

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

Henry H. (Hal) Knight III

Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

Research Interests:

Wesleyan Studies—I am interested in the Wesleys and their movement as a model of leadership for revival, church renewal, Christian formation, and doctrinal conversation.

Wesleyan/Pentecostal Studies—I am interested in the patterns of leadership in African-American Methodist, Holiness, and Pentecostal movements that encourage church renewal, Missional outreach, vital worship, and social change.

Courses:

United Methodist Doctrine
United Methodist History
The Means of Grace in the Wesleyan Tradition
John Wesley and the Movements of the Spirit
Wesley, Edwards and the Eighteenth Century Awakening
Theology and Ethics of John Wesley
Early American Methodism
Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology
Theology and Spirituality in the Wesleyan Tradition (DMin)
Narrative and the Christian Affections

Writings:

Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith (Discipleship Resources, 2006) [co-authored with F. Douglas Powe]
The Conversation Matters: Why United Methodists Should Talk With One Another [co-authored with Don E. Saliers] (Abingdon Press, 1999)
The Presence of God in the Christian Life: John Wesley and the Means of Grace

(published in Pietist and Wesleyan Studies monograph series, Scarecrow Press, 1992)
"On Being a Witness: Worship and Holiness in the Wesleyan and Pentecostal Traditions"
[co-authored with Steven J. Land] in E. Byron Anderson and Bruce T. Morrill, eds.,
Liturgy and the Moral Self: Humanity at Full Stretch Before God (Liturgical Press,
1998)
"Realism, Hope, and Holiness in the Wesleyan Tradition" (*Wesleyan Theological
Journal*, 40:1, Spring, 2005)
"The Spirit and the Mission of God" (*Quarterly Review*, 21:2, Summer, 2001)
"Worship and Sanctification" (*Wesleyan Theological Journal* 32:2, Fall, 1997)
"John Wesley: Mentor for an Evangelical Revival" (*Wesleyan Theological Journal*
32:1, Spring 1997)

2) Congregational Development:

Research Interests:

Wesleyan Studies—I am very interested in how Wesley's theology and practice served the renewal of the church in holiness, or love for God and neighbor. Salvation understood as sanctification enabled by spiritual discipline, small group accountability, and participation in the means of grace has important implications for contemporary church renewal.

Wesleyan/Pentecostal Studies—My work on the relation of early American Methodism, African-American Methodism, the Holiness movement, Pentecostalism, and the Charismatic movement (such as through leading the Wesleyan/Pentecostal Consultation) includes a significant focus on the nature, renewal, and mission of the church.

Evangelical Theology—I have been concerned to show the interrelation of growth in personal salvation with the worship, community, and mission of the church.

Courses:

United Methodist Doctrine
United Methodist History
The Means of Grace in the Wesleyan Tradition
John Wesley and the Movements of the Spirit
Wesley, Edwards and the Eighteenth Century Awakening
Theology and Ethics of John Wesley
Early American Methodism
Theology and Spirituality in the Wesleyan Tradition (DMin)
Contemporary Evangelical Theology
Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology
Theology and the Church's Ministry (D.Min.)
Narrative and the Christian Affections

Writing:

Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith (Discipleship Resources, 2006) [co-authored with F. Douglas Powe]
Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists (Abingdon Press, 2001)

The Conversation Matters: Why United Methodists Should Talk With One Another [co-authored with Don E. Saliers] (Abingdon Press, 1999)

The Presence of God in the Christian Life: John Wesley and the Means of Grace (published in Pietist and Wesleyan Studies monograph series, Scarecrow Press, 1992)

"The Means of Grace and the Promise of New Life in the Evangelism of John Wesley" in Stephen Gunter, ed., *Considering the Great Commission* (Abingdon Press, 2005)

"The Role of Faith and the Means of Grace in the Heart Religion of John Wesley" in Richard B. Steele, ed., *"Heart Religion" in the Methodist Tradition and Related Movements* (Scarecrow Press, 2001)

"The Transformation of the Human Heart: The Place of Conversion in Wesley's Theology," in Kenneth J. Collins and John H. Tyson, eds., *Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition* (Abingdon Press, 2001)

"On Being a Witness: Worship and Holiness in the Wesleyan and Pentecostal Traditions" [co-authored with Steven J. Land] in E. Byron Anderson and Bruce T. Morrill, eds., *Liturgy and the Moral Self: Humanity at Full Stretch Before God* (Liturgical Press, 1998)

"True Affections: Biblical Narrative & Evangelical Spirituality" in Timothy R. Phillips and Dennis L. Okholm, eds., *The Nature of Confession: Evangelicals & Postliberals in Conversation* (InterVarsity Press, 1996)

"The Spirit and the Mission of God" (*Quarterly Review*, 21:2, Summer, 2001)

"Worship and Sanctification" (*Wesleyan Theological Journal* 32:2, Fall, 1997)

"John Wesley: Mentor for an Evangelical Revival" (*Wesleyan Theological Journal* 32:1, Spring 1997)

"The Baptismal Shaping of Christian Lives: Wesley's Class Meetings and Service of Covenant Renewal" (*Doxology*, 1990)

"The Significance of Baptism for the Christian Life: Wesley's Pattern of Initiation" (*Worship*, March, 1989; reprinted *McKendree Pastoral Review*, 1993)

3) Ministry with the Poor:

Research Interests:

Wesleyan Studies—The intrinsic interrelation of works of mercy with works of piety, and the three-way interrelation of social concern, evangelism, and Christian formation in Wesley's theology and practice have been a focal interest as a model for contemporary ministry.

Wesleyan/Pentecostal Studies—Central elements of the African-American Methodist, Holiness, and Pentecostal traditions have been concern for the poor by way of compassionate ministry, advocacy of social reform, and welcoming communities.

Evangelical Theology—I am currently examining the relationship of conversion and sanctification to social concern, both as an expression of a changed heart and as a means of grace whereby the heart is changed.

Courses:

United Methodist Doctrine
United Methodist History
The Means of Grace in the Wesleyan Tradition
John Wesley and the Movements of the Spirit
Wesley, Edwards and the Eighteenth Century Awakening
Theology and Ethics of John Wesley
Early American Methodism
Theology and Spirituality in the Wesleyan Tradition (DMin)
Contemporary Evangelical Theology
Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology
Theology and the Church's Ministry (DMin)
Narrative and the Christian Affections

Writings:

Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith (Discipleship Resources, 2006) [co-authored with F. Douglas Powe]
Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists (Abingdon Press, 2001)
A Future for Truth: Evangelical Theology in a Postmodern World (Abingdon Press, 1997)
The Presence of God in the Christian Life: John Wesley and the Means of Grace (published in Pietist and Wesleyan Studies monograph series, Scarecrow Press, 1992)
"Realism, Hope, and Holiness in the Wesleyan Tradition" (*Wesleyan Theological Journal*, 40:1, spring, 2005)
"The Spirit and the Mission of God" (*Quarterly Review*, 21:2, summer, 2001)

4) Improving Health Globally:

Research Interests:

My interests here are indirect: I continue to work on the theology of Wesley with regard to health, medicine, and prayer for healing, as well as the views in Holiness, Pentecostal, and Charismatic movements.

Courses:

John Wesley and the Movements of the Spirit
Pentecostal and Charismatic Theology

Writings:

Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists (Abingdon Press, 2001)
A Future for Truth: Evangelical Theology in a Postmodern World (Abingdon Press, 1997)
"God's Faithfulness and God's Freedom: A Comparison of Contemporary Theologies of Healing" (*Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, 1993; reprinted *McKendree Pastoral Review*, December, 1995)