

Mike Severe

Taylor University
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Ph.D. Education, Nov 2008
Deerfield, IL

Wheaton College Graduate School
M.A. Educational Ministries, May 2004
Wheaton, IL

Multnomah Bible College
B.S. double major Youth Ministries and Bible/Theology, May 1999
Delta Epsilon Chi and Who's Who awards
Portland, OR

Sonlife Classic Regional Coordinator and Cadre Ministries International
Sonlife and Cadre certified trainer. *Strategies, Encounter, Expansions, Foundations, Healthy Church, Advanced I and II*. Also *Evangelism is Relationships* and *Belief Basics* curriculum development.

Everett Community College
Completed requirements for A.A.S. in Computer Sciences, June 1995
Everett, WA

WORK EXPERIENCE

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY August 2011 --Present
Professor of Christian Ministries
Program director Christian Ministries,
Graduate Chair Masters in Ministry

TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE, Toccoa, GA January 2009 – August 2011
Assistant professor of Christian Education

NORTH PARK SEMINARY, Chicago, IL August 2007 – December 2007
Visiting professor: Teaching Foundations of Youth Ministry at the Seminary/Graduate level

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, Kenya August 2007
Taught Education and Ministry modular course for graduate students

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Deerfield, IL March 2007 – May 2008
Visiting professor in Christian Education at College (Spring 08) and Teaching aide for Dr. Perry Downs in Seminary (Spring 07)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Ottawa, IL 2000 – August 2008
Position: Director of Youth and Family Ministries
Responsible for creation of a holistic ministry to youth and parents. Direct oversight of all

program aspects. Creation and supervising of Student Ministry Intern Program. Began first long term youth program at church. Provide direction and oversight to Christian Education Committee, children's programs, VBS, small groups and discipleship ministries. Integrated youth into ministry positions in church body. Implemented first international mission program and trips for youth and adults.

Accomplishments include:

- Organized and led outreaches, camps and other activities with over 800 students
- Director of Illinois State Youth Fellowship Senior high winter camp
- Regular coaching/training of Illinois churches in student and educational ministries
- Consulting work has launched several sustained new youth ministries and networks
- Designed and facilitated camps in U.S., Central America and Europe

WESTERN SEMINARY, Portland, OR

May 2004

Visiting professor: Taught Spiritual Formation of Youth modular for Seminary Students

WHEATON COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL, Wheaton, IL

1999-2000

Position: Research assistant and Teaching aide for Dr. David Setran and Dr. Scottie May
Responsible for research, classroom and administrative aspects in Educational Ministries Department

POWELLHURST BAPTIST CHURCH, Portland, OR

1996-1999

Position: Junior High Youth Pastor

Responsible for all aspects of an urban junior high youth program: evangelized; trained staff; disciplined youth; led worship; administered events and camps. Developed lesson plans and curriculum for both Sunday school and talks during youth group. Created and disciplined youth ministry team and trained staff on a weekly basis, preached to congregation, and integrated camping, multimedia, small group, one-on-one and other methodologies into ministry. Also performed regular responsibilities in High school ministry.

Accomplishments include:

- Worked with urban youth involved in gangs and drugs
- Dramatic attendance increase in both Sunday school and youth group
- Planned and organized multiple, church-wide community outreaches, camps and Vacation Bible Schools with over 500 participants in each
- Organized and directed summer youth mission trip and community outreaches
- Developed material, directed and led small group Bible studies
- Planned and led entire worship services with both adults and youth

MULTNOMAH BIBLE COLLEGE, Portland, OR

1997-1999

Position: Youth Ministries Program Coordinator and Teaching Assistant

Responsible for all paperwork and program details of the largest, at the time, undergraduate youth ministries major in America. Worked daily with the director of the program in teaching classes, counseling and discipling college students, communicating with youth pastors and youth organizations, curriculum revision, preparing the college and seminary for regional accreditation and performing youth and education related research for publishing.

Accomplishments Include:

- Helped develop, plan, administrate, grant write and coach CREDO: Multnomah's Student Theology Venture, a program aimed at mature, late adolescents and funded in part by the Lily Foundation, Inc.
- Marketed and organized NEXT STEP programs to train high school youth on theological issues
- Performed extensive research into youth, college and learning related topics to be used in Dr. Patty's articles and books
- Facilitated, administrated and hosted on-campus Sonlife Strategies for training youth pastors and S.E.M.P 2000 program in the Northwest
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OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

RURAL YOUTH MINISTRY TEAMS with Pro-Youth, Portland, OR 1996-1997

Position: Team Leader

Trained with Tom Horton, a youth ministry and camping veteran of twenty-seven years. Developed partnerships between rural churches and large urban and suburban churches. Held responsibilities of connecting churches, giving talks, worship leadership, counseling youth and overseeing team. Led unsupervised teams for outreach to rural churches and youth. Planned and led entire outreach events.

MCDONALDS CORPORATION 1991-1997

Position: Head Store Manager Trainee

Responsible for all aspects of a restaurant and sales nearing two million annually. Supervised more than 120 employees concurrently. Oversaw hiring and training of managers and employees.

- Employee of the year 1993. Manager of the year 1995
- Repeatedly set district records for speed, sales and profitability

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Most areas of Education, Christian Education and Ministry. For example: Human growth and Development, Organizational Development, Culture and Conflict, Leadership, Ministry Philosophy, Communication with Youth, Spiritual Formation and Discipleship, Family Ministry, Youth Culture, Educational Psychology, Social Science Research, Experiential learning, Urban and Rural Youth Ministry, Curriculum and Program Development, and Evangelism.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Severe, Mike. "Breakout ministry: How supposedly powerless youth leaders create organizational change and align ministry values." Presentation at *Association of Youth Ministry Educators*, Annual Meeting, Oct, 2022.

Severe, Mike, James Hampton, and Karen Jones. "Training Youth Ministry Students to Teach and preach: A survey of teaching preparation for youth ministers across the United States." *International Association for the study of Youth Ministry*, July 2022.

Len Kageler, Mike Severe, Faith Argeropolis. "Burnout among Christian Youth Workers: A Cross National Analysis." *Journal of Youth ministry*, (19:1) 2021.

Michael Severe. "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues in Educational Ministry," Guest Editor. *Christian Education Journal*, (18:2) 2021.

Severe, Mike, "Burnout among Christian Youth Workers: A Cross National Analysis." Presentation at *Association of Youth Ministry Educators*, Annual Meeting, Oct, 2021.

Severe, Mike, Len Kageler, Elizabeth Bjorling-Poest, James Hampton, and Karen Jones. "Training Youth Ministry Students to Teach: A National survey of Teaching Institutions." *Journal of Youth Ministry*, (18:1), 2020.

Michael K Severe, and Mark Senter. "Forty years of Youth Ministry" *Christian Education Journal* Vol 17, Issue 3, 2020.

Severe M. Exploring Adolescent Faith Articulation among At-Risk Urban Youth. *Christian Education Journal*. 2020; 17(2): 217-232. doi:[10.1177/0739891320919428](https://doi.org/10.1177/0739891320919428)

Abide Bible contributor. (2020). Thomas Nelson.

Empower Encounter: Scripture Engagement and Mentoring. Severe, Michael K. Nov 9, (2019). Weekend training with Miami Youth for Christ.

Growing Kids in Wisdom. Severe, Michael K. Nov 2, (2019). Presentation at Embrace the Orphan conference.

The Adolescent Journey: Five ways to walk with your teen. Severe, Michael K. Nov 2, (2019). Presentation at Embrace the Orphan conference.

Training Youth Ministry students to Teach and Speak: Five best practices from a national qualitative survey. Michael K. Oct 20, (2019). Research presentation at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators.

Teaching to teach: A survey of teaching preparation for youth ministers across the United States. Severe, Michael K. Oct 18, (2019). Research presentation at the Society of Professors of Christian Education.

Severe, Michael K and Harley Atkinson. *Manual for Ministry Internships*. 2019.

Empowering Teen Vocation: The Effect of Theological Inquiry on Christian Identity and Vocational Articulation among Urban Youth. Severe, Michael K. Oct 27, (2018). Research presentation at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators.

Breakout Ministry: How Transformational Leaders Align the Practices of Organizational Change with Ministry Values. Severe, Michael K. Oct 26, (2018). Research presentation at the Society of Professors of Christian Education.

“A review of *Rejoicing in Christ* by Michael Reeves.” Severe, Michael K. in *Christian Education Journal*. Spring (2018).

Diversity and Theological Education for High school Youth. Jan 24 (2017). A presentation to the Fund for Theological Education. Indianapolis, IN

Severe, Michael K, Harley Atkinson, and Lee Barnett. *Ministry with Youth in Crisis 2nd ed.* 2016. Eugene OR, Cascade.

“A review of *Theology as Discipleship* by Keith L. Johnson.” Severe, Michael K. in *Christian Education Journal*. Fall (2016).

Recruitment and Diversity. Oct 3, (2016). Webcast. A presentation to the Fund for Theological Education.

Empowering theological inquiry: Christian practices and faith identity articulation among under-resourced adolescents. Severe, Michael K. Oct 28, (2016). Research presentation at the Society of Professors of Christian Education.

“A review of *Faith and Learning* by Patrick Allen and Kenneth Badley.” Severe, Michael K. in *Christian Education Journal*. Spring (2016).

“A review of *Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good* by Steven Garber.” Severe, Michael K. in *Christian Education Journal*. Spring (2016).

Making room for the truth: The epistemology and practice of hospitality in the classroom. Severe, Michael K. Oct 18, (2013). Research presentation at the Society of Professors of Christian Education.

“The Powers of Evaluation: The Understanding and Practice of Evaluation in Youth ministry Communities of Practice” Severe, Michael K. (2013) in *Christian Education Journal* 10 no.2: 286-308.

“The Powers of Evaluation: The Practice of Evaluation in Youth ministry Communities of Practice” Severe, Michael K. Oct 21, (2012). Research presentation at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators conference.

“Forming adolescent faith identity in the church: Transformative education and its effects on compartmentalization.” Severe, Michael K. Oct 19, (2012). Research presentation at the North American Professors of Christian Education.

“A Review of *Freedom of the Self* by Jeffery F. Keuss” Severe, Michael K. in *The Journal of Youth Ministry*. Spring (2012).

“A Review of *Grounded in the Gospel* by J. I. Packer and Gary Parrett” Severe, Michael K. in *The Journal of Youth Ministry*. Spring (2011).

“Evaluation is the Steering Wheel: The Intersection between Philosophy and Practice in Youth Ministry.” Severe, Michael K. Oct 22, (2010), Research presentation at the North American Professors of Christian Education conference.

“Catching the Wrong Fish: Evaluation Drives Ministry Practice.” Severe, Michael K. Oct 23, (2010), Presentation of original research at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators conference.

“Teaching that Transforms: How to Reach HEAD, HEART and HANDS” Severe, Mike. (2010) *YouthWorker Journal* 26 no.5: 32-34.

“Epistemological Assumptions in Evaluation: The Intersection Between Philosophy and Practice of Youth Ministry” by Severe, Michael K. (2010) in *Christian Education Journal* 7 no.1: 6-29.

“A Review of *Desiring the Kingdom* by Christian Smith” Severe, Michael K. in *The Journal of Youth Ministry*. Spring (2010).

“Evaluation Is the Steering Wheel: Helping Your Ministry Fulfill Its Purpose” Severe, Michael K.. July (2009) *Conservative Baptist E-Central Newsletter*.

“The New Adolescent: The Church’s Role in Engaging the Digital Teen” Severe, Michael K. Feb 27, (2009), Presentation of original research at the American Evangelicalism Conference.

“Transformative Education and Identity Achievement in the Church” Severe, Michael K. Oct 18, (2008), Presentation of original research at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators conference.

“Transformative Education and Identity Achievement in the Church” (2008) Severe, Michael K. *Common Ground Journal* 5 no.2: Spring.

“A review of *The forgotten ways*,” Severe, Michael K., in *The Journal of Youth Ministry* Spring (2008).

“A review of *Left behind in a mega church world*,” Severe, Michael K., in *The Journal of Youth Ministry* Spring (2007).

“The Pac-Man Syndrome: The Missing Congruence of Philosophy and Practice in Youth Ministry,” Severe, Michael K., *The Journal of Youth Ministry* Spring 2006, 75-104.

“Creating Congruence of Philosophy and Practice in Youth Ministry,” Severe, Michael K., Oct 23, (2004), Presentation of original research at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators conference.

COURSES TAUGHT

Leadership Development, Spiritual Formation of Youth (graduate course), Introduction to Christian Ministries, Personal Foundations of Ministry, Program and Curriculum

Development, Evangelism and discipleship in Youth Ministry, Practicum, Foundations of Youth Ministry (graduate course), Youth Ministry Skills, Youth Culture and Issues, Historical and Theological Foundations for Christian Ministries, Educational Ministries of the Church, Communicating to Youth, Education and Ministry (graduate course), Organizational Culture, Change and Conflict.

MEMBERSHIPS

North American Professors of Christian Education, 2003-present
Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Board member, 2003-present
National Network of Youth Ministries, Area Network Coordinator, 2002-2009
International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, 2007-present
Youth Ministers of Ottawa, Coordinator, 2000-2008
State Youth Fellowship of Illinois, Vice President, 2000-2008
Ottawa Area Character Counts Coalition, 2004-2008
Illinois Tri-County Juvenile Justice Council, 2004-2008

CURRENT PROJECTS

Youth Ministry at the Margins: Trauma disability and Foster care. Book project sponsored by the Lilly Foundation.

Ministry Leadership and Change. Currently writing up research and seeking book contract

Empower: Lives that matter. A summer mentorship and theology academy

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CURRENT PROJECTS

I have three adopted children Hope (16), Michael (14) and Grace (16). I enjoy playing board games, reading, camping/hiking, and travel. My Ph.D. Education was earned at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School 2008. I have done research into youth ministry, ministry philosophy, evaluation/assessment, spiritual formation, adolescent identity/culture, networking, transformative learning and other related topics. Multnomah Bible College and Seminary asked me to help design their first graduate program and I consulted with Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to reform and re-launch their M.A. in Christian Education. I have developed evaluation tools for networks in the National Network of Youth Ministries and been utilized as a consultant on the national level. I have spearheaded and designed institutional research for academic enhancement and consulted with the ethnic inclusion committee at Toccoa Falls. I have designed and led a series of professional development seminars for the faculty at multiple colleges and participated in a redesign of departmental curriculum across four majors.

I have led seminars, lectures and training across the United States and four continents, including both colleges and seminaries. I currently lead a theology institute called Empower that trains under resourced urban youth and their mentors, partnering with a dozen ministries in five states. I feel called to a lifetime of youth/family ministry and training and currently have over two decades of professional experience in youth ministry and Christian education.