

Isaiah A. Swain

Assistant Director, Sacred Roots Initiative, Taylor University
Managing Editor, Samuel Morris Publications

Formal Education

Talbot School of Theology, M.Div. in Pastoral and General Ministries; M.A. in Classical Theology.
La Mirada, CA. 2022–Present.

Taylor University, B.A. Double Major in Biblical Literature and Christian Ministries; Double Minor in Biblical Languages and Honors. Upland, IN. 2017–2021. 3.95/4.00 GPA.

Research Languages: Old Testament Hebrew, New Testament Greek, Spanish.

Publications

Books

Isaiah A. Swain, editor. *The Sacred Roots Facilitator's Guide: Reading Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Together*. Samuel Morris Publications, 2023.

Isaiah A. Swain. *Rooted Life Planner*. Samuel Morris Publications, 2023.

Book Chapters

Isaiah A. Swain and Hank Voss. "Soul Work and Soul Care: Learning Three Disciplines from the Apocrypha." In Lay, Robert F., editor. *Books Jesus Read: Learning from the Apocrypha*. Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics 5. Samuel Morris Publications, 2022, pp. 201–9.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Soul Work and Soul Care: The Christian Discipline of Meditation." In Cooper, Michael T., editor. *First Christian Voices: Practices of the Apostolic Fathers*. Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics 7. Samuel Morris Publications, 2023, pp. 205–16.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Soul Work and Soul Care: Contemplation and Spiritual Classics." In Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Edited by Glen G. Scorgie. Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics 10. Samuel Morris Publications, 2024, pp. 157–78.

Presentations

Isaiah A. Swain. "The Impact of Christian Spiritual Classics on C. S. Lewis's Spiritual Formation. Paper presented at Midwest Regional Evangelical Theological Society Meeting. Cedarville, OH. March 22, 2025.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Praying the Psalms: Habits for Soul Care." Panel moderator at Praying the Psalms Conference at Taylor University. Upland, IN. April 26, 2021.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Equipper or Jack-of-All-Trades? The Role of Church Leaders in Ephesians 4." Paper presented at Taylor University Exegesis of the Greek New Testament. Upland, IN. May 6, 2020.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Lewis and His Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders." Paper accepted at the Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Muncie, IN. March 28, 2020.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Lewis's Spiritual Classics: Identifying Twenty-Five Spiritual Mentors." Paper accepted for *Are WomEn Human (Yet)? Gender and the Inklings: the 2020 C. S. Lewis & Friends Colloquium*. April 30, 2020.

Isaiah A. Swain. "C. S. Lewis and His Thirty-Five Spiritual Classics: Four Lessons for Congregational Leaders." Paper presented at the Sacred Roots Senior Editors Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 23, 2019.

Isaiah A. Swain. "Lewis and His Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders." Paper Presented at the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends. Upland, IN. September 20, 2019.

Isaiah A. Swain and Hank Voss. "Calvin and the Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders." Poster presented at the Taylor University Celebration of Scholarship. Upland, IN. April 26, 2019.

Professional Experiences

2022–Present	Assistant Director, Sacred Roots Initiative. <i>Taylor University</i> . Manage the production of the Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Series. Work closely with partner organizations, undergraduate students, academic and professional team members. Maintain accurate financial and organizational records. Conduct research for team members as requested. Write chapters included in Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics. Manage social media presence.
2019–2022	Chief Project Manager, Sacred Roots Initiative. <i>Taylor University</i> . Manage the production of the Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Series. Work closely with partner organizations, undergraduate students, academic and professional team members. Maintain accurate financial and organizational records.
2018–2021	Youth Pastor. <i>Dillman Church</i> . Shepherd the youth of the congregation through weekly gatherings, monthly one-on-one mentorship, and quarterly large youth events. Occasional preaching responsibility. Communicate with parents, elder team, and church staff. Manage team of adult volunteers.
2018–2020	Teaching Assistant. <i>Taylor University Missions</i> . Grade coursework in upper- and lower-level missions and Bible courses. Give constructive feedback to

undergraduate students. Research common themes among Missions majors at other Christian liberal arts institutions.

2016–2017

Children's Ministry Intern. *Pine Hills Church*. Led volunteers in Nursery, Preschool/Pre-K, and K–5 ministries. Developed and prepared ready-to-use curriculum for Preschool/Pre-K and K–5 ministries. Taught lessons in Preschool/Pre-K and K–5 ministries. Cooperated with other church staff.

Grants and Awards

Missional Leaders Research and Resource Group: Affinity Cohort Grant. Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. July 29, 2025. \$50,000 – Funded.

Rural Ministry Initiative: College and University Partnership. Center for Rural Ministry at Grove City College. April 30, 2025. \$300,000 – Funded.

Sharing Our Stories Concept Paper: National Storytelling Initiative on Christian Faith and Life. Lilly Endowment. February 24, 2025. \$49,500 – Unfunded.

Exploring Consecrated Christian Life Together: 2025 Pastoral Study Project. Louisville Institute. August 1, 2024. \$19,903 – Unfunded.

Study Lounge for BSCIP Faculty and Students. 1846 Giving Circle. July 16, 2024. \$125,000 [\$138,700] – Unfunded.

Reflective Leadership Grant. Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. May 28, 2024. \$15,000 – Unfunded.

Compass: Fostering Leadership in Communities of Faith. Council of Independent College's Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education. December 1, 2023. \$39,822 [\$51,822] – Unfunded.

Thriving in Ministry Cohort Formation Grant. Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. November 1, 2023. \$5,000 – Funded.

Sacred Roots: Thriving Congregations Initiative. Lilly Endowment. June 13, 2023. \$1,248,280 – Unfunded.

Sacred Roots: Thriving in Ministry Initiative Sustainability Grant. Lilly Endowment. June 2023. \$499,920 [\$1,942,910] – Funded.

Faith Legacy: Christian Parenting Initiative. Lilly Endowment. January 21, 2023. \$1,244,857 – Unsubmitted.

Reflective Practices for Project Sustainability. Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. October 3, 2022. \$15,000 – Funded.

One Community Young Adults. Northminster Mission Fund, Presbytery of the Miami Valley, Presbyterian Church USA. September 1, 2021. \$5,000 – Partially Funded (\$2,500).

Lewis Center Research Award. C. S. Lewis & Friends Student Writing Competition. May 29, 2020.

Certificate of Scholarship. Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis & Friends. May 24, 2019.

President's Scholarship. Taylor University. 2017–2021.