

Elaine Robinson
Teaching and Research Interests

As I join the Saint Paul faculty, I bring interests in several areas. My expertise lies in constructive Christian theology, Wesleyan/Methodist studies, and homiletics. To date, I have published three books: *These Three: The Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love* which is a theological investigation of the marks of the Christian life; *Considering the Great Commission: Mission and Evangelism in the Wesleyan Tradition* (co-edited with Stephen Gunter); and *Godbearing: Evangelism Reconceived*, an exploration of how we might offer authentic witness to the Gospel in the contemporary setting. My teaching and research at Saint Paul School of Theology will focus on United Methodist doctrine and theology and theological considerations of racism and racial justice. These foci come out of my deep commitment to the UMC as well as my recent experience as the pastor of a bilingual Rio Grande conference church in Fort Worth.

My teaching and research interests correlate well with Saint Paul's new mission statement:

1. As a teacher and scholar of United Methodism, I am well ***rooted in the Wesleyan tradition***. I teach courses in Methodist doctrine and theology. I also have two current projects that relate to the Wesleyan tradition: a primer on Methodist beliefs and a work on the Central Jurisdiction.
2. My focus is always on ***inspiring passion for ministry***, as I am passionate about the ministry of the Church. My teaching and writing does this both by raising critical questions about the contemporary state of the church and society and modeling passion in my teaching and writing.
3. I also value the ecumenism represented in our commitment to inspiring that passion for ministry ***in diverse Christian bodies***. In the future, I hope to teach some courses in systematic theology (my primary field of expertise), and in these courses my aim is not to indoctrinate a particular perspective, but rather, to help students grasp the diversity of theological positions and locate themselves within this spectrum.
4. Lastly, our mission statement concludes with educating leaders ***to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the church, and transform the world***. Here, again, my teaching and research interests align closely. I teach in a seminary setting precisely because of these commitments and my scholarship is focused on the same. At present, the two projects noted above are directly concerned with making disciples and renewing the church, especially within United Methodism. My third project relates to white privilege in theology and its impact upon the church and society (and vice versa). In this sense, my manuscript on *Sighting Whiteness* seeks to renew the church and transform the world as it unmask racism and promotes racial justice.

From the perspective of the four foci initiated by General Conference, my teaching and research interests most closely relate to the focus on developing leadership within the church and the concern for ministry with the poor. On the one hand, my interests focus on Wesleyan and United Methodist theology and cultivating a United Methodist identity in our church leaders. On the other hand, my concern for the elimination of racism relates to the concern for ministry with the poor, as these are interlocking systems of oppression that must be addressed systematically rather than in pieces.