

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

Kristen E. Kvam

Associate Professor of Theology

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

Research Interests:

At the heart of my scholarly work resides the concern to re-form Christian doctrines in ways that develop Christian leaders committed to overcoming divisive and hierarchical relationships. Scriptural interpretation, relationships between theological anthropology and ecclesiology, and the theology and historical context of Martin Luther form the primary areas of my research interests.

Courses:

Advanced Praxis Seminar: Ecumenical Theology and the Unity of the Church
Introduction to Systematic Theology
Christ and Salvation
Christian Theological Anthropology
Christian Scripture and Feminist Hermeneutics
Martin Luther and Theological Anthropology
DMin Course: Theology and the Church's Ministry.

Writings:

“Relationship Between Episkope and Apostolic Succession: Continuity In, Through, and Across Time.” *Call To Unity*, Issue 7 (December 2006): 40-44. “Comfort.” Chapter in *Hope Deferred: Heart-Healing Meditations on Reproductive Loss*. Mary Stimming and Dena Pence Frantz, editors. Forward by Miroslav Volf. Pilgrim Press, 2005.

Collaborative Publications: The Apostolicity of the Church: Study Document of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity. The Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2006.

The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries. Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue X; edited by Randall Lee and Jeffrey Gros, FSC. Washington DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005. "Sin and Evil" Chapter in *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, A Project of the Workgroup on Constructive Theology, edited by Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

2) Congregational Development:

Research Interests:

I am convinced that the study of Christian doctrines relates to congregational development because of the interrelations between thought and action. Also my work in ecumenical theology has much to do with nurturing and shaping congregational life.

Courses:

Advanced Praxis Seminar: Ecumenical Theology and the Unity of the Church
Introduction to Systematic Theology
Christ and Salvation
Christian Theological Anthropology
Christian Scripture and Feminist Hermeneutics
Martin Luther and Theological Anthropology
DMin Course: Theology and the Church's Ministry

Writing:

"Confession of Sin." Interrogative Dialogue for "Sin and Evil" Chapter in *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, A Project of the Workgroup on Constructive Theology, edited by Serene Jones and Paul Lakeland. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. Page 136. "Equality in Eden?: Gender Dynamics and Luther's Lectures on the Creation of Adam and Eve." *Seminary Ridge Review* 6/2 (Spring 2004):5-18. "The Significance of Luther's Ideas for the Churches of the 21st Century: A Feminist Perspective." *Lutherjahrbuch* 71 (2004): 65-71

3) Ministry with the Poor:

Research Interests:

My research in early modern studies along with my study of teachings concerning Christ and theological anthropology offer venues for reflection on ministry with persons who are poor and marginalized.

Courses:

Christ and Salvation
Christian Theological Anthropology
Engaging World Religions: People of the Book
Women, Society, and Church Studies Seminar

Christian Scripture and Feminist Hermeneutics
Martin Luther and Theological Anthropology

Writings:

Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender Co-edited with Linda S. Schearing (Gonzaga University) and Valarie H. Ziegler (DePauw University).
Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1999

4) Improving Health Globally:

Research Interests:

Research interests: Research, teaching, and writing in areas relating to inter-religious theology, particularly in comparative scripture and traditions concerning Eve and Adam as well as Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah, offer opportunities for addressing matters of health and welfare around the globe.

Courses:

Engaging World Religions: People of the Book
Women, Society, and Church Studies Seminar
Christian Scripture and Feminist Hermeneutics
Martin Luther and Theological Anthropology

Writings:

“Do Jews, Christians, and Muslims Worship the Same God?” Questions of Faith Column in the *Kansas City Star*, Faith and Values Section, p. 1,3. August 29, 2003. *Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender* Co-edited with Linda S. Schearing (Gonzaga University) and Valarie H. Ziegler (DePauw University).
Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1999
“The Sweat of the Brow is of Many Kinds’: Luther on the Duties of Adam and His Sons” in *Currents in Theology and Mission* 24 (February, 1997): 44-49