



CHRISTOPHER M. TWEEL

CONTACT



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7706 Anoka Rd.
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ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional recreation workshop leader/teacher; classes in breadmaking and Biblical interpretation
- Serves as webinar leader/expert for Seminary education program on Death and Dying as an end of life coach
- L.E.A.D. Regional Conference Keynote Speaker, The United Methodist Church, Asheville, NC
- JCC juried art show, 2023
- Wrote and produced two podcasts in the last five years: Peace in Every Language, a travel reflection podcast, and four seasons of Stonework, a community study podcast for scripture and storytelling

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

- Trauma/conflict resolution; Mediator certification
- End-of-life coach certification
- Yacanelli Arts in Storytelling
- Living and Dying Project alum
- Richmond Christian Leadership Initiative alum
- Anti Racism Commitment Coalition member

EDUCATION

2024-ONGOING

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY, McCormick Theological Seminary

2011-2014

MASTER OF DIVINITY, 3.8/4.0 Union Presbyterian Seminary

1995-1999

BACHELORS HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY, 3.85/4.0 West Virginia Wesleyan College

EXPERIENCE

PASTOR AND HEAD OF STAFF

THREE CHOPT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2020 - current
Richmond, VA [300 members, Suburban]

- Lead six-person staff in creation of modernized personnel practices
- Manage 20-30 leadership team members
- Gathered team and handed off leadership for Ukrainian benefit dinner which raised over \$18,000.
- Facilitated a mutually beneficial solution over significant shared building space tensions
- Rewrote operations manuals improving efficiency and compliance
- Managed budget presentation and enhanced stewardship and annual reporting practices
- Educated and empowered anti-racism activities via impactful written and spoken communication
- Wrote training guides and led retreat training environments locally and regionally
- Wrote, acted in and filmed COVID-19 children's video program, "Mornings with Max"
- Revitalized contemporary and traditional worship services, including the institution and management of sustainable live-streaming
- Work continuously to heal and mediate tensions between congregation members' factioning behaviors

EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2014–2019

Richmond, VA [350 members, Urban]

- Oversaw all Christian education opportunities for all ages including classes, speakers, workshops, Bible studies, small groups, and special events
- Increased young family participation by 210% over four years
- Worked alongside deacons and led their training and spiritual nurture; created a new diaconate structure and implemented several new ministry practices
- Acted as head of staff when lead pastor was away, overseeing all normal duties and moderation of the Session
- Wrote curriculum for and facilitated vacation Bible schools, wrote theater scripts, confirmation study, Sunday school material (all ages), Bible studies, and small group studies
- Led in worship and Children's Chapel, preached regularly, and maintained Lenten Worship Services in an immersive alternative space I designed and installed
- Forged and strengthened key community partners within the city to support the work and relationship of the church
- Supervised all six childcare staff, two kitchen staff, and all teaching and education ministry volunteers
- Supervised ministry budgets and created education opportunities for session and membership for budget clarity
- Performed funerals, weddings, and other special services

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PROSPECT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2009–2011

Mooreville, NC [350 Members, Rural]

- Created new education opportunities for all ages (VBS, Bible studies, small groups, etc.)
- Reestablished and grew a thriving, close-knit youth ministry following a prior divisive staffing issue
- Led and designed leader education for Godly Play
- Wrote and co-directed annual Music, Art, and Drama Camp
- Assisted pastor in worship, preached regularly, taught weekly Bible studies and encouraged and trained members in leadership roles in weekly worship and Youth Sunday
- Started a new men's ministry and new young adult small group

LEADERSHIP ROLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Executive Board Member, RISC,
Grassroots justice organization
Richmond, VA

Lay Pastor Commission Chair,
Presbytery of the James
Richmond, VA
Provide leadership and guidance to certified lay pastors in the presbytery. Rewrote handbook for commissioned pastors.

Co-Moderator of the Justice and Advocacy Ministry,
Presbytery of the James
Richmond, VA

Young Adult Initiator/Worship Leader/Workshop Director,
Montreat Conference Center
Montreat, NC
Led small groups and workshops, nurtured community and encouraged faithfulness

Keynoter, Massanetta Conference
Massanetta Springs, VA
Led plenary sessions each week and worship and guided leadership

Workshop Director,
Massanetta Conference
Massanetta Springs, VA
Taught art, theology, and drama over several years.

Keynoter, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Presbytery of St. Andrews, MS
Led plenary sessions for students

Vice-Chair Outdoor Ministry Program Board, Joint North Carolina Presbyteries
Old Fort, NC

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2005–2009

Greensboro, NC [150 members, Suburban]

- Created the Family Ministry program, including establishing a strong youth and children's program from scratch
- Wrote original plays for children's community outreach theater
- Key noted and designed bi-annual family retreats
- Acted as head of staff for five months: led worship, preached, and performed funeral services; led committee work and made visits
- Created and led contemporary worship service; empowered and trained other students and elders to lead and assist

YOUTH AND RECREATION MINISTRY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2000–2005

Charleston, WV [1,600 members, Urban]

- Managed gymnasium building policy, equipment, and \$40K budget
- Organized and managed 20 sports teams annually, including the selection and training of coaches
- Created college leadership program in worship and ministry
- Designed and maintained strategic practices to grow core student ministry
- Identified the call of and trained ministry leadership teams
- Planned and led mission trips to Mexico and other US states annually as well as church retreats and other events including acquiring keynote speakers and workshop leaders

POLITICAL CONSULTANT


ORION STRATEGIES

1998–2000


Charleston, WV


- Performed research and relational development for donors on state secretary and gubernatorial races


LINKS TO MY WORK


Sermon samples 

Podcasts: Peace In Every Language  Stonework 

Project 5:16 

We've All Been There: Naming Trauma: Article published in *The Presbyterian Outlook* 

Passing in the Church: Hope for the Future: Article published in *The Presbyterian Outlook* 

Deep Care and Kindness: Article for Union Presbyterian Seminary travel seminar series 

Children's video programing: Mornings with Max 

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Co-writer for Mission Study POJ Guidelines, COM, 2023
- Travel to 15 countries including mission leadership in Mexico and Haiti; historic and theological tours of study in Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, France, Nepal and India; study at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski in Bulgaria
- Shalom Farms organizer internship, 2013
- Artistic and Theatrical Director, Loveshine, WVWC performance group; acted with the Paperhand Puppet troupe
- RVA end of Life Network
- Bonner Scholar, WVWC
- Tenor II section leader for overseas and stateside choral tours

PUBLICATIONS

- *Cleaved*, book published, 2021
- *Deep Paisley*, book published, 2019
- *Legacy*, article published in *Analog Science Fiction and Fact Magazine*
- *Naming Trauma*, article published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*
- *Care and Kindness*, article published in UPSem magazine

PERSONAL INTERESTS

fencing, hiking and trailcamping, boat building, woodworking, watercolor, performing stand-up comedy, cooking and baking, creative writing, guitar, banjo, ukulele,