

## 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

### **Robert K. Martin**

#### **Lovett H. Weems, Jr. Associate Professor of Church Leadership and Practical Theology**

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

##### *Research Interests:*

Church leadership: its nature and purpose as specifically ecclesiological; understanding church leadership as sacramental, incarnational, and Trinitarian; evocation and development of leaders; strategic planning; the spiritually disciplined nature of church leadership; leaders as change agents.

Practical Theology: leadership and organizational studies; congregational studies; the practical epistemology of Christian faith; change theory; the relation of theology to the new sciences of relationality including especially chaos and complexity, evolutionary sciences, and human development.

##### *Courses:*

Trinity, Incarnation, and Ministry  
Integral Church: Ecclesiology, Worship, Leadership  
Leading A Holy Life Retreat  
Person and Role of Minister as Leader  
The Practice of Parish Ministry  
Strategic Leadership  
United Methodist Polity

##### *Writings:*

*The Incarnate Ground of Christian Faith: Toward a Christian Theological Epistemology for the Educational Ministry of the Church.* Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998. "Being In Youth Ministry: The Imperative Of Incarnational Leadership." In *Loving God Loving Neighbor*. Sondra Matthaeci, editor. Xlibris, 2008.

“Leadership and Serendipitous Discipleship: A Case Study of Congregational Transformation,” in *Redemptive Transformation in Practical Theology: Essays in Honor of James E. Loder Jr.* Ed., Dana R. Wright and John D. Kuentzel. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans Publishers. 2004.

‘Mind the Gap’: Closing the distance between theological method, theological education, and practical theology for religious leadership,” Issue Introduction, *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 3, No. 1 & No. 2, Spring 2004 and Fall 2004.

“Dwelling in the Divine Life: The Transformative Dimension of Leadership and Practical Theology,” *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 3, No. 1 & No. 2, Spring 2004 and Fall 2004. “Having Faith in Our Faith in God: Toward a Critical Realist Epistemology for Christian Education,” *Religious Education*, Volume 96, Number 2, Spring 2001.

“Theological Education in Epistemological Perspective: The Significance of Michael Polanyi’s “Personal Knowledge” for a Theological Orientation of Theological Education,” *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Volume 1, Number 3, Oct. 1998

#### *Presentations and Workshops:*

“A Eucharistic Blueprint for Congregational Renewal,” Full-day teaching for the Bishop’s Academy, Center for Renewal at Grand View College, Des Moines, IA, August 23, 2008.

“Jesus, W, and Iraq: Framing Our World Iconically,” Plenary presentation, Imago Dei Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, February 15, 2008.

“Incarnation: A Biblical Study, A Biblical Meditation,” Missouri Minister’s School. Two lectures, January 9, 10, 2008. Columbia, MO.

“Leading from Your Spiritual Center,” Workshop. Iowa Center for Renewal, ELCA. Indianola, IA, August 25, 2007.

“Working Through Conflict to Communion,” Residents in Ministry consultation, November 28-30, 2006. Missouri Annual Conference, Columbia, MO.

“Chaos at the Heart of Leadership,” Installation Lecture of the Lovett H. Weems, Jr. Chair in Church Leadership and Practical Theology, Saint Paul School of Theology, March 8, 2006.

“Leadership in and for Ecclesial Life,” Iowa United Methodist Conference Cabinet day-workshop, Des Moines, IA, Feb. 13, 2006.

“Cultivating Leaders in Small Groups,” “Meditation in Small Groups,” *Walking the Way – Together: The Promise and Power of Small Group Discipleship* Conference, Leawood Kansas, January 6-7, 2006.

“Encountering God in the Image of Christ: Iconic Leadership,” The Art and Practice of Teaching Leadership, Administration, and Finance Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 2002.

“Developing Communion in Committees: Strategies for Leadership,” Fall Symposium Workshop, Saint Paul School of Theology, Sept. 18, 2001.

“Leading Disciples Inward and Outward: A Practical Framework for Developing Ecclesial Leadership,” Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, Toronto, Canada. October 1999.

## 2) Congregational Development:

*Research Interests:*

Ecclesiology: the nature and purpose of the church as specifically incarnational and Trinitarian; theologically strategic planning.

Practical Theology: leadership and organizational studies; organizational health and conflict; congregational studies; change theory; understanding ecclesiological structures in light of the new sciences of relationality including especially chaos and complexity, evolutionary sciences, and human development; strategic planning; vision and mission development; sacramentality and congregational life.

*Courses:*

Trinity, Incarnation, and Ministry

Faith and Money

Integral Church: Ecclesiology, Worship, Leadership

The Practice of Parish Ministry

Strategic Leadership

United Methodist Polity

*Writing:*

*The Incarnate Ground of Christian Faith: Toward a Christian Theological Epistemology for the Educational Ministry of the Church.* Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998.

"Education and the Liturgical Life of the Church," *Religious Education*, Volume 98, Number 1, Winter 2003.

"Leadership and Serendipitous Discipleship: A Case Study of Congregational Transformation," in *Redemptive Transformation in Practical Theology: Essays in Honor of James E. Loder Jr.* Ed., Dana R. Wright and John D. Kuentzel. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans Publishers. 2004.

"Communion," Christian Educators Fellowship Newsletter, September 2000.

"Christian Ministry as Communion: Contributions of Orthodox-Reformed Dialogue to a Reformed Theology of Ecclesial Ministry," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Spring 1999.

"Congregational Studies and Critical Pedagogy in Theological Perspective," *Theological Education*, 33, 2, Spring 1997.

"Paulo Freire's Liberationist Pedagogy and Christian Education: a Critical Investigation of Compatibility." *Koinonia Journal*, Fall 1992.

*Presentations and Workshops:*

"A Eucharistic Blueprint for Congregational Renewal," Full-day teaching for the Bishop's Academy, Center for Renewal at Grand View College, Des Moines, IA, August 23, 2008.

"Sacraments in Everyday Life," Course in Village University, Prairie Village, KS, 4 sessions, April 2008.

"Baptism and Eucharist in Christian Life," Course for Bishram School of Ministry, Kathmandu Nepal, January 29-February 1, 2008. "Spiritual Gifts in Christian Life," Conference teacher, Bishram Ministries, Gummi Nepal, February 5-6, 2008.

"Incarnational sacramentality in dynamic Wesleyan ecclesiology," Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies, August 2007.

“Transformation in Community Ministry,” National Presbyterian Conference on Community Ministry, Kansas City, MO, March 5, 2006.

“The What and Why of Ecclesial Life,” Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministerial association, January 8, 2004, Kansas City, MO.

3) Ministry with the Poor:

*Research Interests:*

Ecclesiology and leadership: the missional nature of Christian communion; the centrality of ‘the least of these’ in Christian communion.

*Courses:*

The Practice of Parish Ministry

Integral Church: Ecclesiology, Worship, Leadership

*Writings:*

“Being In Youth Ministry: The Imperative Of Incarnational Leadership.” In *Loving God Loving Neighbor*. Sondra Matthaei, editor. Xlibris, 2008.

“Christian Ministry as Communion: Contributions of Orthodox-Reformed Dialogue to a Reformed Theology of Ecclesial Ministry,” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Spring 1999.

“Congregational Studies and Critical Pedagogy in Theological Perspective,” *Theological Education*, 33, 2, Spring 1997.

"Paulo Freire's Liberationist Pedagogy and Christian Education: a Critical Investigation of Compatibility." *Koinonia Journal*, Fall 1992

4) Improving Health Globally:

*Research Interests:*

NA

*Courses:*

NA

*Writings:*

NA