

## Sondra H. Matthaei

Teaching Professor Emerita of Christian Religious Education  
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

Saint Paul School of Theology  
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### Education

- Ph.D., School of Theology at Claremont
- M.R.E., Saint Paul School of Theology
- B.A., Kansas State University

### Denomination

United Methodist Church (UMC), Diaconal Minister in Christian Education

### Discipline or Specialty

Christian Religious Education is a biblically, historically, and theologically grounded discipline that attends to the formation of Christian identity and vocation through growth in the knowledge and practice of faith. My scholarly research focuses on the early Methodist movement and the implications for Christian faith formation in the church today. Two basic questions are the focus of my scholarly work: How do persons become Christian? What is the church's role in making disciples?

### Representative Courses Taught

- Ministry Across the Lifespan
- Ministry of Christian Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition
- Immersions: Native American Cultures: Pueblo, Native American Cultures: Plains Tribes, Native American Cultures: Four Kansas Tribes
- Spiritual Direction/Companionship
- Spiritual Formation and Mentoring Relationships
- Teaching and Learning: Lifelong Process

### Publications

#### *Books*

- “Pedagogical Issues in Theological Education for Diverse Peoples and Divergent Thinkers” in **Proleptic Pedagogy: Theological Education Anticipating the Future**, Editors: Sondra H. Matthaei and Nancy R. Howell (Eugene OR: Cascade Books, 2014).
- *Youth Ministry in a Technological Age*, Co-Editor with Clare Smith (Philadelphia PA: XLibris, 2011).
- *Loving God, Loving Neighbor: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Youth Ministry*, editor (Philadelphia: XLibris Press, forthcoming, 2008).
- *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).
- *The God We Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993).

### Chapters in Books

- “Conversion: Possibility and Expectation,” in *Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition*, Kenneth J. Collins and John H. Tyson, eds. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001).

### Articles

- “Rethinking Christian Formation,” *Religious Education Journal* (Spring 2004).
- “Vision and Imagination in Transformative Theological Education,” *Theology Colloquy Journal* (Independence, MO: 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).
- “Contemporary Issues in Christian Education: Making Disciples for a New Day,” *Quarterly Review*, vol. 22, no. 1 (2002).
- “Loving God, Loving Deeds;” “Loving God, Loving Words;” “Loving God, Choosing God;” and “Loving God, Seeking Salvation,” *Wesleyan Preaching Annual, 2002-2003* (Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, 2002).
- “Transformed by Grace” for a special issue on “Shaped by Our Words,” *Christians in Education*, vol. 6, no. 4 (Fall 2000), 16-18.
- ““With Patience, Love and Knowledge”” for a special issue on “Teaching the Faith,” *Circuit Rider* (March/April 2000).
- “Transcripts of the Trinity: Community and Communion in Formation for Holiness of Heart and Life,” *Quarterly Review*, vol. 18, no. 2 (Summer 1998).
- Articles on the following topics: John Clark, Jacob Lanius, Hezekiah Gilbert Leigh, Benjamin Michael Drake, Charles Pittman, William Stillwell, John Summerfield, and Joseph Smith Tomlinson in *Blackwell Dictionary of Evangelical Biography: 1730-1860* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1995).

### Lectures, Workshops, Papers

- “The Art of Making Disciples,” Laity Weekend, Saint Paul School of Theology, 2010
- “The Art of Making Disciples,” Presbytery of Lake Michigan, 2008
- “Looking for Love in Lots of Places,” Workshop on Wesley’s understanding of grace, YouTheology 2008
- “Planning a Congregational Ministry of Making Disciples” (lecture presented at the Wesley Studies Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, November 8, 2007).
- “Doing Theology with Youth” (Workshop at Youth Workers Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, February 24, 2007).
- “In the Steps of Love” (Ordination sermon, Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, North Carolina, May 6, 2006).
- “Looking for Love in Lots of Places: John Wesley’s Search for Love” (youTheology presentation and discussion about the Trinity, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, March 2006).
- “Holy Living: Singing Our Faith in God” (lecture at the Wesley Studies Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, October 2005).
- “Making Disciples: A Congregational Ministry of Faith Formation” (keynote speaker at the West Ohio Christian Educators Fellowship chapter event, Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, October 2005).
- “Looking for Love in Lots of Places: John Wesley’s Search for Love” (youTheology presentation and discussion, Saint Paul School of Theology, October 24, 2004).
- “Rethinking Servant Ministry in the Wesleyan Tradition” (paper presented at Faculty Forum, Saint Paul School of Theology, May 2004, Copies are available upon request from [matthaei@spst.edu](mailto:matthaei@spst.edu)).
- “Baptism, Incarnation, Pilgrimage: Three Dimensions of Servant Ministry” (presented at the 2003 Convocation for Deacons and Diaconal Ministers, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, February 27-March 2, 2003).

- “Vision and Imagination in Transformative Theological Education” (presented at the Theology Colloquy, Community of Christ, Independence, Missouri, February 2003).
- “Servant Leadership in the Communion of the Church” (presented to the Section of Deacons and Diaconal Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, October 2002).
- “Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition” (two workshops presented to the Christian Educators Fellowship, Norfolk, Virginia, October 2002).
- “Communion Ecclesiology and A Ministry of Service” (paper presented at the Eleventh Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, August 2002).
- “Forming Faith in Communities of Grace,” (lecture given at the Wesley Studies Conference, Saint Paul School of Theology, November 2001).
- “Making Disciples for a New Age” (plenary presentation at a special session of the Kansas West Annual Conference, UMC, October 2001).
- “An Abundance of Grace,” “The Challenge of Grace,” “A Vision of Grace,” and “Going Out in Grace,” (lectures presented at a conference on “Gathered at the Welcome Table: Forming Faith in Communities of Grace,” United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education, August 2001).
- “Making Disciples in the Wesleyan Tradition” (Faculty Forum at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, June 2001).
- “Faith-Mentoring in the Faith Community” (Christian Education Continuing Education Seminar, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas, October 1999).
- “A Wesleyan Ecology of Faith Formation: A Work in Progress” (Faculty Forum at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, June 1999).
- “An Ecology of Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition”(presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, Orlando, Florida, November 1998).

### **Professional Leadership**

- American Academy of Religion: Wesleyan Studies Group Steering Committee (1998-2004); Wesley Studies Group Session Chair (1999, 2000, 2001, 2004)
- Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education
- Oxford Institute on Methodist Theological Studies: Planning Committee for the Twelfth Oxford Institute in 2007; Plenary Convenor (August 2002)
- Religious Education Association
- United Methodist Association of Scholars in Christian Education: President (2001-2003); President-Elect (1999-2001); Chair of Design Team for National Consultation (2001); Secretary-Treasurer (1992-1997)
- Listed in *2000 Outstanding Scholars of the 21st Century* (Cambridge: International Biographical Centre, 2000)

### **Church Leadership**

- Christian Educators Fellowship, Kansas West Conference, United Methodist Church
- Compassion Sabbath Design Team, Midwest Bioethics Center, Kansas City, MO (1998-2000)
- Consultation on developing educational leadership, Old Mission United Methodist Church, Shawnee Mission, KS (2003-2004)
- Faith and Health Advisory Committee, Kansas Area, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (2000-2001)
- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, UMC: Candidacy Task Force (1999-2000); Consultation on Deacon Education (2000-2001); Consultation on Professional Certification (2004)
- Kansas West Annual Conference, UMC, Board of Ordained Ministry (1996-present: Section of Elders (1996-2008)
- Missouri Lay Missioner Program, Missouri Annual Conference, UMC: Presenter, "Personal and Professional Boundaries (October 2005)
- National Convocation for Deacons and Diaconal Ministers, UMC: Presenter and Consultant (2003)
- Plenary presenter, Special Session of the Kansas West Annual Conference, UMC, (October 2001)

- Presenter, Iowa Leadership Conference, Iowa Annual Conference, UMC (2000-2001)
- Presenter, Kansas Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship and the Arts (1998)