

R. Robert Creech  
One Bear Place #854665.  
Waco, TX 76798

Phone: 832.978.8508  
E-mail: Robert\_Creech@baylor.edu

---

**Professional  
experience**

Hubert H. and Gladys S. Raborn Professor of Pastoral Leadership  
Professor of Christian Ministry, Director of Pastoral Ministries  
George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Waco,  
TX (2009-present)

Faculty in Residence, University House, North Village Residential  
Community, at Baylor University. (2013-Present)

Baylor University's School of Social Work

Section editor (Healthy Congregations) of Baylor  
University School of Social Work's online journal, *Family &  
Community Studies*.

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH (2005-2007)

Mentor for Transformational Leadership Peer Group in the  
United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH) Doctor of  
Ministry Program (2005-2007).

Directed research for the following Doctor of Ministry Projects  
for United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH):

Matthew Burton, "Casting the Vision: An Equipping  
Ministry Launch for a Gift-based Lay Ministry" (2007)

Connie Wilson, "Developing a Process to Introduce  
Spiritual Formation as a Pathway for Transformation"  
(2007)

Elizabeth Wourms, "Equipping Congregational  
Leaders to Live Their Biblical Call from Ephesians  
4:11-16 by Facilitating Growth in Self-Awareness"  
(2007).

Chris Hardy, "Knowledge to Embodiment: The Role  
of a Skills-training Process in Developing Equipping  
Leaders" (2007).

Houston Graduate School of Theology (Houston, TX) (2003-2008)

Designed and taught the Pastoral Leadership Track in the Doctor of Ministry program at Houston Graduate School of Theology (2003-2004).

Adjunct Professor (M.Div.), Houston Graduate School of Theology (2003-2004)

Field Supervisor for Doctor of Ministry Projects at Houston Graduate School of Theology:

Franklin Moore, "Leadership Training for Licensed Ministers: Equipping Licensed Ministers at Cypress Creek Christian Church, Spring, TX, For Effective Leadership Development" (2006)

Dennis Young, "Community Churching: An Authentic Way to Reach the Lost and Disconnected" (2006).

Taught units on The Teaching Ministry of the Church in D.Min. Intensive weeks for both English (2003, 2008) and Korean programs (2008).

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1996-2004)

Adjunct Professor (M.Div.), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996 (Hebrews), 1997 (Revelation), 2000 (1 Peter, Greek)

Field Supervisor for the following Doctor of Ministry Projects for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary:

Raymond McHenry, "Equipping Members Within the Gulf Meadows Baptist Church to Minister More Effectively to Those Affected by Chronic Illness" (1994)

Bruce Peterson, "Leading a Church to Develop a Philosophy and Plan of Ministry to Community College Students" (1994)

Joseph Carbonaro, "Enabling Church Members to Evaluate the Moral Content of Feature Films" (1997)

Dale Smith, "Equipping Teams to Cultivate Witnessing Relationships and Launch a Seeker Small Group Pilot Project in a Postmodern Context" (2004)

Houston Baptist University (1979-1981, 1987-1990)  
Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family (2005-2008)

Assistant Professor, Department of Christianity and Philosophy  
Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX (1981-1987)

## Education

Ph.D., New Testament Studies  
Baylor University, Waco, TX (1984)

Dissertation: "Christology and Conflict: A Comparative Study of Two Central Themes in the Johannine Literature and the Apocalypse"

M.Div. (with languages)  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX (1976)

B.A. in Christianity and Sociology, Summa Cum Laude  
Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX (1974)

## Books

*Forty Days of Equipping*, with Matthew Burton, Elizabeth Wourms, and Chris B. Hughes. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.

*The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*, with Jim Herrington and Trisha Taylor (Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 2003).

*Reading the Bible Outdoors: The Practice of Lectio Sub Divo, A Devotional Guide*. Editor. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

*Ethics for Christian Ministry: Moral Formation for Twenty-First-Century Leaders* with Joe E. Trull. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017.

*Family Systems and Congregational Life: A Map for Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019.

## Articles & Projects

"A Sower Went Out to Sow: An Agrarian Reading of the New Testament," *American Baptist Quarterly*. Fall 2016. (Peer reviewed)

"Longevity in Ministry," *Review & Expositor* 113, no. 3 (August 1, 2016). Edited volume with Angela Reed.

“Sustainable Church: Practices That Make for a Lifetime of Service.” *Review & Expositor* 113, no. 3 (August 1, 2016): 285–302. doi:10.1177/0034637316656424. (Peer Reviewed)

“Generations to Come: The Future of Bowen Family Systems Theory and Congregational Ministry.” *Journal of Family and Community Ministry*, November 11, 2015. (Peer Reviewed) <http://www.familyandcommunityministries.org/journal/article.php?articleid=88>

“Generations to Come: The Future of BFST & Congregational Ministry.” in *Family Systems Forum*, Volume 16 Number 2 (Summer 2013).

“Family Systems 1000 BCE: A Natural Systems Reading of the Davidic Narratives” in *Family Systems Forum*, Volume 15 Number 1 (Spring 2013).

Invited articles (4) for G. W. Truett Theological Seminary’s Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching’s Lectionary Website (Advent 2013).

Invited articles for E3 Foundation’s exploringgod.com website: “Did the Resurrection of Jesus Happen?” (Spring 2012), “Where’s God?” (Fall 2012), “What is a Human Being?” (Spring 2012), “What is a Christian Marriage?” (Winter 2013), “What is the Fruit of the Spirit?” (Summer 2013), “Happy or Holy?” (Summer 2013), “How Can I Grow Spiritually?” (Summer 2013), “What Does it Mean to Follow Jesus?” (Summer 2013), “What is a Christian Marriage? (Fall 2013), “A Christian View of Divorce” (Summer 2014), “A Tale of Two Gods: OT vs. NT (Fall 2014), “Christianity and Ecology” (April 2015)

Clergy and Congregations in a Regressed Society” *Family Systems Forum* (13 (Spring 2011): 1-2, 9-12.

"Bowen Theory and a Pastoral Transition, " *Family Systems Forum* (Fall 2010, Vol. 12 No.3, pp. 1--2, 8-10).

Uniform Lesson Series for Smith & Helwys Publishers, “Evidences of Jesus as Messiah” (January 2010).

Uniform Lesson Series for Smith & Helwys Publishers, “A New Community in Christ” (March 2007).

Uniform Lesson Series for Smith & Helwys Publishers, “Life in the Spirit,” (March 2005).

Life & Work Series Commentary for *The Baptist Standard*, “The Gospel of John (2002-2003).

Articles on “Advocate,” “Paraclete,” and “Hour” in the *Holman’s Layman’s Bible Dictionary*, 1991.

**Book  
Chapters**

Jesus and Differentiation of Self.” Chapter 15 in *The Cornerstone Concept: In Leadership, In Life* by Roberta M. Gilbert. Falls Church, VA: Leading Systems Press, 2008.

“The Essential Church” and “The Next Chapter.” Essays in *The Dust Off Their Feet: Transitioning the Church to Conform to His Will – Then/Now*. Edited by Chris Seay. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, 2006.

“Ordination in Acts and the Pastoral Epistles: A Response to Professor Sharon Dowd,” for Baylor University Symposium on Ordination (2002), published in *Perspectives on Religious Studies* 30/3 (Summer 2003).

“Most Excellent Narratee: The Significance of Theophilus in Luke-Acts” in *With Steadfast Purpose: Essays on Acts in Honor of Henry Jackson Flanders, Jr.* Edited by Naymond Keithley. Baylor University: Waco, TX, 1990.

**Forthcoming  
Books &  
Projects**

*The Leader’s Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*, Revised Edition, with Jim Herrington and Trisha Taylor (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2019).

**Professional  
Presentations**

“Being Human in a Chaotic World: Bowen & Berry on Society & Nature.” Presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on Bowen Theory and Applications sponsored by the Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family, February 2017.

Keynote presentations for Family Systems Theory Conference at Mo Ranch Conference Center, Kerrville, TX January 2–5, 2017.  
“Work on Self and Proclamation, “Work on Self and Pastoral Care,” and “Work on Self and Pastoral Leadership”

“The Cornerstone Concept: Jesus and Differentiation of Self.”  
Three plenary sessions presented to the Sustaining Pastoral

Excellence Program of Lumen House in DeWitt, Michigan in September 2015.

“An Agrarian Reading of the New Testament and Ecotheology.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the College Theology Society, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon in May 2015.

“Sustainability in Congregational Vocational Ministry Among Texas Baptists.” An oral history research project conducted with Dr. Angela Reed with a grant from Baylor University’s Oral History Department.

“Congregations, Clergy, and Crisis: Sustainable Leadership in an Age of Regression.” Four plenary sessions presented to the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center’s Advanced Clergy Seminar in October 2014.

“Generations to Come: The Future of BFST & Congregational Ministry.” Presentation at Annual Symposium on Bowen Theory and Applications sponsored by the Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family, February 2014.

“Policies Your Church Should Have.” Presented at the Clergy Misconduct workshop at First Baptist Church, Waco, sponsored by Baylor University’s Center for Ministry Effectiveness. November 18, 2013.

“Family Systems 1000 BCE: A Natural Systems Reading of the Davidic Narratives.” Presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Chicago, 17 November 2012.

Moderator and Presenter for Leadership Seminar at CBF General Assembly, Ft. Worth, TX June 2012.

“Clergy and Congregations in a Regressed Society.” Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family on the Border, El Paso, TX, April 27, 2012.

“A Hermeneutics of Natural Systems: Assumptions and Practice.” Four plenary sessions presented to the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center’s Advanced Clergy Seminar in January 2012.

“Congregations, Clergy, and Crisis: Sustainable Leadership in an Age of Regression, Part One and Part Two.” Two plenary presentations to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Gathering of Healthy Congregations, Nashville, TN (October 2010).

“The Phenomenological Language of Sin in Romans 7: Understanding Human Behavior as Reactivity and the Implications for Spiritual Formation” Presented at The Wisdom of the Ages Conference, Houston, TX (March 2009).

American Jewish Committee, Baptist-Jewish Dialogue, Rothko Chapel, Houston, TX (2001)

“Jesus and Differentiation of Self.” Presented at Facts of Life Conference, Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family, Houston, TX (January 2000)

“Cana in Retrospect: Reading John 2:1-11 in Light of the Cross.” Presented at Southwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Dallas, TX (March 1987).

“Conflict and Christology in the EGO Sayings of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel and the Apocalypse.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Anaheim, CA (November 1985).

**Educational Boards**

Board of Trustees, Houston Baptist University (1990-94)

**Professional Memberships**

Society of Biblical Literature  
National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion  
Association of Theological Field Educators  
Association of Ministry Guidance Professionals

**Honors**

Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities (1976)  
Opal Goolsby Award for Outstanding Teaching, Houston Baptist University (1985)

**Scholarships, Fellowships, & Grants**

Endowed Academic Scholar (Houston Baptist University, 1971-74)  
George M. Verity Award, Armco Steel Corporation (1971-74)  
Riverside Memorial Seminary Scholarship (1974-76)  
Oral History Grant, Baylor University (2014)

**Courses  
Taught**

Truett Seminary: Life & Work of the Pastor; Strategic Planning for Churches and Ministries; Leadership for Christian Ministry; Church Administration; Introduction to Mentoring; Leadership & Spiritual Practices: The Writings of Dallas Willard; The Contemplative Pastor: The Pastoral & Spiritual Theology of Eugene Peterson; Wendell Berry: Creation, Stewardship, and Spiritual Life; Creation Care and Spiritual Life; Integrative Theology. Directs the mentorship program required of all M.Div. and MACM students. Doctor of Ministry Program: Church Leadership Values & Methods and Leading the Kingdom. Served as faculty supervisor for four completed DMin projects.

Houston Graduate School of Theology (M.Div.): The Gospel of John (Fall 2003), The Acts of the Apostles (Spring 2004), Advanced Seminar in Systems Thinking (DMin, Summer 2016)

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.): Hebrews (1996), Revelation (1997), 1 Peter – Greek (2000)

Houston Baptist University: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Introductory Greek, Intermediate Greek, Life and Works of Paul, Medical Ethics, Research Methods, Senior Seminars, New Testament Criticism

**Post-Graduate  
Education/  
Workshops**

Rice University, Houston, TX (1985-1987)

Post-graduate courses in New Testament studies under Dr. Otto Betz, University of Tübingen and Dr. Werner Kelber of Rice University.

L.E.A.D. Consultants (1990-1994)

Neuro-Linguistic Programming Masters Certification training with Dr. Gene Rooney.

Bowen Family Systems Theory (1998-2008)

Studies at the Center for the Study of Natural Systems and the Family (Houston, TX) and at the Georgetown Family Center (Washington, D.C.) in Bowen Family Systems Theory.

Completed four years in *Defining Leader's* program (Houston TX)

Texas Master Gardener Certification (2012)      Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Texas Master Naturalist Certification (2018). Texas Parks and Wildlife/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

**University and  
Departmental  
Service**

Committee Service—Academic Planning Committee

Served on two faculty search committees in 2018

Faculty in Residence Council, Baylor University (2012-present)

**Ministerial  
Experience**

Senior Pastor

University Baptist Church, Houston, TX (1987-2009)

A Baptist congregation affiliated with Union Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Southern Baptist Convention. UBC is a suburban congregation of approximately 3000 members located near the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas ([www.ubc.org](http://www.ubc.org)).

Pastor

North Main Baptist Church, Houston, TX (1979-1981)

A Baptist congregation affiliated with the Union Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention. NMBC was a 70-year-old congregation in the inner city of Houston, Texas with approximately 300 members. NMBC disbanded in the 1990s.

**Interim Pastoral Experience**

Second Baptist Church, Pasadena, TX

Second Baptist Church, Rosenberg, TX

Kingsland Baptist Church, Katy, TX

University Baptist Church, Houston, TX

First Baptist Church, Sugar Land, TX

First Baptist Church, McKinney TX

Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

Sugar Land Baptist Church, Sugar Land, TX

### Union Baptist Association (1998-1999)

Participated in development and implementation of *Young Leaders* program (later renamed *Leader's Edge*) to provide training for pastoral leaders in the Houston area.

### International Mission Experience

Taught one-week pastors' conference at the University Baptist Church in Mbarara, Uganda in 2002, 2003, and 2005 for approximately 50 Ugandan pastors.

Taught triennial all-Asia meeting of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2005.

Worked in medical clinics in Oaxaca, Mexico (2008) and Mbarara, Uganda (2005)

Exploratory mission trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1999) to determine theological education needs.

Evangelism trips to Campinas, Brazil (1979) and Recife, Brazil (1988).

## Church & Community Service

### Non-Profit Boards

#### Current Boards

The Aurora  
Network, Dallas,  
TX

#### Previous Boards

The Leader's Edge, Houston, TX  
Samaritan Center for Counseling  
and Education, Houston, TX  
Faithful Fathering Initiative of Texas,  
Houston, TX SemiNEXT, Houston, TX

([www.seminext.org](http://www.seminext.org))

Right@Home, Houston, TX  
([www.rightathomemoms.org](http://www.rightathomemoms.org))

Bay Area Turning  
Point, Houston, TX  
([www.bayareeturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareeturningpoint.org))

Institute for Sustainable Peace, Houston,  
TX ([www.2peace.org](http://www.2peace.org))

### Denominational Service

Moderator-elect, Moderator, Past  
Moderator Union Baptist Association  
(2003-2005)

Board Member, *The Baptist Standard*, Dallas,  
TX

Vice-Chairman, Theological Education  
Committee, Baptist General Convention of  
Texas (1997-1999)

Chairman, Theological Education Committee,  
Baptist General Convention of Texas (1999-  
2001)

Member of Executive Board, Baptist General  
Convention of Texas (1994)