

## 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

### **L. Shannon Jung**

#### **Professor of Town and Country Ministries**

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

*Research Interests:*

Leadership in the rural congregation, asset mapping, renewal and revitalization, leadership and pastoral care, social ministry issues (especially environmental).

*Courses:*

Spirituality and the Renewal of Rural Congregations (CHL 312)  
Practice of Leadership: Leading the Affluent Church

*Writing:*

Practicing Care in the Rural Congregation and Community (with Drs. Jeanne Hoeft and Joretta Marshall, under contract with Fortress Press, forthcoming)

Rural Ministry: The Shape of the Renewal to Come. (Abingdon, 1998). Leader collaborator, with Judy Hefferson, Dean Freudenberger, Deborah Cronin, David Ruesink, etc.

We Are Home: A Spirituality of the Environment (Paulist Press, 1993)

- 2) Congregational Development:

*Research Interests:*

Strengthening and renewing rural congregations (little explicit work on new church planting).

*Courses:*

Rural Multicultural Immersion

*Writing:*

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations, Augsburg, 2001)  
Rural Congregational Studies: A Guide for Good Shepherds. (Abingdon, 1997).  
Articles on rural life, agriculture, technology, and other aspects of contextual analysis and community development (that enter into the process of determining where churches will develop well)

3) Ministry with the Poor:

*Research Interests:*

How hunger around the world impacts the spirituality of the affluent; the causes of global and local hunger in the global food supply system; farming as a practice; immigration; Christian responses.

*Courses:*

Theology of Growing and Eating (MIN 261)  
Rural Multicultural Immersion  
Rural Disaster Immersion

*Writing:*

Hunger and Happiness: Reaching Out, Nourishing Our Souls. (Augsburg Books, 2009)

At This Point, online journal of Columbia Theological Seminary, December 2008.

Articles for *The Lutheran*, *Lutheran Women*, *Horizons* (Presbyterian Women); *Catholic Rural Life*, others.

Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating. Fortress, 2004

Sharing Food: Christian Practices for Enjoyment. Fortress, 2006

4) Improving Health Globally

*Research Interests:*

World hunger, health as a component of poverty and elimination of life chances; South Africa and Congo; rural peoples domestically.

*Courses:*

Southern African Immersion

*Writing:*

Hunger and Happiness – a chapter on health  
Sharing Food – a chapter on Honoring the Body and Preparing Food