New Church Development Advisory Council*, General Board of Discipleship (UMC) (2013-16)
- *Wesley Foundation, Princeton University*, board of directors (2013-2019).
- *Camping and Conference Ministries*, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (UMC) (2015-17)
- *Gospel in Our Culture Network Board of Directors* (ecumenical group of scholars furthering to support missional church/missional theology initiatives), 2014-2016.
- *Smart Church Project Board of Directors*, 2014-2016.
- *Young Clergy Initiative Advisory Council* (United Meth. Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2013).
- *Advisory Board* (Institute for Congregational Trauma and Growth, 2012-2016)

- *Urban Promise – Trenton* (founding advisory group, 2011)
- *Institute for Youth Ministry Advisory Council, Princeton Theological Seminary* (1997-2010)
- *Faith That Lasts* project (Barna Research Group, research on faith and 16-29 year-olds, David Kinnamon, senior advisor, 2008-2010)
- *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association* (elected trustee, Ocean Grove, NJ, 2006-2010)
- *Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence* (Search Institute - promotes scientific understanding of youth's spiritual development, Eugene Roehlkepartain, senior advisor, 2006-2009)
- *CollegeUnion.Org* (United Methodist campus ministries, 2006-2009)
- *Bound to Overcome* (juvenile offenders program, Camden, NJ, 2003-2004)
- *National Center for Family Ministry Development* (South Africa), advisory board (2000–01)
- *Crossings Project on Christian Vocation*, Univ. of Indianapolis (2002-2006); *Lanz Ecumenical Ctr. for Christian Vocations*, Univ. of Indianapolis, (1998-2000).

Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN (1994 -- 1997). Member, National Advisory Committee for project training religious youth workers in developing assets among adolescents.

Consultations: *Lilly Endowment Staff* (2024); *Innovators' Greenhouse/General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Church* (2022); *Lilly Endowment Consultation on Innovation* (2018), *Texas Annual Conference* (2014); *Montreat Conference Center* (2012-2013); *Michigan Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry* (January 2011); *Lilly Endowment Youth Ministry "Think Tank"* (June 2008); *Worlds Apart: A Survey of Multicultural Evangelical Youth Ministry*, Arlene Sanchez Walsh, Department of Religious Studies, DePaul University (August 2001); *World Vision*, Seattle (1998), stewardship on behalf of children and youth; *Carnegie Corporation*, New York (1991), project for training community leaders in positive adolescent development; *Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture* (1995), "Youth Ministry and Youth Culture in America" project; *Boys Town*, Boys Town, NE (1995), "Center for Spiritual Development" project; *Lake Junaluska Association*, Lake Junaluska, NC (1997), United Methodist Church training for annual conference youth staff; *General Board of Discipleship, Shared Mission Focus on Youth, Professors of Youth Ministry* (1999).

Guest preacher: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (2021); Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association Opening Season Worship (2020, 2016, 2014); Duke Divinity School (2019); Mississippi Annual Conference, United Methodist Church (2017); Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry (2012); Christopher Dock Mennonite High School (2009); East Ohio Youth Annual Conference (2000); West Virginia Youth Annual Conference (1998), Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Festival of Hope (1998), Wesleyan Studies Institute, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, Hagerstown, MD (1997), East Ohio Youth Annual Conference (1992); as well as many local churches.

Sample guest preaching sermons here:

- ["You Can Never Go Down the Drain,"](#) sermon at 20:15 (Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, The Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, NJ, June 21, 2020) – online service
- ["Whatever It Takes,"](#) First United Methodist Church, Ft. Worth, TX (June 2013)

Wesley Theological Seminary/Washington Theological Consortium (1988-1990). Grant director and conference creator, "Youth and the Evangelization of American Culture," funded through the Lilly Endowment "Youth Ministry and Theological Education" project.

Multiple presentations/preaching for local church and community organizations.

Volunteer/active member: Kingston United Methodist Church (2009-present; served as appointed coordinating pastor [active], 2012-2017); Nassau Presbyterian Church (2004-2009; eighth grade Sunday School teacher, adult education, youth mission trip volunteer); Assistant leader, Brownie/Girl Scout Troop #1281 (2000-04); West Chester University forensics coach (1991-98); West Chester UMC and Hopewell UMC (1992-2004; youth choir director, junior high teacher, youth ministry consultant).

AFFILIATIONS

- *Ordained elder* (clergy), Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.
- *Certified Minister of Youth*, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, 1990 – 2006.
- *Academic associations:* International Academy of Practical Theology, International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, Association of Youth Ministry Educators.

VOCATIONAL GOALS

- to nurture a vibrant Christian marriage and family;
- to honor my pastoral calling;
- to help re-imagine the church and theological education for the 21st century;
- to teach education, youth/young adult ministry, redemptive innovation and spiritual formation to Christian leaders;
- to inspire new initiatives in spiritual entrepreneurship and Christian social innovation;
- to conduct research in practical theology, adolescent discipleship formation, and the formation of leaders in theological education and congregational life.

PERSONAL

- Born July 1, 1959 (Delaware, Ohio) to a teacher born of Ohio farmers and a politician born of Kentucky coal miners.
- Married to Kevin W. Dean
- Free time is filled with theatre, remodeling projects, playing guitar (badly), enjoying our grown 'n' flown kids and kicking back on the sand in Ocean Grove, NJ.