

## **Materials on Faculty Research, SPST Mission Statement, and UMC Foci Shannon Jung**

My interests and grounding in the church focus my research on issues of leadership in smaller membership congregations. Thus, my classes focus on **addressing the crisis of leadership in the church** by **educating leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ**. Dr. Robert Martin and I teach the leadership courses at SPST in ways that are practical and encourage students to see their present work in local churches as very much real ministry and leadership. I tend to encourage students to develop a style of leadership that is collaborative and views laity as partners in mission. This speaks to the way they will form member/disciples in discipleship, evangelism, and mission.

Much of my driving motivation is the renewal of the church. Thus I am concerned to **educate leaders to renew the church**. Drs. Jeanne Hoeft, Joretta Marshall, and I are working on a book on “Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities” which addresses how pastors and lay people can practice care in both their congregational and communities. I emphasize spiritual practices and renewal in my classes alongside a concern for social justice. This addresses the UMC foci of **promoting leadership** and also **a concern for the poor**.

Much of my research focuses on the current food crisis and the rising number of people who are malnourished in this world. I have written a piece for *Catholic Rural Life, Horizons*: the journal of Presbyterian Women; *@thisPoint* – the online journal of Columbia Theological Seminary, and have addressed UMC audiences as well. I am currently completing a book on this topic. Much of my work includes a concern for the health of the earth community. Thus I participate in **educating leaders to transform the world**. My immersion courses have taken groups to rural disaster counties (Louisiana), to South Africa and Congo, and to Garden City and Dodge City meatpacking multicultural communities in Kansas. My teaching and research also focus on one of the most marginalized groups of people in the United States: the rural population of the U.S. Thus, my work focuses on addressing issues of **Poverty** and **Global Health**, the third and fourth foci of the UMC Boards.