

**Kathy L. Dawson**  
Box 3F  
701 Columbia Drive/P.O. Box 520  
Decatur, GA 30031  
**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

**Princeton Theological Seminary**

**Dates:** September 1997- May 2002

**Degree:** Ph.D

**Concentration:** Practical Theology with Emphasis on Christian Education

**Dissertation:** *Practical Theology: Opening Doors with the Local Congregation: A Situated Conversation between Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Howard Gardner and Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston, Massachusetts*

**Columbia Theological Seminary**

**Dates:** September 1992-May 1994

**Degree:** Master of Divinity, Ordained 1994 PC(USA)

**Presbyterian School of Christian Education**

**Dates:** September 1990-May 1992

**Degree:** Master of Arts in Christian Education, Certified Christian Educator 1996 PC(USA)

**California State University, Long Beach**

**Dates:** September 1976-May 1981

**Degrees and Credentials:** Bachelor of Arts (Liberal Studies, Music) (Phi Beta Kappa)  
Multiple Subjects and Learning Handicapped teaching credentials

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Columbia Theological Seminary**

**Dates:** 2004—present

**Position:** Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education (2018), Associate Professor of Christian Education (tenure/promotion 2008),  
Director of Master of Arts in Practical Theology program (2010-2020)

**Classes Taught:** Introduction to Theory and Practice of Christian Education, Faith and Human Development, Spiritual Lives of Children, Children's Literature, Preschool Religious Education, Curriculum and Resources, The Arts in Christian Teaching and Learning, Introductory Seminar for Doctor of Educational Ministries, doctoral courses in human development and teaching/learning methodology, introductory and capstone courses in Practical Theology

**Lifelong Learning Events:** S3 groups, Guthrie Scholars, Spiritual Lives of Children and Youth, Spiritual Brain Rules, co-taught Camp and Conference Ministry course on Program Development, Christian Education Think Tank, Children's Ministry reading course

**Additional Institutional Duties:** Project Director for Wonder of Worship Lilly Grant (2022-present) Leadership in beginning two new degree programs (DEdMin. and

MAPT), one certificate program with Presbyterian Camp and Conference, Centers Association in camp and conference ministry, Practical Theology Area Chair (2007-2010), (2021-2023) Instructional Technology Chair (2010-2014), Advanced Professional Studies Chair (2020-2023)

**Vancouver School of Theology**

**Dates:** July 2016

**Position:** Guest Instructor and Certification Consultant

**Class Taught:** Hardwiring Faith Maturity in Children and Youth

**Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education**

**Dates:** 2001-- 2004

**Position:** Assistant Professor of Christian Education for Children and Youth (full-time)

**Classes Taught:** Aspects of Human Growth and Development, Models of Teaching, Curriculum and Resources, Puppetry, Teaching Young Children, Doctoral Seminar in Human Development, field-based learning course

**Position:** Project Director- "Shaping Preschool Communities" Valparaiso Grant funded research on Christian faith practice of forming community in the Newbury Center of Childhood Education at Union-PSCE (2003-2004)

**Princeton Theological Seminary**

**Dates:** 1998--2001

**Positions:** Guest Lecturer (Spring 2000, Fall 2000), Teaching Fellow, Research Assistant, Instructor for four Continuing Education events (2000-2001, 2003) Co-instructor for Princeton Theological Institute, (Summer 1999) (all part-time)

**Teaching Topics:** Communicating the Gospel to Children and Youth, Teaching the Gospel to Adolescents, Faith and Human Development, Children and Grief, Multicultural Education and Multiple Intelligences Theory

**Eastern Baptist Seminary**

**Dates:** Spring Semester 2001

**Position:** Visiting Lecturer

**Teaching Topic:** Children's Ministry in the 21st Century

**Service to the Wider Church**

**Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**Dates:** 2020-2024

**Position:** Curriculum writer and Advisory Board Member for "Growing in God's Love" and "Follow Me" resources

**Dates:** 2009-2016

**Position:** Educator Certification Committee PC(USA)

**Dates:** October 2006-present

**Position:** Author of Children and Youth Materials for One Great Hour of Sharing (written voice of Gracie the fish and audio story reader)

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/gracie-finds-her-gift/>

**Dates:** February 2002-October 2002

**Position:** Editor/Consultant on We Believe-Children's Curriculum

**Greater Atlanta Presbytery**

**Dates:** 2019-present

**Position:** Educator Certification Advisor for this Region

**Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston**

**Dates:** Summer 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and various other occasions

**Position:** Music Teacher, Workshop Leader, Guest Preacher, and Resident Church Historian

**Association for Presbyterian Church Educators, Annual Conference**

**Dates:** February 2002, February 2003, January 2004, February 2008, January 2009, January 2010, February 2012, February 2013, February 2015, January 2016, January 2019, January 2024, January 2025

**Position:** Workshop Leader on children, grief and the trauma of war (2002, 2004), Keynote for Pre-APCE conference introducing "We Believe" curriculum (2003), Workshop Leader on church-housed schools and Bonhoeffer and children (2008), church-housed schools with Eileen Lindner (2009), Workshop Leader with D. Ed. Min. students on Reformation and Education (2010), Certification Class Instructor in Faith and Human Development (2012, 2016) Pre-Conference Event Leader for Mission World Adventure (2013), Launched Hope4CE (2015), Ed Talk on Collaborative Learning Communities, Workshop on Hope4CE year 1 (2016), Baptism and Beyond Workshop with Anne Apple (2019), Wonder of Worship Workshop (2024) Wonder of Worship Update and panel of Lilly grantees (2025)

**Honor: Educator of the Year (2015)**

**PC(USA) Local Churches and Presbyteries (partial list):** Princeton area-Nassau Presbyterian, Lawrenceville Presbyterian, Dutch Neck Presbyterian; Richmond area-Ginter Park Baptist, First Presbyterian, Three Chopt Presbyterian, Chester Presbyterian, River Road Presbyterian, General Assembly 2004; Atlanta Area- First Presbyterian, Central Presbyterian, Decatur Presbyterian, Decatur United Methodist, North Decatur Presbyterian, Greater Atlanta Educators Group, Peachtree Road United Methodist, Shallowford Presbyterian, Oakhurst Presbyterian, Episcopal Educators Group, First Presbyterian-Clarksville, Oakhurst Baptist, Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian, St. Philip Presbyterian-Houston **Presbyteries-** South Alabama: Equipping the Saints, Greater Atlanta: Leadership Training, Cherokee: Keynote, Leadership Training, Northeast Georgia: Leadership Event workshops, South Carolina combined presbyteries: Leader of Leaders, Saint Augustine Presbytery workshop, Synod of South Atlantic: moderator of conversation on the future of resource centers, Trinity Presbytery, Loaves and Fishes event, Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery-STEPS, Salem Presbytery South Atlantic area APCE, Western APCE, Montreat

**Date:** 2001-present

**Position:** Workshop leader on various topics related to Death and Grieving, Multiple Intelligences Theory/Spiritual Gifts, Children's Ministry, Godly Play, Spiritual

Development, Adult Education, Confirmation, Bonhoeffer and Children, Reformation and Education, Brain Research, Intergenerational Learning and Worship, Curriculum Evaluation, Faith and Human Development Certification Classes, Hope4CE, Wonder of Worship

**Cumberland Presbyterian Church Leadership Event**

**Date:** November 2016

**Position:** Keynote Presenter at National Leadership Conference—Topic was on Innovations in Educational Ministry

**British Columbia Hospice Foundation**

**Dates:** April 2000

**Position:** Keynote speaker for a conference on Children and Adolescent Grief

**Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, AL**

**Dates:** August 1994-June 1997

**Position:** Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth Coordination

**Shallowford Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA**

**Dates:** September 1992-May 1994

**Position:** Interim Director of Christian Education (part-time)

**Los Alamitos and Palm Springs Unified School Districts**

**Dates:** September 1981-June 1990

**Position:** Elementary School Teacher (Mentor Teacher and Teacher of the Year)

**Long Beach Unified School District**

**Dates:** September 1976-August 1981

**Position:** Child Care Teacher and Teacher Aide for school district-housed early childhood and after school programs

**PUBLICATIONS**

Hope4CE, editor, administrator, post writer...(<http://hope4ce.net>) 2015-present)

“Welcome Children, Welcome God” *Call to Worship*, August 2024

“Living in Community” Foundational Essay for *Follow Me* curriculum, Presbyterian Publishing House, 2021

“Hospitality,” “Hope,” and “Sabbath” “Make Disciples” young children’s/multi-age and intergenerational curriculum for *Follow Me*, Presbyterian Publishing House, 2020-2021

“Advent: What are We Waiting For?” article for *APCE Advocate*, September 2021

“Post-Pandemic Pondering and Planning” co-authored project for APCE and the Presbyterian Church <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/post-pandemic-pondering-and-planning-a-guide-to-faith-re-formation/>

“Leaning Out, Letting Go” article on assessment during the pandemic for *APCE Advocate*, May 2020.

“Talking to Your Children about COVID-19” article for *APCE Advocate*, March 2020

“Jesus Teaches” multi-age curriculum for *Growing in God’s Love*, Presbyterian Publishing House, 2020

"Richard Robert Osmer" Christian Educators of the 20th Century online database (<http://www.talbot.edu/ce20/>) (2016)

Three Pastoral Perspective Essays for *Feasting on the Gospels-Matthew*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, (2013)

Book Review: Children's Ministry that Fits: Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Approaches to Nurturing Children's Spirituality, *Journal for Childhood and Religion* (2011) (<http://childhoodandreligion.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Dawson-review-of-Csinos.pdf>)

Co-editor of @*This Point*, online faculty journal of Columbia Theological Seminary. ([www.atthispoint.net](http://www.atthispoint.net)) (2004-2010)

"Blooming Where We Are Planted" in *From Midterms to Ministry: Practical Theologians on Pastoral Beginnings*, edited by Allan Hugh Cole Jr. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

*Confessing Faith: A Guide to Confirmation for Presbyterians*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2006.

"Should Church-Housed Schools Be Christian?" APRRE Proceedings, Presented November 2007.

"Reformed Spirits: Christian Practices in Presbyterian Preschools in South Korea and the United States," co-written with Shin-Kyung Park, in *Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives from the World's Religious Traditions*, edited by Karen-Marie Yust, Aostre N. Johnson, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain. Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

Book Review- The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon, Stephen Haynes in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, January 2006.

"Pastoral Care of Children," *Encyclopedia of Christianity*, Volume 4. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

Book Review- Bullying: A Spiritual Crisis, Ronald Hecker Cram in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, January 2005, 102.

Book Review: The Cost of Moral Leadership: The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer Geoffrey B. Kelly and F. Burton Nelson. *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, April 2004, 213-214.

"Dinosaur or Digital Degree: The State of Master of Arts Degrees in Christian/Religious Education" APRRE Proceedings, presented November 2003.

"When Does Faith Begin?" in *Children Among Us*, Cassandra Williams, ed. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2003, 25-50.

We Believe, curriculum resource, Multi-age, Fall Quarter 2003, and portions of Preschool, Winter Quarter 2003-2004, Presbyterian Church (USA) (as writer—also edited all other children’s lines for Fall and Winter Quarters 2003-2004)

We Believe: Songs for All God’s Children, Compact Disc, Volume 1 and 2, 2003, 2004, Presbyterian Church (USA) (producer and director).

*The Losin’ Blues*. Bermuda Dunes, CA: AfterLoss publications, 1999.

*Bye, Bye...I Love You*. Bermuda Dunes, CA: AfterLoss publications, 1998.

Book Review: *Reshaping Religious Education: Conversations on Contemporary Practice*. By Maria Harris and Gabriel Moran. (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1998) in

Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum Volume X.2  
(Fall 1998).

The French Confession of 1559: Study Guide. Louisville: Office of Theology and  
Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA), 1998.

Extensive editorial work on *We Are the Family of God: Family Conversations about the  
Catechism*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 1998.

Extensive editorial work on *The Bible Verse Book: Learning the Scriptures Can Be Fun*.  
Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991.