

Robert C. Pelfrey
Curriculum Vitae
6970 Canyon Ridge Way • El Paso, Texas 79912
Phone: (915) 242-3080 • Email: robertcpelfrey@gmail.com

➤ **Education**

PhD. Theology, 2020

The University of Manchester, England

Thesis: *The End is the Beginning: Spiritual Formation as the Hero's Journey in John of Ruusbroec*

Supervisors: Drs. Geordan Hammond and David Bundy

MDiv. Methodist Studies, Pastoral Theology, and Church Leadership, 2006

Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY

B.A. Music Theory and Composition [minor: Literature], 1993

West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX

Research Stay: Spiritual Theology Studies, summer 2018

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and University of Antwerp, Belgium

Graduate Work: Anglican Studies, 2002-2003

Regent College, Vancouver, BC

Advanced Studies: Composition and Guitar, 1991-1992

Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA

Reading Proficiency: Spanish, Dutch, Greek, Hebrew

➤ **Honors**

Courageous Leadership Initiative (2018): Selected for inaugural conference of “exceptional leaders”; collaboration with faith leaders from across the U.S. in developing creative leadership practices alongside innovators from the arts, business, and NGOs.

Rev. Robert Pelfrey Scholarship (2016-): Academic scholarship established by area leaders in recognition of my ministry.

High Honors, MDiv. (2006), Asbury Theological Seminary

Alpha Chi Honor Society (1991)

➤ Experience

Western Hills United Methodist Church, El Paso, TX. Senior Pastor (2014-2019)

Senior Pastor for large border church. Oversaw staff of 15+, coordinated multiple leadership boards and over 700 volunteers. Initiated large-scale crisis responses surrounding immigration issues. Contributed to marked increases in participation in worship, leadership, discipleship, and community engagement. Preached and taught the Word, administered the sacraments, formed disciples, and ordered the life of the church.

First United Methodist Church, Midland, TX. Lead Associate Pastor (2010-2014)

Pastor of 300+-member contemporary congregation within downtown mega-church. Initiated and oversaw church-wide small group ministry. Directed outreach and benevolence. Preached and taught the Word, administered the sacraments, formed disciples, and ordered the life of the church.

Elmwood West United Methodist Church, Abilene, TX. Senior Pastor (2007-2010)

Pastor of growing church in college town. Contributed to marked increases in participation in worship, leadership, discipleship, and community engagement. Preached and taught the Word, administered the sacraments, formed disciples, and ordered the life of the church.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, Amarillo, TX. Associate Pastor (2005-2007)

Organized and led new worship service. Preached and taught the Word, administered the sacraments, formed disciples, and ordered the life of the church.

St. Luke United Methodist Church, Lexington, KY. Worship Director (2003-2004)

Designed and led traditional and contemporary worship for large church. Director of two large youth choirs. Wrote a musical for touring youth choir and led tours.

St. John's Anglican Church, Vancouver, BC. Pastoral Intern (2002-2003)

Assisted in organizing and leading Alpha Courses. Assisted in worship for Sunday evening service.

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Production Manager (2000-2001)

Coordinated teams of hundreds of volunteers and assisted in production for BGEA Festivals.

Professional Musician: Songwriter, Worship Leader, Performer (1991-2001)

Worked as bandleader and songwriter for touring band. Worship leader in Methodist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Anglican, and non-denominational faith communities. Multi-instrumentalist (Guitar/s, Saxophone, Percussion, Keyboard).

➤ **Publications & Presentations**

Author: *Still Moving: The Journey of Love's Perfection* (Resource/Wipf & Stock, 2017)

Author: *Rock God: How God Shakes, Rattles & Rolls Our Easy-Listening Lives* (SalvationLife Books, 2014)

“Methodists Shield the Children!”, in *United Methodist Insight* (October 2014)

“Sandy Hook: As My Daughter Sits in Her Classroom”, in the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* (December 2012)

As Pastor: Weekly sermon preparation and preaching, writing curriculum for studies, presenting at numerous and varied community and regional events (2005-2019)

“The Boon of Being: Heroism and Ontology”, Graduate Seminar for Nazarene Theological College, Manchester (2019)

“The Active Life as *Purgatio*: Ruusbroec and the Call to Adventure”, Graduate Seminar for Nazarene Theological College, Manchester (2016)

“Non-Linear Narrative and Spiritual Formation”, Postgraduate Colloquium, Manchester Wesley Research Centre (2013)

“Ruusbroec and William James: Spiritual Theology and Phenomenology”, Postgraduate Colloquium, Manchester Wesley Research Centre (2012)

“Power to the People: Leading through Discipleship”, Workshop for clergy and laity in Northwest Texas and New Mexico (2007, 2011, 2015)

➤ **Administrative Leadership**

Ordained Pastor, United Methodist Church (2005)

Task Force on Immigration and Migrant Justice, El Paso, TX (2015-2019)

United Methodist Board of Ordained Ministry: Northwest Texas Annual Conference (2011-2014); New Mexico Annual Conference (2016-2019)

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, New Mexico Annual Conference (2015)

District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Big Spring District (2010-2012)

District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Abilene District (2008-2010)

➤ **Affiliations & Memberships**

Fellow of the Manchester Wesley Research Centre

American Academy of Religion

Mystical Theology Network (University of Oxford)

Wesleyan Theological Society

Association of Practical Theology

Ordained Elder in Full Connection, United Methodist Church

➤ **Personal**

Married to Jamie Osborne Pelfrey since 1999

Daughter, Madison Jane, born 2005

Member of the Choctaw Nation