

## 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

### **Sondra H. Matthaei**

#### **Professor of Christian Religious Education**

- 1) Developing Principled Christian Leaders:

##### *Research Interests:*

Christian Religious Education: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking address how persons grow in faith and the church's role in Christian faith development with a particular focus on servant leadership.

Wesleyan Studies: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking engage the early Methodist tradition and Wesleyan theology to ground my work in Christian faith formation.

Ecumenical Diversity: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking while grounded in Wesleyan theology and practice, draw on formation of faith and values in others cultures and include dialogue with the theology and practice of a wider ecumenical audience.

##### *Courses:*

MA & MDiv  
Introduction to Ministry  
Native American immersion  
Spiritual Formation through Mentoring Relationships  
Teaching & Learning  
An Educational Approach to Spiritual Formation  
Spiritual Direction/Companionship  
Ministry Across the Life Span  
Faith Formation and the New Generations  
Independent Studies with individual students  
MASM Project Proposals and Praxis Projects

DMin  
DMin 528 Christian Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition (English and Korean)  
Independent studies with individual students  
DMin Praxis Thesis Consultation and Conference

*Writings:*

*Formation in Faith: The Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples.* Nashville: Abingdon, 2008

*Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry with Searching Youth*, editor. Philadelphia PA: XLibris Press, Spring 2008

“Loving God and Neighbor with a New Generation,” in *Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry with Searching Youth*. Philadelphia PA: XLibris 2008

“Vision and Imagination in Transformative Theological Education,” *Theology Colloquy Journal*, Community of Christ, 2004

“The United Methodist Deacon: Servant Ministry in the Communion of the Trinity,” Monograph published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2003

“Conversion: Possibility and Expectation” in *Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition*, Kenneth J. Collins and John H. Tyson, Eds. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001

*Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000

Revision of *Candidacy Guidebook for Deacons, Elders, and Local Pastors.* Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, January 2000

*Faith Matters: Faith-Mentoring in the Faith Community.* Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1996

*Speaking:*

“The Art of Making Disciples,” Plenary, workshops, and sermon at closing worship, Presbytery of Lake Michigan at Miracle Camp, Lawton MI, Fall 2009

“Rethinking Servant Ministry in the Wesleyan Tradition,” Wesley Studies Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, October 2003

“Baptism, Incarnation, Pilgrimage: Three Dimensions of Servant Ministry,” 2003 Convocation for Deacons and Diaconal Ministers, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, February 27-March 2, 2003

## 2) Congregational Development:

### *Research Interests:*

Christian Religious Education: My research, writing, teaching, and speaking focus on the development of an intentional congregational approach to a ministry of making disciples.

Wesleyan studies: My research, writing, teaching, and speaking use insights from Wesleyan theology and practice to inform the development of a congregational ministry of making disciples.

Ecumenical diversity: My research, writing, teaching, and speaking engage in conversation with other religious traditions and makes proposals that can be used in a wider setting for creating a congregational ministry of making disciples.

### *Courses:*

MA & MDiv

Teaching & Learning

An Educational Approach to Spiritual Formation

Introduction to Ministry

Ministry Across the Life Span

Faith Formation and the New Generations

Independent studies with individual students

MA project proposals and MASM Praxis Projects

DMin

Christian Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition (English and Korean)

Independent studies with individual students

DMIN Praxis Thesis Consultation and Conference

### *Writing:*

*Formation in Faith: The Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples.* Nashville: Abingdon, 2008

“Loving God and Neighbor with a New Generation,” in *Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry with Searching Youth.* Philadelphia PA: XLibris 2008

“Rethinking Christian Formation,” *Religious Education Journal.* Spring, 2004

“Contemporary Issues in Christian Education: Making Disciples for a New Day,” *Quarterly Review*, vol. 22, no. 1, 2002. *Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000

*Faith Matters: Faith-Mentoring in the Faith Community.* Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1996

*Speaking:*

“The Art of Making Disciples,” Teachers Workshop, Countryside United Methodist Church, Topeka KS, April 12, 2008.

“Let’s Talk about God,” Journeymen Sunday School Class, Christian United Methodist Church, April 2008.

“Blessings of Pilgrimage” Workshop, Christian Educators Fellowship National Conference, Fall 2008. [www.cef2008.org/workshops/Sunday3.htm](http://www.cef2008.org/workshops/Sunday3.htm)

“Basic Discipleship,” 4 sessions, Christ United Methodist Church, Independence MO, December, 2007.

“John Wesley’s Search for Love,” combined adult classes, Christ United Methodist Church, Independence MO, January 28, 2007.

“Making Disciples: A Congregational Ministry of Faith Formation”, West Ohio Christian Educators Fellowship chapter event, keynote speaker, Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio, October, 2005.

“Holy Living: Singing Our Faith in God,” Wesley Studies Conference, “The Arts of Holy Living,” Saint Paul School of Theology, November 2005.

“Communion Ecclesiology and A Ministry of Service,” the Eleventh Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies (by invitation), August 2002.

“Forming Faith in Communities of Grace,” Wesley Studies Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, November 2001

3) Ministry with the Poor:

*Research Interests:*

Christian Religious Education: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking address a variety of social justice issues including ministry with the poor within a particular focus on servant leadership.

Wesleyan Studies: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking engage the early Methodist tradition and Wesleyan theology in relation to persons in a variety of social contexts.

Ecumenical Diversity: My research, teaching, writing, and speaking bring the emphasis on social justice and the dignity and worth of all human beings in the Wesleyan tradition formation into dialogue with the theology and practice of a wider ecumenical audience.

*Courses:*

Native American immersion  
Introduction to Ministry

Faith Formation and the New Generations  
MASM Project Proposals and MASM Praxis Projects

*Writings:*

*Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry with Searching Youth*, editor. Philadelphia PA: XLibris Press, Spring 2008

*Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000

*Speaking:*

“Communion Ecclesiology and A Ministry of Service,” the Eleventh Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies (by invitation), August 2002

4) Improving Health Globally:

My research, writing, teaching, and speaking does not directly address this focus, but the issue does come up in courses such as the Native American immersion

*Research Interests:*

NA

*Courses:*

NA

*Writings:*

NA