

STEPHEN W. RANKIN

Address: 1604 Loomis
Winfield, Kansas 67156
(620) 221-4012 (Home)
(620) 229-6393 (Work)
Fax: 620+229-6399
Email: steve.rankin@sckans.edu

Birthdate: November 25, 1954

Marital Status: Married
Spouse: Joni
Children: Luke, 25
Leah, 23
Abram, 21
Aaron, 19

CURRENT POSITION

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
Kirk Chair Professor of Religious Studies, 1995-Present
Campus Minister, 1995-Present
Southwestern College
Winfield, Kansas

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy
Joint Program in Religious Studies, Northwestern University and Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary
Dissertation title: *Methodism and Manchester: Foundations for Cultural Change, 1740-1820*
June, 1997

Master of Theology
Missions and Evangelism
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Thesis title: *The Influence of Theological Education on Membership Decline in The United Methodist Church*
June, 1992

Master of Divinity
Saint Paul School of Theology
May, 1986

Bachelor of Science
Kansas State University
December, 1978

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT/ADMINISTRATION

Program Revision, Academic Department: Southwestern College has had a reputation for producing ministers and church leaders in this region, but the decades of the 70s, 80s and early 90s were not kind to this tradition. We revitalized the philosophy and religious studies department by re-organizing and expanding the curriculum. We expanded the number of courses taught and changed the core requirements and the basic direction of the program with an emphasis on pre-seminary preparation and minors in targeted vocational areas (e.g. minor in youth ministry, worship leadership and Christian education) rather than the typical university-based history of religions approach. The number of majors has grown from 2 (1995) to now regularly between 20 and 25. Since 1997, more than 50 of our on-campus graduates have gone to seminary or into ministry. This number does not include graduates of the online pastoral studies program.

Online Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies: We developed a totally online academic program aimed at people serving as pastors in churches in rural and remote places. The BA in Pastoral Studies degree is designed for working people who are either serving churches or who want to get themselves academically (and with church judicatories) to serve churches. In the high plains area where we live, many of the pastors in smaller and rural churches are second-career people who have little or no theological training, who are pressed quickly (and prematurely) into service. If they want to go to seminary, they must have a bachelors degree, which until the online pastoral studies program, they had to find the nearest college and enroll in a major that got them to their BA or BS degree the least painfully. We designed the pastoral studies degree to introduce them to the content and practices of their work in pastoral ministry and to get them ready for seminary or other work beyond the BA. The United States Army chose this program as one of their providers in the EArmyU system for people who want to be chaplains or for people serving in the Army who intend to enter full-time ministry once they leave military service.

Master of Arts, Specialized Ministries: In 2006, we began an online Master of Arts in Specialized Ministries degree program focusing on youth and young adult ministries. In July, 2007 we started the on-campus program.

Campus Ministry: We revitalized campus ministry, particularly chapel services, by making them more contemporary and student-oriented and led. (We have no requirements for students to attend chapel.) We outgrew our worship space at the beginning of the 2004-05 school year and have moved to a new (not newly-built, just a different) auditorium on campus. Since 1995, chapel attendance has grown from an average of 40 to an average of 120 (on a campus with 400 residents and a traditional-age student body of 725).

Discipleship Southwestern: We created Discipleship Southwestern, a four-year co-curricular program of Christian discipleship through study, worship and service to develop Christian disciples and leaders of the church, both ordained and lay. Students enter the Discipleship team through an application process. To participate in the program they are required to take four specific academic courses, participate in a weekly small group for accountability and support, as well as the monthly team meetings, undertake a committee assignment to administer parts of the student program and participate in ministry/service activities. The aim of Discipleship Southwestern is to mentor and develop graduates who know what they believe and they have an adequately-formed sense of what God is calling them to do with their lives. Students from all majors participate. Approximately one third of the members of the Discipleship team are planning on some sort of full-time Christian ministry. Presently we have fifty-five students in the program.

AWARDS

The Francis Asbury Award (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry), 2007
Exemplary Teacher Award, General Board of Higher Education and
Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 1997
John Wesley Fellowship (A Foundation for Theological Education), 1990

COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

2006 – Present: Member, National Leadership Development Advisory Team (sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church
Elder and Full Member, Kansas West Conference, United Methodist Church
Kansas West Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (Chair of recruitment committee)
License to Preach School Teacher 1996, 1999
Clergy Delegate, Jurisdictional Conference, 1996 (Reserve), 2000, 2004, 2008
First Reserve Clergy Delegate, General Conference, 2000, 2008
Preacher, special services with spiritual renewal or evangelistic emphasis
Workshop leader on lifestyle evangelism
Workshop leader on Wesleyan theology and practices
Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, 1992-2000, 2006-present
Conference Commission on Evangelism
Chair of the Board, *CornerStone International* (missionary society)
Conference Commission on Church and Society, 1986-88
Counselor, UM Church Camps
Various kinds of Youth Ministry
Summer Baseball and Softball Coach, 1992-95
Recreation Commission Basketball Coach, 1998, 2000

WORK EXPERIENCE

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE, 1995-Present

Professor of Religious Studies

Department Chair

Campus Minister

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Visiting Professor of Church History, 2001-2002

Faculty, Course of Study School, Saint Paul School of Theology, 1997 – 2000

Adjunct Professor, United Methodist History, Saint Paul School of Theology, Summer 2000, Summer 2001, Summer 2006

Adjunct Instructor, IN 220 (interdisciplinary core unit; history, theology and practice of pastoral care), 1994

BETHANY COLLEGE (Lindsborg, Kansas)

Adjunct Instructor, Religion Department, 1994 – 1995

PASTORAL SERVICE

2002-2004

First United Methodist Church, Winfield, Kansas: (¼ time)

(Essentially, I served a bridge function during a pastoral change.)

1992 – 1995

Pastor, Marquette and Windom, Kansas, Charge, UM Church

1988 – 1992

Minister of Evangelism and Discipleship

North Northfield UM Church

Northbrook, Illinois

1984 – 1988

Pastor, Florence and Aulne, Kansas, UM Churches (1984-1985 this appointments was a three-point charge: Florence, Aulne and Youngtown United Methodist Churches)

1981 – 1984

Pastor, Evangelical Church of Casal Palocco (Rome, Italy)

PUBLICATIONS

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

“John and Charles Wesley: Background to Aldersgate”

Wesley Ministry Network (Wesley Theological Seminary), Forthcoming

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“The People Called Methodists” in Henry Knight, et. al., eds., *From Aldersgate to Azusa Street: Wesleyan, Holiness and Pentecostal Visions of the New Creation* (under review).

In Progress: “An Affectional Epistemology” for Henry Knight, et. al., *From Azusa to Aldersgate...*

“Wesley and War,” in Robert Moore-Jumonville, ed., *The Wesleyan Hermeneutic of Social Reform*, (Nashville: Kingswood Books, forthcoming).

“DISCIPLE Bible Study and Transformed Lives” in W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine A. Robinson, eds., *Considering the Great Commission: Toward a Wesleyan Praxis of Mission and Evangelism*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005)

ARTICLES (Church)

“General Conference: The Pragmatism of United Methodism,” *Good News* (July/August, 2008): 36.

(UMNexus articles)

Response to John McFarland, “Disband The United Methodist Church”
Zion’s Herald, May 2005

A series in *United Methodist Reporter*:

“Colleges, Seminaries: Retooling Required to Work Together”
United Methodist Reporter, September 9, 2005, p. 6a.

“Faith Talk: A Strange New World for Religion Professors”
United Methodist Reporter, August 12, 2005, p. 7a.

“Help Seminarians Develop Both Their Hearts and Minds”
United Methodist Reporter, July 29, 2005, p. 6a

“Beward of Putting All Our Eggs in the ‘Seminary’ Basket”
United Methodist Reporter, July 15, 2005, p. 6.

“Inspire Students in Call to Ministry...Before Seminary”
United Methodist Reporter, July 1, 2005, p. 7b.

Misunderstanding the Worship Wars
Christian Networks Journal
(Winter, 2004), pp. 70-73

Confronting Our Fears: A Conservative Laments the Erosion of Dialogue. Zion's Herald (March/April 2004), pp. 10-11, 38-40

Why Doctrines Matter. Kansas West Connection, June 2003, p. 4

Claim to Uniqueness is Not the Problem: Response to Brad Pehrson on Interfaith Dialogue. Zion's Herald (July/August 2001)

The Day of Small Things: The Haystack Prayer Meeting. Challenge to Evangelism Today. Vol. 32, No. 2. (Fall 1999)

The Importance of E. Stanley Jones Chair of Evangelism in United Methodist Seminaries. Forward. (Winter 1992)

ARTICLES (Academic)

(Submitted to *Epworth Review* for review) "Re-balancing the Cognitive Legacy: the Religious Affections in Christian Formation," presented at the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies (August 2007).

In process: "The Christian Historian's Dilemma," an article on how historians can discern (as historians, not theologians) God's actions in historical circumstances.

On Teaching Evangelistic Preaching: A Bibliographic Essay. Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education. Vol. 18 (2002-2003): 47-57.

A Perfect Church: Toward a Wesleyan Missional Ecclesiology. Wesleyan Theological Journal. Vol. 38 #1 (Spring 2003): 83-104.

Theology in Eighteenth-Century Conversion Narratives: What History Might Teach Us. Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education. Vol. 15 (1999-2000): 48-56.

REVIEWS

John Kent, *Wesley and the Wesleyans*, in *Scottish Journal of Theology*, vol. 60 #1, 2007, pp. 115-118.

Michael J. Anthony and Warren S. Benson, *Exploring the History and Philosophy of Christian Education: Principles for the Twenty-first Century* in *Journal for the Academy for Evangelism*, vol. 20, 2004-2005.

Terrance L. Tiessen, *Who Can Be Saved? Reassessing Salvation in Christ and World Religions* in *Journal for the Academy for Evangelism* vol. 20, 2004-2005.

Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman, Jr., *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity* in *Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education* vol. 19, 2003-2004.

Marvin A. McMickle, *Living Water for Thirsty Souls: Unleashing the Power of Exegetical Preaching* in *Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education* vol. 17, 2001-2002.

James W. Sire, *Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling* in *Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education* vol. 17, 2001-2002.

Simon Ross Valentine, *John Bennet and the Origins of Methodism and the Evangelical Revival in England* in *Fides et Historia* vol. 30 #2 (Summer/Fall 1998), pp. 117-118

CURRENT RESEARCH:

1. Book manuscript on ecclesiology and evangelism. This book (working title, *The Ground of Our Hope: the Gospel and Communities of Vision*) is aimed as an introductory text for either college or seminary students. The purposes of the book is to help readers consider how the church optimally embodies the Gospel and what are the implications for evangelism. It breaks into 3 major divisions: (1) **Context** [ecclesial, cultural and intellectual challenges], (2) **Vision** [primarily grounded in a survey of the biblical narrative that highlights the evangelistic/mission-driven vision of God's people, based especially on the conviction that we evangelize because the love of God constrains us to do so. I take some issue with "obedience to the Great Commission" as a sustaining motivation for evangelism. Rather, we keep evangelizing because we love God and neighbor.) and (3) **Practice** [what the church can do to build evangelism into our lives as a regular, normal activity).

2. Theological education in a Wesleyan key. This research incorporates recent philosophical reflection on emotional reason, humanistic psychology and Wesleyan theology to re-think the way colleges and (especially) seminaries do theological education. Dividing the curriculum into three domains of knowledge, skill and character, a Wesleyan approach to pedagogy raises the importance of the third category (through terms such as the "heart" and "religious affections") to show how the standard approaches to theological education overlook the fact that cognition-heavy courses (the so-called classic disciplines) also shape the heart as well as thoughts. A Wesleyan pedagogy pays attention to all three dimensions in an integrated way. I envision as least one article for "Theological Education" and a book-length work to come from this research.

3. The characteristics of Christian maturity. This research investigates John Wesley's doctrine of Christian perfection in light of contemporary scholarship in philosophy and psychology

PRESENTATIONS (Academic):

Why the Church?
Christian Perspectives Week
Central Methodist University
Fayette, Missouri
March 26, 2008

An Affectional (Wesleyan-Holiness-Pentecostal) Epistemology
Wesleyan-Pentecostal Consultation
Nazarene Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Missouri
October 21, 2006

The Basics of Theological Method
“Catalyst” (Wesley Foundation), University of Arkansas
September 6, 2006

The Church’s Role in Health Care Access: Theological Reflections
Conference on Faith and Health Care Access
March 30-31, 2006

The Christian Historian’s Dilemma
Conference on Faith and History
Oklahoma Baptist University
September 23, 2006

“Re-Constituting the Heart: What We Love and How We Think”
“Reading Karl Barth for Your Devotions: Theology’s Crucial Role in Spiritual Formation”
Staley Lectures
Union College
Barbourville, Kentucky
March 14-16, 2005

Respondent – “What the Media Need from Theologians”
AFTE (A Foundation for Theological Education) Christmas Conference
Orlando, Florida
December 11, 2004

“The Journey to God in a Complex Organization: Christian Discipleship at Southwestern College”
Religious Educators Conference, United States Army
February 9-10, 2004
San Antonio, Texas

“The Role and Significance of Undergraduate Theological Education in Church-Related Colleges”
Christmas Conference 2003
Society of John Wesley Fellows, A Foundation for Theological Education
December 13, 2003

“Motivation and Vision: The Missional Dynamic of the Wesleyan Movement”
Wesley Studies Conference

Saint Paul School of Theology
Kansas City, Missouri
November 7, 2003

“Forget the Botox: John Wesley at 300”
Tabor College Convocation
Hillsboro, Kansas
November 3, 2003

Perspectives on ‘A Wesleyan Vision for Theological Education and Leadership in the 21st Century:’ From the University
Presentation and Panel Discussion
Christmas Conference 2002
Society of John Wesley Fellows, A Foundation for Theological Education
December 14, 2002

A Perfect Church: Toward a Wesleyan Missional Ecclesiology
Wesleyan Theological Society
March 2, 2002

Methodism and the People: Wesley’s Practical Divinity at Work
Wesley Studies Conference
Saint Paul School of Theology
Kansas City, Missouri
November 9, 2001

Can Anything Good Come Out of Epworth? The Wesleyan Doctrine of Christian Perfection and the Formation of Victorian Culture
Conference on Faith and History
Point Loma Nazarene University (San Diego, California)
October 21, 2000

PRESENTATIONS (Church)

Evangelism Workshop
May 9-10, 2008
First United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas

The Measure of a Man’s Heart
March 28-29, 2008
Men’s Retreat
Chapel Hill Fellowship United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas

Toward Christian Maturity: Wesleyan Theology and Campus Ministry

“Refresh”
December 3-6, 2007
The Woodlands United Methodist Church
The Woodlands, Texas

The Basics of Emerging(ent) Church
Builders in Ministry Week
Southwestern College
February 27, 2007

United Methodist History Course (Other Denomination pastors)
Mt. Sequoyah, Arkansas
September 4-11, 2006

Discipling the Heart
Southwestern College Homecoming Workshops
October 21, 2005

Cultivating the Spiritual Disciplines
First Baptist Church Spirituality Retreat
Winfield, Kansas
September 30-October 2, 2005

Cultivating the Spiritual Disciplines
United Methodist Health Fund Health Renewal Conference
Rock Spring Ranch, Kansas
April 8-9, 2005

Tending the Flame at Southwestern College
Institute of Higher Education (sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and
Ministry of The United Methodist Church, the National Association of Schools and
Colleges of The United Methodist Church, and the United Methodist Higher Education
Foundation)
Nashville, Tennessee
June 13-15, 2004

The Unique Gifts of the United Methodist Tradition
Workshop for “Exploration 2002”
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church
Chicago, Illinois
November 16, 2002

Wesleyan Spirituality and the Postmodern World
Trinity Methodist Church
Petaling Jaya (Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia
November 11, 2002

- (1) Challenges from John Wesley*
- (2) Why John Wesley Again?*

National Association of Korean-American Pastors Serving Cross-Racial Appointments
Chicago, Illinois
August 15, 2001

(1) From Modernism to Postmodernism: How We Got There and What Difference It Makes

(2) Religious Pluralism: What's It All About?

(3) I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel (Sermon)

(4) What to Do?

Pacific Northwest (United Methodist) Annual Conference Evangelical Convocation
Richland, Washington
March 11-13, 2001

Salvation's Story: The Bible's Evangelistic Narrative

DISCIPLE Teacher's Workshop

Southwestern College

June 9-10, 2000

Evolution and Christianity: Clarifying the Debate

Public Forum, Southwestern College

September 23, 1999

Geography of Judah: Walking the Jericho Road

DISCIPLE Teachers Workshop

Southwestern College

June 12-13, 1998

Kansas West Annual Conference (UMC) Bible Study Teacher

May 27-30, 1998

Spiritual Formation and the Family

Woodland UMC Family Life Retreat

May 2, 1998

The Discipling Church: History Repeats Itself

DISCIPLE Teachers Workshop

Southwestern College

June 13-14, 1997

Contemporary Invitational Worship

Kansas West Annual Conference (UMC) Discipleship Explosion

March 2, 1996

The Basics of Wesleyan Theology
Lay Speaker Academy
Kansas Wesleyan University
October 1, 1994

Developing a Lifestyle of Evangelism
Kansas West Annual Conference (UMC) Discipleship Explosion
March 6, 1993

What the Church has Believed about Jesus the Christ
Beliefs and Boundaries Conference
Great Bend, Kansas
October 1993

Hungering for Holiness
Kansas Wesleyan University
October 29, 1992

The Catholic Wesley
Fellowship of Saint James, Chicago, Illinois
April 12, 1991

The Disciplined Christian Life
Trinity Wives' Fellowship
February 4, 1991

SPECIAL SERVICES

Leoti United Methodist Church
Leoti, Kansas
March 9-11, 2008

Mulvane United Methodist Church
Holy Week Services
(Preached one night and taught Bible studies the other nights)
March 1-4, 2007

Kinsley United Methodist Church
Kinsley, Kansas
April 23-25, 2006

Bogue Community United Methodist Church
Bogue, Kansas
April 1-2, 2006

Downs United Methodist Church
Downs, Kansas

March 12-14, 2006

Ebenezer and Madison United Methodist Churches
November 11, 12, 2005

Consecration Sunday
Conway Springs United Methodist Church
November 6, 2005

Consecration Sunday
Salina Church of the Cross
October 16, 2005

Potwin United Methodist Church
Potwin, Kansas
June 2-5, 2005

Protection United Methodist Church
Protection, Kansas
February 29-March 1, 2004

Benton United Methodist Church
Benton, Kansas
September 28-30, 2003

Jetmore United Methodist Church
Jetmore, Kansas
April 27-29, 2003

Chapel Hill Fellowship United Methodist Church
Holy Week Services
Wichita, Kansas
April 13-15, 2003

Trinity Methodist Church
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
November 10-12, 2002

Kansas Christian Ashram
Sterling, Kansas
July 17-20, 2002

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas
April 28-30, 2002

Community Holy Week Services
Moundridge, Kansas
April 24-26, 2002
Plainville UMC
Plainville, Kansas
September 23-25, 2001

Welcome Back to Church
Osawatomie United Methodist Church
Osawatomie, Kansas
August 4 and 5, 2001

125th Anniversary Celebration
Brookville United Methodist Church
Brookville, Kansas
April 29, 2001

Lebanon United Methodist Church
Lebanon, Kansas
October 27-29, 2000

125th Anniversary Celebration
Aulne United Methodist Church
Aulne, Kansas
July 2, 2000

First United Methodist Church
Missions Conference
Ardmore, Oklahoma
April 7-9, 2000

Paradise-Waldo United Methodist Churches
Paradise, Kansas
April 2-4, 2000

Rose Valley United Methodist Church
Downs, Kansas
March 5-8, 2000

Bennington United Church 25th Anniversary
Bennington, Kansas
February 27, 2000

Protection United Methodist Church
Protection, Kansas

March 24-26, 1997

Rose Valley United Methodist Church
Downs, Kansas
March 8-12, 1997

Asbury United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas
July 19-22, 1996

Florence United Methodist Church Centennial
Florence, Kansas
April, 1996

Coldwater United Methodist Church
Coldwater, Kansas
March 17-18, 1996

Wamego United Methodist Church
Wamego, Kansas
February 3-4, 1996

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas
October 27-29, 1995

Ellsworth Community (Ecumenical) Holy Week Services
Ellsworth, Kansas
April 10-14, 1995

Tisdale United Methodist Church
Winfield, Kansas
November 1994

Cunningham United Methodist Church
Cunningham, Kansas
April 10-13, 1994

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Abilene, Kansas
October 10-12, 1993

Belle Plaine United Methodist Church
Belle Plaine, Kansas
October 2-5, 1993

Wakefield Countryside United Methodist Church
Wakefield, Kansas
March 14-16, 1993

Afolkey Community Revival
Orangeville, Illinois
March 15-20, 1992

Evangelical Taiwan Church
Youth Festival of Praise
Evanston, Illinois
July 19-20, 1991

Faith United Methodist Church
Elmhurst, Illinois
April 27-28, 1991

Sycamore United Methodist Church
Sycamore, Illinois
June 24-27, 1990

Satanta United Methodist Church
Satanta, Kansas
November 13-16, 1988

Longford United Methodist Church
Longford, Kansas
February 28-March 1, 1988

Forest Park Summer Assembly
Topeka, Kansas
July 25-31, 1988

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education
American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History
Conference on Faith and History
Wesley Historical Society
Wesleyan Theological Society