

Claire Annelise Smith
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Education

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| 2005 | Ph. .D. | Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education
Christian Education |
| 2000 | M.A. | Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education
<i>Major.</i> Christian Education |
| 1989 | B.A. | University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.
<i>Major.</i> Theology, Honors - Upper division, 2 nd class |
| 1989 | Dipl.. Ministerial Studies | United Theological College of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I. |
| 1985 | B.A. | University of Guyana
<i>Major.</i> English, pass with distinction |

Employment

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| 2016 to present | <i>Spiritual Mentor and Coach.</i> Help pastors and ministry leaders to live from God’s center. Also help high achievers to live their true selves as God created them to be so that they leave behind stress and have more time and energy for what is most important to them. |
| 2013 to present | <i>Director of youTheology Institute.</i> Oversee and manage the transition of youTheology to an independent non-profit organization. Oversee staff, initiate and manage program, implement strategies for long term viability, build and manage websites. |
| 2005 to 2013 | <i>Director of youTheology and Youth Ministry Specialist in Residence,</i> Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO. Oversee staff, initiate and manage current program as well as program changes (structural and personnel), implement strategies for long term viability, grant writing, reports to funders. Teach in the seminary curriculum. |
| 2005 | <i>Teaching Assistant, Theory for Education in Religion,</i> Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr. Jane Vann. |
| 2004 | <i>Teaching Assistant, Christian Education and Pastoral Leadership,</i> Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr. Jane Vann. |
| 2004 | <i>Resident Teacher,</i> Summer Institute of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Conducted a workshop on <i>Mission</i> and facilitated small group. |
| 2004 | <i>Resident Teacher,</i> Vocational Retreat of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Facilitated small group and led devotions. |

- 2004 *Teaching Assistant, Womanist, Feminist, Mujerista Ethics*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Katie Cannon.
- 2003 *Teaching Assistant, Models of Teaching*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Kathy Dawson.
- 2003 *Faculty*, Leader Quest of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Montreat Youth Conference, Montreat, NC. Taught small group on *Spiritual Disciplines* and *Vocational Call*.
- 2003 *Resident Teacher*, Summer Institute of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Conducted a workshop on *Mission* and facilitated small group.
- 2003 *Resident Teacher*, Vocational Retreat of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Facilitated small group and led devotions.
- 2002 *Resident Teacher*, Summer Institute Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Co-taught *The Order of Life: Changing the Patterns of Our Life* and facilitated small group.
- 2002 *Resident Teacher*, Vocational Retreat of the Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA. Facilitated small group.
- 2002 *Teaching Fellow, Theology and Culture*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Katie Cannon.
- 2002 *Teaching Assistant, The Christian Life*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Henry Simmons.
- 2001 *Faculty*, Burning Bush Project of the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education Montreat West Youth Conference, Fort Collins, CO. Taught small groups on Vocational Call.
- 2001 *Ministerial Intern*, for the Presbytery of the Peaks–Black Caucus, in Roanoke, Danville, Drakes Branch and Martinsville, VA. Preached, assisted in Vacation Bible School, engaged in pastoral visitations to the sick and shut-ins and conducted workshops on *Called to "... Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"* and *The People of God, Sent by God*, summer.
- 2000 *Teaching Assistant, Spirituality and the Christian Educator*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Henry Simmons.
- 2000 *Research Assistant, abstracts for an annotated bibliography*, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA with Dr Gwen Hawley.

1989 to present time, *Minister*, Guyana Congregational Union (GCU), (ordained in March 1990 after a standard six-month probationary period). Positions held as follows:

- a. *Youth Coordinator*, 1989 to 1999. Responsibilities included planning, executing and coordinating national and international (with churches in Jamaica, Grand Cayman and the United Kingdom and other parts of the world) youth and Sunday School programmes, and working with the Guyana Congregational Young People's Union.

- b. *Convenor*, Mission Education Unit, 1995 - 1999. Responsibilities included designing and conducting training programmes for Lay Pastors, Sunday School teachers, youth and other leaders.
 - c. *Pastor (interim)*, Wilberforce, 1998 - 1999. Responsibilities included preaching, visitation, and planning and executing educational and outreach programmes.
 - d. *Pastor (interim)*, Ebenezer, 1998-1999. Responsibilities included preaching, visitation, planning and executing educational programmes, acting as consultant for the village's bicentenary celebrations.
 - e. *Pastor (interim)*, Smith Memorial, 1991 - 1993. Responsibilities included preaching, visitation, planning and executing educational programmes, and overseeing the church's rebuilding programme.
 - f. *Coordinator*, Education in Mission Process, 1991 - 1993. Planned and executed training sessions.
- 1985 - 1986 *Youth Coordinator*, The Guyana Council of Churches,. Responsibilities included planning, executing, and promoting youth programmes among member churches, and working with the Youth Commission.
- 1979-1980 *Temporary Assistant Teacher* (Grade 1 Class 2), The Bishops' High School, Guyana. Taught Music and French.

Honours and Awards

- 2005 Global Partnership Award, Union-PSCE.
- 2001-2003 Bluford Scholarship, Union-PSCE.
- 2000-2002 Doctoral Fellowship awarded by Union-PSCE.
- 2000 Patrick H. and Mary P. Carmichael Fellowship awarded to a student completing the MA in Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education who manifests superior academic achievement and possesses outstanding qualities of leadership and Christian commitment.
- 1985 Best graduating student in Literature, University of Guyana.
- 1985 Most outstanding student in the Department of English, University of Guyana.
- 1985 The student who has made the greatest contribution to all Cultural life of the University, University of Guyana.
- 1985 The graduating student who has attained at least a "Pass with Credit" and has made an outstanding contribution in other areas of University activities, University of Guyana.
- 1982 Best second year student in English, University of Guyana.

Publications

Books

Smith, Claire Annelise. *Help! I Want Out! What to Do When You Are Stressed-Out From Keeping It All Together*. Osawatomie, KS: SurrenderInPrayer, 2021.

Smith, Claire Annelise. *Dads Love Lasts: How to Close the Relationship Gap to Leave a Lasting Legacy*. Paola, KS: SurrenderInPrayer, 2020.

Smith, Claire Annelise. *How to Pray: Living Wholly Through Honest, Surrendered, Heart Praying*. Mission, KS: SurrenderInPrayer, 2015.

Smith, Claire Annelise. *Heart Cries: 100 Prayers of Faith, Hope, and Love*. Mission, KS: SurrenderInPrayer, 2015.

Smith, Claire Annelise. *Youth Ministry in a Technological Age*, Co-Editor with Sondra Matthaei. Philadelphia PA: XLibris, 2011.

Devotional Material

Smith, Claire Annelise. *How to Pray: 28-Day Devotional and Journal*. Mission, KS: SurrenderInPrayer, 2015

Smith, Claire. ““Always Remembering Resurrection,” “Cry Out For People”, “Lead Us Out Of Ourselves,” We See Hope,” “Grant Us Your Peace,” “Help Us to Live By Your Word,” “Wind, Fire, Spirit . . . Come.” *A Chair Pulled to the Place of Prayer: Prayer Handbook 2008*. Geoffrey Duncan, ed. London: The United Reformed Church, 2007, 57-69.

Smith, Claire. “Hope” and “Freedom and Unity” in *The Whole World Will Rejoice: New Worship Resources for Justice and Hope*, comp. Geoffrey Duncan, Peterborough, UK: Inspire, 2007, 68, 140.

Smith, Claire. “The Return,” “Sight,” “God's Hands,” “The Word,” “The Movement,” “Life,” “Mountains of Pain” *Eternal Springs: An Anthology of Hope*. Geoffrey Duncan, comp. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2006.

Smith, Claire. “The Invitation,” “To Katie,” “In Their World,” “The Invader,” “The Least of These,” “Steadfast Love, Justice and Righteousness” in *Entertaining Angels: A Worship Anthology on Sharing Christ's Hospitality*, comp. Geoffrey Duncan, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2005.

Smith, Claire. “A Response to God’s Generosity” in *Harvest for the World: A Worship Anthology on Sharing in the Work of Creation*, comp. Geoffrey Duncan, Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2003, 225-228.

Smith, Claire. “A Peace Dream,” “At the Ocean,” “Peace Prayer,” “Peace” in *Timeless Prayers for Peace*, comp. Geoffrey Duncan, Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2003: 33, 56-7, 191-2, 286-7.

Smith, Claire. “Bible Study: What if the Women had been Silent?” *Insaka: Linking Women and Men in Mission*, #3, February 1994, Council for World Mission.

Articles/Chapters

Smith, Claire Annelise. Entries “Missional Christian Education” and “The United Theological College of the West Indies.” *Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

Smith, Claire Annelise. "Immediacy: The Intersection of Technological and Face-to-face Modalities in Educating a Younger Generation." *Proleptic Pedagogy*. Sondra Higgins Matthaeci and Nancy Howell, ed. Cascade Books, 2014, 70-91.

Smith, Claire Annelise. "The Necessity of Space: Using Disciplines, Silence and Creativity to Help Students Form Their Identities" in the July-August 2014 issue of *Youth Worker Journal*.

Smith, Claire. Entry "Congregationalism" in *The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions*, Patrick Taylor and Frederick I. Case eds. University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Smith, Claire. "To Follow Christ: Youth Ministry in a Technological Age." *Youth Ministry in a Technological Age*. Claire Smith and Sondra Higgins Matthaeci, Ed. Xlibris, 2011.

Smith, Claire. "Still Developing: Teenagers, Brains, and the Arts" in the Forum Section in the May/June 2011 issue of *Religious Education*.

Smith, Claire. "Mission: Avoiding Fragmentation, Living in Love." *Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Ministry With Searching Youth*. Sondra Matthaeci, ed. Xlibris, 2008, 127-144.

Smith, Claire. "Education as an Integral Part of Mission in a Slave-Led Congregation: A Case Study of the Guyana Congregational Union 1808-1848" *International Congregational Journal*, 3, 1 (2003).

Smith, Claire. Entries ("Reflections", "A Sermon Brief", "Suggestions for Worship") for the Second Sunday of Advent and the Second Sunday of Easter in *Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual: Series 3, Year A*, comp. and ed. Beverly Zink-Sawyer, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2004, 16-20 and 103-108.

Smith, Claire, "Why we Worship." *Inside Out: Journal of the Council for World Mission*, no. 15 (2000): 7.

Smith, Claire, "Are You Still Here?" *The Letter*, #6, The Council for World Mission, 2001.

Smith, Claire, "How Sunday Schools Struck at the Heart of Slavery in Guyana." *Inside Out: Journal of the Council for World Mission*, no. 25 (December 2001): 19.

Poems

Smith, Claire Annelise, "Listen!" *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counselling* Vol. 56, No. 3, (Fall 2002): 293

Smith, Claire, "Gender God", *Inside Out: Journal of the Council for World Mission*, no. 21 (2001): 23.

Smith, Claire, "Picture in Mind," *VIPCare In Touch*, (Winter 2000): 1.

Conferences and Presentations

Panelist. *Forum on Youth Ministry and Race*. Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO, November 2013.

Participant. *iGeneration: How the Digital Age is Altering Student Brains, Learning & Teaching*, 28th Learning & the Brain Conference, San Francisco, CA, February 2011.

Participant. *Modern Brains: Enhancing Memory and Performance in the Distracting Digital Age*, 24th Learning & the Brain Conference, Cambridge, MA, November, 2009.

Faithful Living. Sermon, St Peter's CME, Kansas City, KS, February, 2011.

You, the Church, and Youth Ministry. Laity School, Saint Paul School of Theology, October, 2010.

The Journey Continues: God Calling. Confirmation Class at Old Mission, October 2010.

Student Leadership. Pilgrimage: A Journey Together. Training Session at Barefoot Ministries, January 2010.

Cultivating Missional Identity with Youth. Breakout Session at Youth Workers' Gathering, Saint Paul School of Theology, April 2010.

A Crisis of Identity. Sermon, Metropolitan AMEZ, Kansas City, MO, September 2008.

Intentional Faith Development. Sunday School class at Old Mission UMC, November 2008.

Developing Missional Youth. Workshop at the Christian Educators Fellowship Conference and Preaching from the Center, Albuquerque, NM, October, 2008.

Stories: Their Power to Create, Recreate, and Liberate. Workshop at the Christian Educators Fellowship Conference and Preaching from the Center, Albuquerque, NM, October, 2008.

Participant. *Healthy Brain Development: Key Impacts and Interventions.* Eugene, OR, October, 2008.

Is There a Word? Sermon at the Closing Worship of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Guyana Congregational Union, Beterverwagting, Guyana, August 2008.

Guyanese Proverbs and Building Community: Christian Education in Guyana. Paper at the Guyana Folk Festival 2008 Symposium, Liliendaal, Guyana, August 2008.

Stories: Their Power to Create, Recreate, and Liberate. Two-Part Symposium conducted at the Bicentenary Youth Conference of the Guyana Congregational Young People's Union, Georgetown, Guyana, August 2008.

Who is Your God? Sermon, Old Mission UMC, July 2008.

To Whom Do You Belong? Sermon, Metropolitan AMEZ, April, 2008.

How Teenage Brain Research Compliments and Enhances Mission Education With Youth. Paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators, San Jose, CA, October 2007.

Mission: Avoiding Fragmentation, Living in Love. Paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Denver, CO, October 2006.

Creating God's Neighborhood. Colloquium Paper at the joint meeting of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, and the Religious Education Association, Denver, CO, November 2004.

Missional Christian Education. Workshop Presenter at the Redevelopment Network, The Division of Church Development/Redevelopment of the Presbytery of the Peaks, VA, May 2004.

God's Neighbourhood—Where Strangers Become Friends ... and Family: A Guyanese Metaphor for Christian Education. Paper at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, Chicago, IL, November 2003.

Participant, *Beyond Decisions: Church Growth Through Disciple-making*, a Series of Lectures by Darrell L. Guder at Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, March 2003.

Mission, An Expression of God's Love, Lenten Mission Series at Laurel Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, 2002.
Educating with Integrity: Grounded in the Caribbean and the World. Paper presented as part of a panel discussion on "Pan-African Perspectives on the Burgeoning Globalized Consciousness" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, Minneapolis, MN, 2001 November.

Participant, *Metropolitan Richmond Dialogue*, Richmond, VA, May 2001.

Participant, *Christian Mission in the 21st Century*, Student Seminars on World Mission at Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, January 2000.

Professional Activities

Convener, Committee for Formation for Ministry and Mission (a committee of the Guyana Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Guyana, the Guyana Congregational Union), 1996 - 1999. Responsibilities included chairing the committee to design a college for training ministers in Guyana.

Chair, Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (office based in Jamaica), 1998 - 2000. Responsibilities included recruiting senior staff. Led the mission planning and policy decision-making process at meetings held in Guyana and the Dominican Republic.

Executive and Council Member, Council for World Mission, (office based in London), 1997 - 1999. Represented the Caribbean Region at meetings held in Botswana, Zambia, Hong Kong, Scotland; represented the Council for World Mission in New Zealand; participated in policy decision-making and implementation toward mission strategies and partnership in mission.

Deputy Chair, 1997 - 1998. Caribbean and North America Council for Mission. Participated in strategic planning and decision-making at meetings held in Jamaica and Trinidad; represented the organisation at a conference hosted by the women's department of the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba to celebrate the end of WCC's Ecumenical Decade—Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Member, Advisory Group on the Community of Women and Men in Mission, Council for World Mission, 1992 - 1998. Represented the Caribbean Region at meetings in London, represented the Council for World Mission in Korea. Organised a workshop on "Gender in the Church" for participants from the Caribbean and North America.

Member, Education in Mission Advisory Group of the Council for World Mission, 1995 - 1996. Represented the Caribbean at meetings held in London.

Deputy Chair, Guyana Congregational Union, 1995 - 1996. Served as Chair in the absence of the Chairman on several occasions and as second in command supported the denomination.

Participant, Training in Mission Programme conducted by the Council for World Mission, 1983 - 1984. Studied for one term each at the United Theological College of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies and St. Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, UK; completed one term of practical mission internship in Poole, UK.

Major Grants and Fundraising

2009 Contributed to **Lilly Endowment Fund Inc.:** to fund portion of *youTheology* from 2011-2016

2009 Campaign among *youTheology* participant churches.

2008 **General Board of Church and Society's Ethnic Local Church Grants Program:** to fund *youTheology* Pilgrimage.

2006 Contributed to **Lilly Endowment Fund Inc.:** to fund 50% of *youTheology* from 2007-2011

Extra-curricular Activities

Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education

Member, Inter-Cultural Committee, 2002-2004

Member, Black Caucus, 1999 - 2005. *Treasurer*, Black Caucus, 2000 - 2002.

Member, Worship Committee, 2000-2001

Choir, 1999-2000.

Member, Theophilus Fellowship (Fellowship of Evangelical Students) - 1999 - 2000.

United Theological College of the West Indies

1st Vice President, Students' Association, 1988 - 1989, responsible for outreach educational programme, and planning and executing community building activities; represented the student body on the Board of Governors, the Education Committee of the College and the Executive of the University of the West Indies' (Jamaica campus) Guild of Undergraduates.

Assistant General Secretary, Students' Association, 1987 - 1988, responsible for record keeping and assisted in setting the agenda for Association meetings.

University of Guyana

Member, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), 1980-1985.

Committee Member and Literature Secretary, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), 1981 - 1982 - assisted with programme planning of the Fellowship, monitored the organisation's library.

Member, National Regional Conference Planning committee, 1981 - 1982, assisted in planning the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Caribbean Regional Conference held in Georgetown, Guyana.

Member, Sub-Committee of the Students' Welfare Arm of the University of Guyana Students' Society, 1981 - 1982, which approved and disbursed funds to students requiring financial assistance.

Other Service Activities

Shawnee Mission School District's YouthFriends and MVP programs, 2012-2016.

Advisory Board Member. Immerse, A Journal of Faith, Life and Youth Ministry, 2011 - 2013.

Member, Search Committee for the General Secretary of the Council for World Mission, 2000.

Member, Women in Ministries in Guyana, 1996 - 1999

Member, Georgetown Steering Committee of the Guyana Bible Society, 1997 - 1998

Board Member, Inter-School/Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 1997 - 1998

Languages

Modern: Spanish (reading); French (reading).

Professional Societies

Member of Learning and the Brain Society 2009 to 2013.

Member of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators 2006 to present time; Board member 2011 to 2014, Secretary 2013 to 2014.

Past Member of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education; Student Representative 2000-2001.