

## Sarah F. Farmer

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Community Development  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
4201 S. Washington Rd.  
Marion, IN 46953  
[sarah.farmer@indwes.edu](mailto:sarah.farmer@indwes.edu)  
610-209-5488

---

---

### EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia) Graduate Division of Religion, (Person, Community and Religious Life)	2008-2016
M.Div.	Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia) <i>Religious Education Certification; Black Church Studies Certification</i>	2008
B.A.	Berea College (Berea, Kentucky) <i>Cum laude</i>	2005

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Co-edited Book

White, David F. and Sarah Frances Farmer. *Youth Ministry: Reclaiming God's Joy for a Good Life*. Nashville, TN: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2020.

#### Co-authored Books

Wimberly, Anne E. Streaty and Sarah Frances Farmer. *Raising Hope: Four Paths to Courageous Living for Black Youth*. Nashville, TN: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2017.

#### Refereed Journal Articles

Farmer, Sarah. "Criminality of Black youth in inner-city schools: 'moral panic', moral imagination, and moral formation." In *Race, Ethnicity and Education*, Vol. 13, No. 3, September 2010, 367–381.

#### Book Chapters

Farmer, Sarah. "Religious Education and Prison Ministry: Where Public Theology and Public Pedagogy Meet." In *From Lament to Advocacy: Black Religious Education and Public Ministry*, pgs. 139-168. Wimberly, Anne E. Streaty, Nathaniel D. West, and Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, editors. Nashville, TN: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2020. (also peer reviewed)

Farmer, Sarah. "Responding to Black Youth Invisibility: The Black Church Nurturing the Artist Within." In *Religion, Culture and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora*, 173-186. William Ackah, Jualynne Dodson and Drew Smith, editors. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Farmer, Sarah. "Criminality of Black Youth in Inner-City Schools: 'Moral Panic', Moral Imagination, and Moral Formation." In *Education and Incarceration*. Erica Meiners and Maisha Winn, editors. New York: Routledge, 2011.

## Encyclopedia Entries

Poole, Sarah, and John Snarey. "Erikson's Stages of the Life Cycle." In *Encyclopedia of Child Behavior and Development*, edited by Sam Goldstein and Jack A. Naglieri. New York: Springer, 2011.

Poole, Sarah, and John Snarey. "Generativity Vs. Stagnation." In *Encyclopedia of Child Behavior and Development*, edited by Sam Goldstein and Jack A. Naglieri. New York: Springer, 2011.

Snarey, John, and Sarah Poole. "Erik H. Erikson." In *Encyclopedia of Child Behavior and Development*, edited by Sam Goldstein and Jack A. Naglieri. New York: Springer, 2011.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021-2023 Wildcat Innovation Grant (\$45,000 to start Community Engagement & Leadership Program)
- 2021-2022 Mother-logian: Resisting Fragmentation Through Tending to the Body and Soul Teaching and Learning Digital Salon Faculty Cohort Grant (\$7,000 with faculty colleagues)
- 2021 Lily Fellows Program Small Grant (to host Faculty workshop on race and pedagogy)
- 2020 Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Digital Salon Faculty Cohort
- 2020 Lily Fieldtrip Travel Grant (to travel with students at Indiana Wesleyan University)
- 2019-2020 Emerging Scholar Award (Indiana Wesleyan University)
- 2019 Lily Fieldtrip Travel Grant (to travel with students at Indiana Wesleyan University)
- 2018 Lily Fieldtrip Travel Grant (to travel with students at Indiana Wesleyan University)
- 2015 Piedmont TATTO Fellow
- 2014-2015 Fund for Theological Education Dissertation Fellow
- 2013-2014 Religious Practices and Practical Theology Fellow (Emory University)
- 2013-2014 Community Building and Social Change Fellow (Emory University)
- 2010-2011 Black Women and Ministerial Leadership Fellow (Interdenominational Theological Seminary)
- 2010-2011 Office of University-Community Partnerships grant recipient (Emory University)
- 2008-2013 Minority Diversity Fellowship (Emory University)
- 2008-2010 Fund for Theological Education Doctoral Fellow
- 2009 Ellen Bangson Scholarship in Christian Education (Berea College)
- 2008-2009 Hutchinson Scholarship (Berea College)
- 2008 Berta and James T. Laney Award in Contextual Education (Candler School of Theology)
- 2008 G. Ray Jordan Award (Candler School of Theology)
- 2005-2008 Robert Woodruff Scholarship (Candler School of Theology)
- 2007-2008 Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
- 2007 Mortar Board Honor Society Alumni Sustaining Member
- 2005 Olive Ruth Russell Fellowship (Berea College)
- 2005 Ferguson-Weatherford Award in Religion (Berea College)
- 2005 Agnes Jones Jackson Scholarship (NAACP)
- 2004 Labor Award for the Learning Center
- 2004 Carter G. Woodson Award
- 2004 DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Scholar

- 2004-2005 Mortar Board Honor Society
- 2003 Carlisle Keller MacDonald Scholar (Berea College)
- 2003-2005 Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society
- 2003 Vincint Qui Partir Honor Society
- 2003 Father Henry Parker Scholar
- 2002 Fleur de Lis Honor Society

**PAPERS, PANELS, PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021 “Trauma-Informed Ministry to Youth.” Youth Theology Network. Forum for Theological Exploration. Presenter. Zoom Session – May 20.
  
- 2020 Sarah Farmer, Rachele Green, and Elizabeth Bounds. “Where You “Feel Like Myself Again””: Transformative Theological Education in Prison. Theological Education in Prisons. Princeton Theological Seminary. Co-presenter. Zoom Session – November 18. (Rescheduled to Zoom due to CoVid)
  
- 2020 “From Lament to Advocacy,” *Generating Hope: The Future of the Teaching Profession in a Globalized World*, Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Co-presenter. Zoom Session – November 6. (Rescheduled to Zoom due to CoVid)
  
- 2020 “#Neighborwell Practices.” Elevate. College Wesleyan Church, Marion, IN – September 26.
  
- 2020 “A Practical Theology of “Seeing” in Society-Forming Engagement,” Lecturer. Wesley Seminary, Zoom Session – September 23.
  
- 2020 Barbara Wise, Katti Snead, Sarah Farmer, Ruth Eby, and Rhonda Oldham. “Mixed methods analysis of interprofessional poverty simulation.” 11th Annual Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Conference. Co-presenter. Zoom Session – September 18.
  
- 2019 “*Restorative Hope: Pedagogy and Hope in Carceral Settings.*” The Faculty Scholarship Symposium. Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN – October 30.
  
- 2019 “Cultural Liturgies and Pedagogies.” Conference & Teaching Workshop. Panel on the Pedagogy of the Good Life. Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA – August 6.
  
- 2019 “Christ & Being Human: If Jesus Is the Answer... What’s the Question?” Conference & Teaching Workshop. Panel on the Pedagogy of the Good Life. Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA – August 6.
  
- 2019 “*Finding Joy Together: Relational Communities of Flourishing.*” Presentation with Dr. Nadja Reilly & Ms. Kate Hyde. Yale Youth Ministry Institute, New Haven, CT – March 6.

- 2018 “Being a Good Neighbor: The Difficult Road to Reconciliation.” Day of Courageous Conversations. Moderated Panel Presentation. Indiana Wesleyan University. Marion, IN – February 12.
- 2018 “Mentors of Joy.” Association of Youth Ministry Educators. St. Louis, MO—October 29.
- 2018 “Contexts and Questions.” The Future of Joy & the Good Life” Conference & Teaching Workshop. Panel on the Pedagogy of the Good Life. Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT – August 2.
- 2018 “Flourishing in Christ: Getting to the Heart of Youth Ministry.” *Theology in Dialogue: Christ to the Center* - Study Days for Theological and Social Renewal. University of Fribourg. Switzerland. - June 23.
- 2018 “The Future of Theology and its Impact on the Church.” *Theology in Dialogue: Christ to the Center* - Study Days for Theological and Social Renewal. Moderated Panel with Dr. Ralph Kunz, Conor McDonough, Dr. Sylvianne Aspray, and Bishop Graham Tomlin. University of Fribourg. Switzerland. - June 22.
- 2018 “Why Rituals Work: The Science Behind Ritual Formation in the Lives of Youth.” *Jesus Rode a Dinosaur: Faithful Youth Ministry in a Scientific Age*. Science for Youth Ministry Conference. Colonial Church of Edina. Edina, MN. May 7.
- 2018 “Religious Practices and Practical Theology in the Prison.” Presentation with Jennifer McBride and Elizabeth Bounds. *Practical Matters Conference*. Emory University. Atlanta, GA. March 23.
- 2017 *Theologies of Flourishing and the Most Vulnerable*. Moderated Panel with Panelists Keri Day, Graham Ward, Matthew Croasmun, and Fernando F. Segovia. American Academy of Religion, Theological Reflections Group, Boston, MA, November 20.
- 2017 “God Is in the Movement: Exploring God at Work in the Lives of Incarcerated Young Adults.” *Where is God At Work Among Young Adults* - Young Adult Symposium. Panel Presentation with Almeda Wright, Patrick Reyes, Richard Flory, and Daniel White-Hodges. Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Evanston, IL. October 21.
- 2017 *Criminal Justice, Poverty, and Race*. Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty Conference. Moderated Panel with Panelists Paul Butler, Robin Steinberg, and James Forman, Jr. Virginia Military Institute. Lexington, VA. July 31.
- 2017 “Disrupting Hiddenness through Prison Pedagogy.” *Seeking the Kingdom, Tilling the Vineyard*. Society of Vineyard Scholars Eighth Annual Conference. Yale Divinity School. New Haven, CT. June 22.

- 2017 “All Liturgies Matter: Ministry to Youth in the Face of Violence.” *When Dancing Turns to Mourning: Worshipping in the Face of Violence*, ISM Congregations Project Conference. Yale Divinity School. New Haven, CT. June 15.
- 2017 “Nurturing Joy: Supporting the Emotional and Spiritual Lives of Adolescents,” *Why Youth Ministry: A Beacon of Light in the Midst of Suffering*. Course of Study, Yale Youth Ministry Institute, New Haven, CT, June 9.
- 2016 “From a Practical Theological Lens.” Case Study Symposium. Office of Supervised Ministries. Panel Presentation with Willie Jennings, Bruce Gordon, and Harold Attridge. Yale Divinity School. New Haven, CT, November 10.
- 2016 “Restorative Hope: Exploring Pedagogy through the Lens of Incarceration,” *Generating Hope: The Future of the Teaching Profession in a Globalized World*, Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, November 5.
- 2016 “Rituals of Reintegration: Practices of Flourishing with Adolescents along the Incarceration Continuum,” *Innovation and Mission in Youth Ministry*, Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Orlando, FL, October 29.
- 2016 “Trauma-Informed Expressive Arts: Using Art to Heal the Effects of Trauma,” *GotJoy?: Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Adversity* Course of Study, Yale Divinity School Youth Ministry Institute, New Haven, CT, June 10.
- 2016 “Youth on Lockdown: Ministry to Youth on the Pipeline to Prison,” *GotJoy?: Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Adversity* Course of Study, Yale Divinity School Youth Ministry Institute, New Haven, CT, June 9.
- 2016 “Burnout in the Gap: Youth Ministry in the Midst of Adversity,” *GotJoy?: Nurturing Joy and Flourishing in the Midst of Adversity* Course of Study, Co-presented with Angela Gorrell, Yale Divinity School Youth Ministry Institute, New Haven, CT, June 8.
- 2016 “Courageous Hope: Empowering Adolescent Joy Amidst the Challenges of Life,” Co-presented with Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Youth Ministry Institute Lunch and Lecture Series, Yale Divinity School New Haven, CT, May 4.
- 2015 “Building Bridges of Hope: The Church's Role in Reaching Disconnected Black Youth,” Co-presented with Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Religious Education Association, Atlanta, GA, November 6-8.
- 2015 “Practicing Hope: Using Art to Disrupt Cycles of Trauma,” Vienna, Austria Herzwerk Training Retreat, June 16-19.
- 2014 Transatlantic Roundtable on Race and Religion by selection, *Responding to Black Youth Invisibility: The Church Nurturing the Artist Within*, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, July 9-16.

- 2013 *Hidden from Existence, But I Will Not Hide: Toward a Pedagogy of Critical Visibility*, American Academy of Religion, Transformative Pedagogies Group, Baltimore, MD, November 22-25.
- 2013 *Art as a Religious Practice: Teaching Art in the Prison Context*, Religious Practices and Practical Theology Colloquy, Emory University, February 9.
- 2009 *Where Do We Go From Here? New Voices in the Black Religion/Black Church (Young Scholars Panel)*, Plenary Presentation, Fifth Annual Black Church Studies Summit: Emory University, January 22-24.
- 2008 Consultation on Youth in Religious Practice, Plenary Presentation, Emory University, January 9.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Indiana Wesleyan University

#### Teacher

Hope and Suffering  
 Community Development Management  
 Advanced Studies in Youth and Culture  
 New Testament Survey  
 Issues in Human Trafficking  
 Urban Ministries/Community Development Internship  
 Intercultural Engagement Seminar  
 Race, Class, & Gender  
 Transformative Development Principles  
 Christ & Being Human  
 Biblical Theology of Social Justice

Marion, IN  
 Fall 2019 - Current

### Fuller Theological Seminary

Youth, Race, and Culture (Online)

Pasadena, CA  
 Summer 2021

### Mecham School of Haymont

Urban Youth Ministry

St. Louis, IN  
 Summer 2020

### Yale Divinity School

#### Teacher

Mobilizing for Justice: Advocacy Ministry with Children and Youth  
 Travel Seminar to Children's Defense Fund

2018

#### Co-Teacher

Joy as a Spiritual Path to the Caregiving Vocation (Mary Clark Moschella)

2017

<b>Emory University</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<b>Candler School of Theology</b>	
<i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	
Effective Approaches to Criminal Justice	2016
Creativity and Pedagogy	2015
Religious Education as Formation and Transformation	2009
<i>Teaching Associate</i>	
Religious Education as Formation and Transformation (Jane Knight)	2009
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
Religious Education as Formation and Transformation (Carol Lakey Hess)	2008
Moral Psychology: Reasoning, Development, and Education (John Snarey)	2008
<b>Emory College of Arts and Sciences</b>	
<i>Co-teacher</i>	
Community Building and Social Change (Jess Groholz)	2014
Lyrics on Lockdown, The Moral Responsibility of Education, Not Incarceration (Keisha Green)	2010
<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
Community Building and Social Change (Michael Rich)	2013
African Religious Cultures in the Americas and the Caribbean (Dianne Stewart)	2010
<b>Morehouse College</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<i>Co-teacher</i>	
Introduction to Religion (Alexis Wells)	2014
<b>Arrendale State Prison, Certificate in Theological Studies Program</b>	Alto, Georgia
<i>Teacher</i>	
Perspectives on Hope: In Theory, Adversity, and Practice	2015
Exploring Spirituality and Identity through the Arts	2012
<b>RESEARCH EXPERIENCE</b>	
<b>Yale Divinity School, Yale Center for Faith and Culture</b>	New Haven, CT
<i>Associate Research Scholar</i>	2016-2018
<b>Interdenominational Theological Center, Youth Hope-Builders Academy</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<i>Ethnographer for Building Bridges of Hope</i>	2014-Present
<b>Howard University Divinity School</b>	Washington, DC
<i>Research Associate for Equipping the Saints Research Project</i>	2012 - 2015
<b>Emory University, Candler School of Theology</b>	Atlanta, Georgia
<i>Interviewer for Youth Theological Initiative</i>	2010
<i>Administer of Wisdom of Youth Research Project</i>	2007-2008
<i>Research Proxy for Director of Religious Education</i>	2007- 2008
<i>Research Proxy for Director of Black Church Studies</i>	2006-2007

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Yale Divinity School, Yale Center for Faith and Culture**  
*Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Program*  
New Haven, CT  
2016-Present

**Emory University, Candler School of Theology**  
*Acting Director of the Religious Education Program*  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2015-2016

**Certificate of Theological Studies Program at Arrendale State Prison**  
*Co-Director*  
2015  
*Prison Studies Coordinator*  
August 2014-2016

**Berea College**  
*Senior Consultant/Workshop and Presentation Coordinator*  
Berea, Kentucky  
2002-2004

## **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

**Yale Divinity School, Yale Center for Faith and Culture**  
*Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Program*  
New Haven, CT  
2016-Present

**Interdenominational Theological Center**  
*Program Associate for Youth Hope Builders Academy*  
Atlanta, Georgia  
2007-2016  
*Youth Hope Builders Academy Exploratory Leader*  
2009- 2010  
*Youth Hope Builders Academy Covenant Mentor*  
2006-2008

**Peace in the Streets**  
*Co-Director/ Co-Founder of Youth Arts and Peace Camp*  
Chester, Pennsylvania  
2005- 2009

**Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation**  
*Community Organizer/Camp Counselor*  
Dorchester, Mass.  
2004

**Chester Eastside Ministries**  
*English Teacher/Peer Counselor*  
Chester, Pennsylvania  
2002-2003

## **MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

**Executive Leadership Team Member**  
*Real Community Covenant Church*  
Marion, Indiana  
2019-Present

**Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church (American Baptist Church)**  
*College and Young Adult Coordinator, Volunteer*  
Hamden, Connecticut  
2017-2018

**Destiny Metropolitan Worship Church (Non-denominational)**  
*RethINC/Transitions Young Adult Ministry*  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Ministry Team Lead*  
2007- 2011  
*Ministry Internship Student*  
2006-2007

**Spelman College**  
*Sisters Chapel*  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Contextual Education Student*  
2006- 2007

**Berea College**  
*Campus Christian Center*  
Berea, Kentucky  
*Student Chaplain and Residential Assistant*  
2004-2005

## **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP:**

**Courageous Conversations with Intercultural Fellows (Indiana Wesleyan University)**  
*Pedagogy of Belonging Workshop*  
Feb 2021  
*Co-facilitated workshop for faculty with Willie James Jennings*

**Faculty Development Committee (Indiana Wesleyan University)**



Academy of Race and Pedagogy May 2021  
*Co-facilitated a faculty development retreat on race and pedagogy with Willie James Jennings as guest presenter*

**PODCASTS/BLOGS:**

Mothers in the Academy, Wabash Teaching and Learning Center (webinar) May 2021  
Dialogue on Teaching, Wabash Teaching and Learning Center (podcast) March 2021  
<https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/podcasts/>  
Dialogue on Teaching, Wabash Teaching and Learning Center (podcast) Sept 2020  
<https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/podcasts/>  
Being Church in the time of COVID, Princeton Theological Seminary (podcast) Sept 2020  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/being-church-in-the-time-of-covid/id1513642829>

**INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE WORK**

Intercultural Fellows (co-chair) Fall 2020-current  
Intercultural Studies Taskforce (chair) Fall 2020-Spr 2021  
Faculty Development Committee Fall 2019-current  
Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) Planning Committee Fall 2018 - current  
Spiritual Life Committee Fall 2019-current  
Business Finance Search Committee Spring 2021  
LEAP-IN Prison Education Committee Spring 2020-Spr 2021  
Business Finance Search Committee Spring 2020  
Upward Bound Search Committee Fall 2020  
Executive Administrative Assistant STM Search Committee Fall 2020

**CONSULTING/PEER REVIEW/GRANT REVIEW**

Religious Education Journal (Peer Reviewer), 2019-Current  
John Templeton Grant Reviewer, 2019-Current  
Gratitude of God Grant Peer Reviewer, 2020  
Search Institute Consulting (Development Relationship Framework), 2019  
Fuller Youth Institute Consulting, 2019

**ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS:**

Christian Community Development Association, 2018-current  
Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Board Member, 2017-current  
American Academy of Religion, member, 2010-current  
Religious Education Association, member, 2010-current  
Association of Practical Theology, member, 2016-2019  
International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, member, 2018-2020

**COMMUNITY/PROFESSIONAL BOARD EXPERIENCE:**

I Have a Dream Preschool Academy (Founding Board Member), 2020-current  
Isaiah Center for Reconciliation and Justice (Vice President), 2020-current  
Thriving Grant County (Collective Impact Nonprofit – Board Member), 2020-current  
Hope House (Addiction Recovery Home-Board Member), 2020-current  
Youth Hope-Builders Academy (advisory board), 2008-2016

