

Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church Faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology 2009

At the request of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, the faculty have developed an inventory of the way their research, courses and writing can contribute to the Four Areas of Focus for the United Methodist Church:

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World
- 2) New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations
- 3) Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
- 4) Stamping Out Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally

Link to [Four Areas of Ministry Focus](#) on the United Methodist Web Site

Israel Kamudzandu

**Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies,
Lindsey P. Pherigo Chair**

1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders

Research Interests:

Biblical Interpretation and Contextualization of the Gospel is a great need for church leadership in the global Church. NTS 301 Introduction to the New Testament – In this course students will explore/investigate the world of the New Testament and seek ways to contextualize in their ministry context. In this course, students learn exegetical skills as well as old and new methods of Biblical Interpretation aimed at concretizing the message of the Bible in various ministry contexts.

Courses:

NTS 301 Introduction to the New Testament

Writing:

Paul in Context - Christian Ethnic Identities as exemplified in Abraham the Spiritual Ancestor of Faith (Work in Progress with Fortress Press). The Wesley Study Bible: *A Reading of 1 and 2 Thessalonians* (Abingdon Press, 2009)

2) Congregational Development:

Research Interests:

The place and role of women in the church then and now.

Courses:

NA

Writing:

The Untold Stories of Biblical Women whose voices are silent, yet they lived a sacred life (this is a new course within my New Testament teaching)

3) Ministry with the Poor:

Research Interests:

The Reconciliation and peace processes between the Center and the Margin. This also draws from a new community formed around Abraham as a Global ancestor of all faith cultures.

Courses:

NTS 404 Reading Romans

Interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Main focus will be a postcolonial investigation of AIDS/HIV in the continent of Africa

Writings:

NA

4) Improving Health Globally:

Research Interests:

The New Testament and its Prophetic message of Peace; The impetus for this work draws upon Paul's authentic letters from prison as resources for peace and reconciliation in a global world.

Courses:

NTS 404: Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

NTS 404: Early Church on Issues of Hunger and Disease

Writings:

NA