

Erik Hoeke, M.Div., Th.M.
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EDUCATION

Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston, Mass.

Master of Theology, 2023

Area of Study: Moral Theology

Thesis: "Is This How Human Life Should End? A Methodist Examination of Physician-Assisted Suicide"

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

Master of Divinity, 2008

Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts, 2005

Major: English/Journalism

Minor: Psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

English Composition

2021-22

Department of English, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA

- Adjunct Instructor for two semesters
- Required introductory course for freshmen students to develop skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and technical aspects of academic research and writing.
- Focused on reading comprehension at college level, finding one's voice, and constructing logically sound and persuasive arguments with academic research.
- Constructed reading list to focus on themes of life, death, and meaning.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa.

2024-present

Director of Continuing Education

- Responsible for planning, promoting, administering, and assessing the performance of the Continuing Education programs offered, including five annual endowed lectureships and other non-degree programming.
- Develop, design, and lead contextually-based learning experiences for lifelong learning for clergy and lay ministry leaders.
- Deepen and expand relationships between the Seminary and ministry leaders within the region, especially through relationships with regional judicatories.

- Work collaboratively with the PTS Neighborhood Collaborative to further the mission and vision of the Seminary's non-degree lifelong learning opportunities.
- Manage the budget for the Office of Continuing Education, including ensuring proper record-keeping, making data-driven decisions, engaging in donor development, and continually seeking new sources of income for programming.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa.

2023-2024

Communications Strategist

- Responsible for a variety of writing and editing projects across the Seminary, including print magazines, seasonal devotionals, the Seminary blog, web pages, press releases, and other communications.
- Worked with leadership of the PTS Neighborhood Collaborative to expand and deepen relationships with identified partners to increase marketing of events and programs.
- Responsible for implementing the Seminary's media relations plan.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa.

2022-23

Writer, Communications Department

- Responsible for a variety of writing and editing projects across the Seminary, including print magazines, seasonal devotionals, the Seminary blog, web pages, press releases, and other communications.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

License for Pastoral Ministry

2008

Western Pennsylvania Conference

Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church

2011

Western Pennsylvania Conference

CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pastor, Avery United Methodist Church, Washington, Pa.

2014-22

- Developed strategic plan which led to new partnerships with local schools and nonprofit organizations, implementation of several community events, and facility upgrades.
- Streamlined and strengthened lay leadership, communication, and financial position for increased organizational effectiveness.
- Engaged congregation and community leaders in conversations about racism, sexism, diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice.

Associate Pastor, Chippewa United Methodist Church, Beaver Falls, Pa.

2012-14

- Led youth ministry volunteer team into a new vision for healthy and effective ministry.
- Developed, planned, and led new retreats, mission trips, and large community events.
- Created and implemented a leadership development program for church members.

Pastor, First United Methodist Church, West Newton, Pa.

2008-12

- Developed and opened a secondhand clothing store as a ministry outreach.

- Partnered with area churches to establish an assistance program for groceries, rent & utility payments, and an after-school children's ministry.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Board of Ministry of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC 2012-2024

Provisional Residency Coordinator, 2016-2024

- Interview candidates for commissioning and ordination.
- Currently lead three-year development program for new clergy seeking ordination in the United Methodist Church. Role includes mentoring; organizing trainings; administration; evaluating new candidates for ministry through written work, site visits, and in person interviews.
- In 2015, developed and implemented site visit process for ordination candidates where Board members visit the ministry setting of candidates to evaluate fruitfulness and effectiveness with feedback from lay leadership.
- As member of executive team, address internal deficiencies and shape direction for the work of the full Board.

Communications Team of the Western PA Conference of the UMC 2020-present

Assist in creating and maintaining a cohesive plan for communications across the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Zimbabwe Partnership of the Western PA Conference of the UMC 2012–2020

Chair, 2016-20

- Participated in cultural immersion experience for five weeks in 2012
- Co-led youth immersion experience in 2015
- As chair, led the Western PA aspect of partnership between these two regions, including cultural exchanges, shared leadership development, and financial support of mission projects.

Washington District Anti-Racism Team 2019-22

- Visioned, planned, and carried out anti-racism resources, trainings, and events to help laity and clergy become more anti-racist individually and structurally.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Erik Hoeke, “Doing Good: Institutions, Cultures, and Enabling Morally Virtuous Action.”
Meeting this Moment Symposium, March 17-18, 2023.
Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.

Erik Hoeke, “Fred Rogers: A Public Vocation.”
The Work of Fred Rogers: A Conference on his Context and Legacy, June 16-17, 2023.
Fred Rogers Institute, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

- Erik Hoeke, Book Review of *Reading for the Love of God* by Jessica Wooten Wilson, 2023. *The Christian Century*, August 2023.

Articles

- Erik Hoeke, "A Public Vocation: Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Congregation," *Currents in Theology and Mission* (forthcoming).
- Erik Hoeke, "What we mean when we pray for Damar Hamlin," *TribLIVE*, January 5, 2023.
- Erik Hoeke, "Dr. King's dream still requires action," *Observer-Reporter*, January 15, 2022.
- Erik Hoeke, "Why we need critical race theory," *Observer-Reporter*, June 19, 2021.
- Erik Hoeke and Dana Stainbrook, "The moral responsibility of vaccination," *Observer-Reporter*, January 23, 2021.
- Erik Hoeke, "Faith communities and nonprofits need our support," *Observer-Reporter*, December 17, 2020.
- Erik Hoeke, "Stay calm this election season," *Observer-Reporter*, October 28, 2020.

Blog

- Faith Working By Love, <https://faithworkingbylove.blog/>

CERTIFICATIONS & COMPLETED TRAININGS

- Mental Health First Aid, 2017
- Mediation Skills Training, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, 2018
- Leadership Academy for Stewardship Transformation, UM Foundation of Western PA, 2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Sherman Scholar, Candler School of Theology, 2005-08
- Erin Dillon Service and Leadership Award, Ohio Northern University, 2005
- Honors Program, Ohio Northern University, 2001-05

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Washington County (Pa.) Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors 2016-2023
President, 2023. Vice President, 2021.

- Led organization to achieve its mission of providing safe, affordable housing in Washington County, PA.
- Organized annual golf outing fundraiser and introduced new fundraising events, leading to new donors as well as continued development of existing donors.
- Regularly advised executive director regarding staffing structure and management.