

## **Rev. Heesung Hwang, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Christian Religious Education  
Saint Paul School of Theology  
13720 Roe Ave., Building C. Leadwood, KS 66224  
Heesung.hwang@spst.edu

### **ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Practical Theology, multicultural religious education, curriculum development, ethnography, qualitative research, congregational studies, postcolonial feminist theology, human developmental theories, narrative pedagogy, child advocacy, Asian/Asian American theology, critical pedagogy, eco-theology, art therapy

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS**

2023-present Assistant Professor of Christian Religious Education

#### **Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**

2021-2023 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Education and Public Ministry

2019-2021 Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Education

#### **Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC**

2022-2023 Colloquy Professor, Global DMin Program

#### **Dr. Gonzalo Báez Camargo Methodist Seminary, Mexico City, Mexico**

2022 Adjunct Professor, in partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary

#### **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL**

2021 Adjunct Professor

2015-2017 Teaching Assistant

### **ORDINATION**

2018 Deacon, The United Methodist Church (Northern Illinois Conference)

### **EDUCATION**

2014-2019 Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL

Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Education and Congregational Studies  
Graduated with Honors: The Dr. Richard Ford Prize for Christian Education  
Dissertation: “Come Play in my *Madang*: An Application of Redemptive Community for Emerging New Second-Generation Korean American Children in a Globalizing Society”

- 2008-2011 Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC  
Master of Divinity  
Graduated with Honors
- 2005-2006 Providence Theological Seminary, Otturbune, Manitoba, Canada  
Certificate, TESOL (Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- 2003-2005 The Graduate School of Methodist Theological University, Seoul, South Korea  
Master of Theology in Christian Education  
Thesis: “Aims of Future Christian Education in the Multimedia Age: In Light of Constructivism of Education.”
- 1999-2003 Methodist Theological University, Seoul, South Korea  
Bachelor of Theology in Theology  
Summa Cum Laude

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2024-25 Wabash Peer Mentoring Cluster. Leader  
Awarded \$8,500 for the cluster project “From Self-Care to Flourishing: Collective Well-Being for Pre-Tenure Korean American Theological Educators.”
- 2023-24 Wabash Center Intergenerational Mentoring Cluster
- 2018 Wabash Center Teaching Seminar for Doctoral Students, Chicago Cohort
- 2017-18 PhD Teaching Certificate, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

### **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

- 2024 Faculty Presentation. Spring Board of Trustee Meeting. April 11, 2024. SPST
- 2023- Member. Curriculum Committee. SPST
- 2023- Leader. Spiritual Formation Subcommittee under Curriculum Committee. SPST
- 2023 Korea Initiative. Recruitment Trip. Oct. 1-9, 2023. SPST
- 2023-current Mentor. Resilience in Leadership Initiative. Korean Cohort. CTS
- 2022-2023 Faculty Lead. Walking the Talk. Anti-Racist Pedagogy Development Project.  
Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion Grant. CTS  
Member. Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force. CTS
- 2021-2023 Faculty Liaison. Advancement Committee. CTS
- 2020-current Member. PhD Dissertation Exam Committee. CTS  
- Lindsay Cowett, work in progress (present)

- Seok Beom Hyun, “Political Mysticism and Messianism: Thomas Müntzer and Liberation Theologies’ Spirituality” (2021)
- Jean Derricotte-Murphy, “A View from the Balcony: Opera through Womanist Eyes” (2020)

2019-2023 Member. MA/STM/PhD Committee. CTS

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT**

- 2023-2024 DEI Advisory Editorial Board for *ID Markers*. UMC Discipleship Ministry
- 2023 Editorial Board Member of the Journal of the IAPT 2023 Conference Series (International Academy of Practical Theology)
- 2021-current Board Secretary, Steering Committee Member of the Religious Education Association
- 2020-current Advisory Committee, member of Jang Dae Hyun Secondary School, Busan, South Korea (Alternative school for North Korean refugee children)
- 2019-2023 Secretary of OPEN Methodists (Progressive Korean UM Clergy in Northern Illinois Conference, UMC)
- 2019-2021 Advisory Council, member of the Religious Education Association
- 2018-2023 Coordinator of the AANARE (Asian/Asian-North American Religious Educators)

### **STUDENT ADVISING & MENTORING**

- 2024-2025 Registration Guide  
Kristin Boysen, Emilyjane Eichman addition to the existing students
- 2023-2024 Registration Guide  
Nina Palumbo, Mikyung Chun, Victoria Bynum, Linda Kimberly  
Recommendation Writing  
Sun Wook Kim, Tricia Veit, Kyungbum Kyun (UMHEF)
- 2023- Korean Students Gathering

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Monograph**

*Spiritual Formation for the Burnout Generation: An Asian American Christian Perspective*. Lexington. Forthcoming 2026

*Reframing Religious Education for the Global Generation*. Pickwick. Forthcoming 2024

#### **Book Chapters**

“기독교적 양성 평등의 과제 [Christian Tasks for Gender Equality] based on Acts 18 and Romans 16:3-4,” in *Building the Kin-dom of God Together* by The Korean UMC Peace Initiative. Seoul: Sinang and Jisung, December 2021

“현대사회의 도전과 미래목회 [Challenges in the Modern Society and the Future Ministry],” in *Leadership and Discipleship*. The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries. Korean. Nashville: UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2021.

“‘Last Night I Dreamed of Peace’: Letters to Women Who Hold Up the Moon” in *Asian and Asian American Women in Theology and Religion: Embodying Knowledge (Asian Christianity in the Diaspora)*, co-authored with Mai-Anh Le Tran, Linna Gunawan, Kwok Pui-Lan, ed. New York: Palgrave Mcmillian, 2020.

### **Journal Articles**

“Navigating Waste: A Journey through Environmental Awareness, Faith, and Global Responsibility,” Pre-Conference Forum, *The Journal of Religious Education*, Vol 120. Forthcoming June 2024.

“Crossing the Border: Religious Education of Coexistence with the Case of North Korean Refugees in the U.S.” in the *Journal of Religious Education*, Conference Edition. (May 2020): 1-9.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00344087.2020.1768473>.

### **Blog**

“Deacon’s Call: Heesung Hwang” – An article contributed to Deacons Hold the Bowl: Resources for the United Methodist Deacons. (<https://deaconsholdthebowl.wordpress.com/2018/07/23/deacons-call-heesung-hwang/>)

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

“Unraveling the Intersections of Capitalism, Consumer Culture, and Climate Change: Pedagogies for Social Justice in Religious Communities,” – Research Interest Group Paper Presentation at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, ZOOM. Forthcoming July 11, 2024.

“Reclaiming Our Voice in Classroom: Developing a Narrative as Asian/Asian American Women Teaching Religion,” with Dr. Minji Lee – Research Presentation at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 20, 2023.

“Meaning, Purpose, and Faith: Spiritual Formation for Emerging Adults in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” – Research Presentation at International Academy of Practical Theology, Seoul, South Korea, June, 2023.

“Spiritual Formation for the Burnout Generation: with Asian Spiritual Perspective” – Research Interest Group Paper Presentation at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, ZOOM. July 8, 2022.

“Queering Religious Education: Interweaving LGBTQ+ Life and Religious Yearning to LGBTQ+ Advocacy Education and Ministry” – Research Interest Group Paper Presentation at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, ZOOM. July 6, 2021.

“LGBTQ+ Identity Developmental Theories” – Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago, Chicago, IL. ZOOM. January 15, 2021.

“Abundant Life Together: An Application of *Sok* Practice for Identity Formation of Second-Generation Korean American Children in the Globalizing Society” – Research Presentation at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, ZOOM. December 8, 2020.

“Crossing the Border: Religious Education of Coexistence with the Case of North Korean Refugees in the U.S.” – Research Interest Group Paper Presentation at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, CA. November 2019.

“Encounter with *Sewol: Madang* as a Possibility of Interreligious Solidarity for Social Justice in South Korea” – Research Interest Group Paper Presentation at the Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO. November 2017.

### **WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTATIONS**

“‘Homosexuality and the Bible’ by SeokYeol Hong” – Lead Facilitator, OPEN Methodists Book Club, OPEN. ZOOM. February-April 2022

“Anti-Asian, Anti-Black, Anti-Muslim Violence” – Asian Scholar Representative and the Asian Student Group Facilitator. CTS-IFYC Hearing Session. ZOOM. January 25, March 18, 2022.

“‘Rainbow Theology’ by Patrick Cheng” – Lead Facilitator, OPEN Methodists Book Club, OPEN. ZOOM. October, 2021

“Outside the Lines: Queering Spirituality” – Bridge Builder’s Book Club, First UMC of the Chicago Temple. ZOOM. May 26, 2021.

“Our Steps for Reconciliation and Social Justice” – Korean UMC National Rainbow Network. ZOOM. December 7, 2020.

“What is Rainbow Theology” – Open Methodists Gathering. ZOOM. April 23, 2020

“Creating a Space for Self-Care by Creating the Meditation Beads,” – the 35th Annual Meeting of Pacific, Asian, and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM), Evanston, IL. April 2-4, 2020 [canceled due to COVID-19]

“LGBTQ Issues and Advocacy in Korean United Methodist Church” – OPEN Methodists Gathering, Incarnation United Methodist Church, Schaumburg, IL. Nov. 15, 2019.

“Current Issues in Children’s Ministry in the Korean United Methodist Church” – Korean Ministry Initiative of the United Methodist Church, Children’s Pastor’s Retreat, San Diego, CA. Feb. 2016.

“Leadership Development” – Education Ministry Volunteer Training, Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, McLean, VA. May 2014.

“Introduction to Children’s Ministry: Step by Step” – Children’s Ministry Volunteer Training, Cherry Hill Korean United Methodist Church, Cherryhill, NJ. May 2013.

“Five Love Languages for Children” – Workshop leader at Education Ministry Volunteer Training in KUMC of Greater Washington, McLean, VA. Aug. 2012.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Saint Paul School of Theology, Leawood, KS**

Introduction to Ministry (Fall 2023)

Faith Formation and New Generations (Fall 2023)

Teaching and Learning - Lifelong Process (Spring 2024)

MACM Summative Seminar (Spring 2024)

Ministry Collaboration Group (Spring 2024)

### **Course of Study School at Saint Paul School of Theology**

Formation and Discipleship (Fall 2024)

Congregational Care (Winter 2025)

### **Kwanglim Theological Seminary, Zambia**

Introduction to Christian Education (May 2024)

### **Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**

Introduction to Christian Religious Education (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022)

Religious Education in a Multicultural World (Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Living into Our Commitments and Effecting Social Change (Fall 2021, Sp, Fall 2022)

Christianity and Environmental Justice (Spring 2022)

Engaged Pedagogy and Course Design (Spring 2022)

Human and Faith Developmental Theories (Fall 2022)

Aesthetic Interpretation of Korean Church in Modern History (Fall 2022)

LGBTQ Developmental Theories and Ministries (Winter 2020, Fall 2020)

Faith and Film (Spring 2023)

Asian Feminist Theology (Spring 2023)

Study Trip: Religions in Context: Shamanism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and Christianity in South Korea (Summer 2023)

### **Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC**

Transformative Pedagogies (June 2023; Co-taught with Dr. Emily Peck)

Spiritual Formation (June 2022; Co-taught with Dr. Kyunglim Shin Lee)

**Dr. Gonzalo Báez Camargo Methodist Seminary, Mexico City, Mexico**

Pedagogy, online (January 2022)

**Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL**

Theological Thoughts, independent study, taught in Korean (Winter 2021)

Introduction to Hebrew Bible (Spring 2017; TA for Dr. Julie Duncan)

Teaching for Biblical Faith (Fall 2016; TA for Dr. Jack Seymour)

Teaching for Biblical Faith, online (Spring 2016; TA for Dr. Reginald Blount)

Theological Education in the Parish (Fall 2015; TA for Dr. Virginia Lee)

**GUEST PREACHING**

“You Will be with Me in Paradise” – First UMC at the Chicago Temple, Chicago, IL. April 15, 2022. Good Friday Worship Service, Group Preaching.

“Christ’s Seven Last Words” – First UMC at the Chicago Temple, Chicago, IL. April 2, 2021. Good Friday Worship Service, Group Preaching.

“Let’s Keep Walking” – Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. June 24, 2020. Wednesday Reflection Series.

“Look at the Mirror” – First UMC at the Chicago Temple, Chicago, IL. May 31, 2020. Pentecost & Asian American Heritage Month.

“Laying Down the Water Pot” – Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. March 11, 2020. Women’s History Month.

“Untitled” – First UMC at the Chicago Temple, Chicago, IL. March 5, 2020. Wednesday Lenten Series.

“Preparing the Way of the Lord” – Waterman UMC, Waterman, IL. December 10, 2017. Advent Series.

**FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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| 2019-2021 | Postdoctoral Fellowship, Louisville Institute, Louisville, KY  |
| 2019      | The Dr. Richard Ford Prize for Christian Education,<br>Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL          |
| 2014-2019 | Dorothy Jean Furnish PhD in Christian Education Scholarship,<br>Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL |
| 2014-2019 | Next Generation Ministry Scholarship,<br>Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, McLean, VA              |
| 2016-2018 | Diaconia Fellowship  |

- 2016 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church  
Mount Olivet Foundation Grant, Mount Olivet Foundation, Arlington, VA
- 2015 The HANA (Hispanic, Asian and/or Native American) Scholarship,  
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church
- 2009-2010 Korean Endowment Scholarship, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC
- 2008-2011 Bishop's Scholarship, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC
- 2008-2009 Women's Ministry Scholarship,  
Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, McLean, VA
- 2003-2005 Academic Honor Scholarship,  
The Graduate School of Methodist Theological University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2003 Highest Honors Student Award
- 1999-2003 Academic Honor Scholarship, Methodist Theological University,  
Seoul, South Korea

### **MAJOR MINISTRY EXPERIENCES**

- 2019-current Deacon, First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple, Chicago, IL
- 2018 Ordained as Deacon, Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the UMC
- 2014-2016 Children's Pastor, Naperville Korean United Methodist Church, Naperville, IL
- 2010-2014 Children's Pastor,  
Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, McLean, VA
- 2008-2010 Children's Pastor,  
Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, Centreville Campus,  
Centreville, VA
- 2006-2008 Bible teacher/Small Group leader, Young Adults Ministry,  
Changchun Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea
- 2003-2005 Pastor of International Ministry and Director of English Sunday School,  
Seshin Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea
- 2001-2003 Children's Pastor, Soopyogyo Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea
- 2000-2001 Church School Administrator, Youngsaeng Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea
- 1999-2000 Assistant Pastor of Children's ministry,  
Youngsaeng Methodist Church, Seoul, Korea

### **INSTITUTIONAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN OTHER FIELDS**

- 2016-2018 Site Testing Manager,  
Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program, Garrett-Evanston Site
- 2015-2019 Art Coordinator & Curator, the Arts Committee,



- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL  
2007-2008 Chief Executive Officer, ILM (International Language Ministries), Seoul, Korea  
2006-2008 Executive Manager, eE-world, Seoul, Korea  
2006 Interpreter, *Korean Christian Times*, Seoul, Korea  
2005 Head Translator, *Bible People*  
(Standard Publishing, USA/ Future Education Ministry, Korea)  
2004 Head Translator, *Bible Friends*  
(Group Publishing, USA/ Future Education Ministry, Korea)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2022-current International Academy of Practical Theology (IAPT)  
2019-current Korean Society of Christian Religious Education (KSCRE)  
2018-current American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
2018-current The Association of Practical Theology (APT)  
2015-current Religious Education Association (REA)  
2014-current Pacific, Asian, and North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry  
(PANAAWTM)  
2008-current The United Methodist Church (UMC)

### **LANGUAGES**

- Korean (native)  
English (oral and written fluency)

### **CERTIFICATES**

- Title IX Coordinator, The National Association of College and University Attorneys, Online, 2022.  
PhD Teaching Certificate, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, 2019.  
Certificate of Teaching for English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL),  
Providence Theological Seminary, Otturbune, Manitoba, Canada, 2006.  
Certificate of American Social Welfare Policy, KCServices, California, USA, 2005.