

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SUMMARY STATEMENT

With a broad academic background including work at a private Christian university, a seminary, and a state university I have been trained as a thinker, researcher, and writer whose skills are applicable in academic and popular arenas. My academic credentials are complemented well by experience in church leadership, providing perspective on the importance of sound theological reflection for ministry practice.

## EDUCATION

Baylor University :: Waco, Texas  
Bachelor of Arts :: Major: Religion; Minor: Environmental Studies  
Member: Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Society in Religion  
August 2002

Dallas Theological Seminary :: Dallas, Texas  
Master of Arts in Christian Education :: Concentration: Children's Ministry  
Graduated with Honors  
May 2005

The University of Kansas :: Lawrence, Kansas  
Master of Arts in Religious Studies :: Concentration: Religious Ethics  
Thesis: The Homosexuality Debate in the United Methodist Church: Religious Ethics, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, and The United Methodist Moral Landscape  
May 2011

- 2008 Recipient: Lewis Ethics Essay Award, "Christian Ethics and Euthanasia"

- 2007-08 Recipient: Zelma McIlvain Scholarship
- 2007-08 Recipient: St. John's Episcopal Church Scholarship

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Writer: FaithVillage, Dallas, Texas (<http://www.faithvillage.com>)  
(January 2011 - Present)

Writer: Collide Magazine, Dallas, Texas  
(March 2010 - October 2010)

Bus Driver: First Student, Inc., Shawnee, Kansas  
(July 2008 - Present)

Youth Pastor: FirstLight United Methodist Faith Community, Gardner, Kansas  
(October 2005 - June 2008)

Barista: Starbucks Coffee Company, Overland Park, Kansas  
(June 2005 - July 2006)

Associate Children's Minister: First Baptist Church, Allen, Texas  
(July 2003 - May 2005)

- Licensed for the Gospel Ministry (January 18, 2004)
- Ordained for the Gospel Ministry (April 10, 2005)

Children's Ministry Intern: Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas  
(August 2002 - June 2003)

Children's Ministry Intern: Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas  
(June 2001 - August 2001)

Camp Counselor: Green Acres Baptist Church Day Camp, Tyler, Texas  
(June 2000 - August 2000)

Youth Ministry Intern: First Baptist Church, Crawford, Texas  
(February 2000 - September 2000)

Camp Counselor: Green Acres Baptist Church Day Camp, Tyler, Texas  
(June 1999 - August 1999)

## **PUBLICATIONS :: ARTICLES**

- "Many Flavors, One Church: Style, Substance, and the Communion of the Saints." *Collide* 19 (September/October 2010), 22-24.
- "Blogging, Pain, and Plan B: An Interview with Pete Wilson." *Collide* 19 (September/October 2010), 14-16.
- "For the Sake of Your Soul, Keep It Simple." *Collide Online* (September 2010).
- "Checking In: Social Location Technologies and the Practice of Ministry." *Collide* 18 (July/August 2010), 52-54.
- "Old Wine in New Wineskins: Branding and Ministry." *Collide* 18 (July/August 2010), 22-23.
- "Leading Creatives: Worship, Innovation, and Change." *Collide Online* (June 2010).
- "Designing the Experience: Worship Planning and Church Leadership." *Collide* 17 (May/June 2010), 14-16.
- "Top Five Non-Church Books for Church Leaders." *Collide* 17 (May/June 2010), 18-20.
- "Technological and Architectural Aesthetics: A Revolution in Style." *Collide Online* (May 2010).
- "The Power of Awe: The Affections and Christian Existence." *Collide Online* (March 2010).
- "Media and Spiritual Formation." *Collide* 14 (November/December 2009), 38-40.
- "Filling in the Gaps: A Vision for Christian Media." *Collide* 11 (May/June 2009), 20-24.
- "Gathered, Yet Mediated: Can the Church be the Church in a Live Stream Environment?" *Collide* 10 (March/April 2009), 16-18.
- "The Collision of Sound and Space: How Our Church Gatherings Shape and Form Character." *Collide* 7 (September/October 2008), 20-22.

## **PUBLICATIONS :: BOOKS**

- "Social Media & Spiritual Formation" in [Becoming a Praying Congregation: Churchwide Leadership Tools](#). Abingon Press, Fall 2009.  
Simpson, Benjamin, ed. [40 Days of Prayer for the United Methodist Church](#).

## **PUBLICATIONS :: OTHER**

- "Jesus Worked with His Hands until His 30th Year." Young Adult Network of the United Methodist Church ([www.yanetwork.org](http://www.yanetwork.org)).

"Jesus is Lord of Your Facebook Profile, Too." Young Adult Network of the United Methodist Church ([www.yanetwork.org](http://www.yanetwork.org)).

"Big Questions, Christian Faith, and Young Adulthood." Young Adult Network of the United Methodist Church ([www.yanetwork.org](http://www.yanetwork.org)).

"I Will Not Settle for a Second-Rate Christian Spirituality." Young Adult Network of the United Methodist Church ([www.yanetwork.org](http://www.yanetwork.org)).

Devotional pieces in Devozine ([www.devozine.com](http://www.devozine.com)), a United Methodist resource for teenagers. (January-February 2009; May-June 2009; March-April 2010; July-August 2010)

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

### **The University of Kansas:**

- "Nonviolent Resistance as Exemplified by William Wilberforce," May 2007
- "Christian Ethics and Euthanasia," May 2007
- "The Religious Experience of George Fox," May 2007
- "John Rawls and Religion: An Examination in the Development of Ideas Preceding A Theory of Justice," December 2007
- "Obedience, Humility, and Submission: An Examination of Religion in the Amish Tradition," December 2006

## **PRESENTATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND CONFERENCES**

### **Speaking Engagements:**

- Presenter. Spiritual Formation Conference. April 5-7, 2011, Barclay College. Haveland, Kansas.
- Chapel Speaker. Faith and Learning. February 3, 2011, Friends University. Wichita, Kansas.
- Presenter. Apprentice Pastor's Conference: Workshop Presentation - Spiritual Practices--Praying the 23rd Psalm; Counting Your Blessings. August 19, 2010, Friends University. Wichita, Kansas.
- Spiritual Life Coordinator. Leadership Institute: A Ministry of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries in the Kansas East Conference at Baker University. July 19-24, 2010. Baldwin City, Kansas.
- Classroom Guest - Writing and Social Media. Writing for Effect - Central Baptist Theological Seminary. July 9, 2010. Shawnee, Kansas.

- Classroom Guest - Writer's Panel. Writing for Effect - Central Baptist Theological Seminary. June 25, 2010. Shawnee, Kansas.
- Presenter. Nebraska United Methodist Conference: Young Adult Network Summit. June 12-13, 2009, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Presenter. Apprentice of Jesus Conference: Workshop Presentation - Spiritual Practices--Praying the 23rd Psalm; Creation Awareness. November 6-7, 2009, Crossings Community Church. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### **A Partnership - The Apprentice Team:**

In the fall of 2009, I was extended the privilege of partnering with a group working to equip and train pastors to create an ethos of spiritual formation in various areas of Christian ministry. This group currently consists of seven practitioners, and is spearheaded by James Bryan Smith of Friends University. Dr. Smith's trilogy, *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and *The Good and Beautiful Community*, provides a pathway for people to follow in their spiritual life. As a member of The Apprentice Team, I have the opportunity to collaborate with these leaders in the area of spiritual formation, work with churches and other leaders to sharpen reflection on how souls are transformed, and to cast vision for how the ministry and life of the church might be strengthened through ancient wisdom. My work with this group of leaders is ongoing.

### **Conferences Attended:**

- ECHO Media Conference 2010. July 28-30, Watermark Community Church. Dallas, Texas.
- Renovaré International Conference - The Jesus Way. June 21-24, 2009. San Antonio, Texas.
- Leadership Institute. October 2007, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Leawood, Kansas.
- National Youth Worker's Convention. October 2006. Austin, Texas.

## **SERVICE AND CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

Since relocating to the Kansas City area in 2005, my family has been involved with The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. My wife, Molly, has been part of Resurrection since her teenage years, and an opportunity to serve as a pastoral intern drew us to this area. Her service as a pastoral intern completed her requirements for graduation from Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, and since

that time she has served in congregational care and, now, as Campus Pastor of Church of the Resurrection West in Olathe, Kansas.

After spending two and a half years as Youth Pastor at FirstLight United Methodist Faith Community in Gardner, Kansas, I left that position in 2008 to focus on graduate studies. Since that transition, I have served as a youth ministry volunteer at Resurrection West. I have been present at retreats, camps, and mission trips, as well as the regular midweek gatherings. The Youth Pastor, Joey Wilson, has invited me to speak on a number of occasions, and I have offered my services in leading small groups of students through devotional and biblical material. In addition, I have also taught adult discipleship classes at Resurrection West.

## **SKILLS & INTERESTS**

My studies at The University of Kansas include investigations of racial justice, peace and conflict studies, theories of nonviolence, and poverty. Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and William Wilberforce are three historical figures I have studied while at KU, and by examining their lives I have learned much concerning what it means to live ethically according to religious convictions. Peace, reconciliation, and social and economic justice continue to hold my interest.

Among contemporary ethicists, I am incredibly interested in the work of Stanley Hauerwas. Since reading *A Community of Character*, I have continued to pursue his thought by reading most of his published works. Among his many important ideas, I am most compelled by Hauerwas' theological politics, particularly those strains within his work that draw from the Anabaptist tradition. Hauerwas's idea that the church is a social ethic, his emphasis on virtue, and his strong stance for pacifism have challenged and shaped my ecclesiology, and I have come to believe that further reflection on the nature and mission of the church will be one of the most crucial areas of theological development for Christianity in the West.

In addition to my interest in ethics, I have developed a deep love for the history of the Methodist movement and the theology of John Wesley. My wife, Molly, is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and though elements of my Baptist heritage remain firmly in place, I would like to increase my familiarity with the history and theology of the United Methodist tradition in order to help those in our congregation live in greater accord with their heritage. Though John Wesley and the history of Methodism do not stand at the center of my academic interests, I intend to pursue Methodist thought in order to best serve the Christian community of which I am part.