

KERRY REX BUTTS

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“Committed to Christ and Christian Ministry”

Experience in preaching and teaching; small group and one on one bible study, mentoring, and counseling; congregational leadership development; worship planning; ministry among low-income, urban poor, and marginalized segments of society; ministry to the youth; cooperative ministry initiatives with other local churches (both in and outside of the Churches of Christ).

Education

- Northern Seminary, Lombard, IL** **2013 - 2019**
- Doctor of Ministry, June 8, 2019
 - Contextual Theology Cohort
 - “Reading Scripture Again: A Missional Hermeneutic for a Contextualized Embodiment of the Gospel as a Local Church,” D.Min Dissertation.
- Harding School of Theology, Memphis, TN** **2002 - 2007**
- Master of Divinity, May 5, 2007
 - Emphasis: Theology and Christian Doctrine
- Harding University, Searcy, AR** **1999 - 2002**
- Bachelor of Ministry, May 11, 2002
 - Certificate, Harding School of Biblical Studies, 2001

Additional Education

Mission Alive, Dallas, TX **Oct 2012 - Mar 2015**

Full-Time Ministry Experience

- Newark Church of Christ** **April 2018 - Present**
- Duties: Preaching & Teaching, Administrative & Organizational Development, Vision Casting, Mentor Interns, Pastoral Visitation, Community Bible Studies
 - Assist in hiring new ministry staff to serve with the church
 - Organized and planned a conference titled “Imagine: Cultivating Life and Ministry” for local Churches of Christ in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Chillicothe Church of Christ, Chillicothe, MO** **Oct 2016 - Aug 2017**
- Duties: Preaching & Teaching, Develop Young Families Ministry, Pastoral Visitation
- Columbia Church of Christ, Columbia, MD** **Oct 2011 - June 2015**
- Duties: Preaching & Teaching, Oversight of Vision, Mission, & Ministry Development
 - Assist ministry leaders, communications with regional Churches of Christ
 - Development of a new church website.
 - Initiated a church partnership with Mission Alive for purpose of church renewal.
 - Initiated effort with Grassroots Crisis Center and Howard County Advocacy Group Against Slavery and Trafficking to help women rescued from human trafficking.
 - Served on leadership for One Voice prayer fellowship in Howard County, Maryland.

Additional Ministry Experience: Randolph, NJ; Kandiyohi, MN; Ithaca, NY; Memphis, TN

Ministry Accomplishments

Selected Special Presentations

- “Lost Sons,” Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures, May 3, 2018.
- “Living Words: The Bible Everyone’s Reading,” Pepperdine Bible Lectures, May 5, 2017.
- “God’s Masterpiece: The Church as the Magnum Opus of God,” Pepperdine Bible Lectures, May 2, 2013.

Published Books

- *Lost Sons*, Surrendering to Hope: Guidance for the Broken, ed. John Mark Hicks, Christine Fox Parker, and Bobby Valentine, Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2018.

Published Book Reviews

- “Seven Disciplines Can Help Us Reach Our Shifting Culture,” *Christians Chronicle* 74 (April 2017).
- “Transforming Conversions: Rethinking the Language and Contours of Christian Initiation,” by Gordon T. Smith, *Restoration Quarterly* 54:2 (Jan 2012): 132-133.
- “Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry,” by William H. Willimon. *Restoration Quarterly* 49:1 (Jan 2007): 57-58.

Selected Published Articles

- “Preaching and Politics: Give to God, Give to Caesar,” in *Wineskins* 22 (March 2019).
- “Mourning With Those Who Mourn,” in *Wineskins* 19 (October 2016).
- “Acts 2 and Pentecost: Our Story, Our Way,” in *Wineskins* 19 (April 2016).
- “Reconciliation: Gospel Living in a Racially Divided and Politically Polarized Culture,” in *Wineskins* 18 (July 2015).
- “Disband with Dignity” in *Christian Chronicle* 72 (April 2015).
- “Change Requires Grace” in *Wineskins* 18 (February 2015).
- “Story Tellers: Reading and Performing Scripture” in *Wineskins* 17 (October 2014).
- “I Still Believe in the Church” in *Wineskins* 17 (April 2014).
- “Living The Way of Jesus” in *Wineskins* 16 (March 2013).
- “My Advent Story” in *Wineskins* 15 (December 2012).
- “The Ministry of Reconciliation Still Matters” in *Wineskins* 15 (September 2012).
- “Repentance and Baptism...and the Jesus Movement” in *Wineskins* 15 (June 2012).
- “The Foolishness of Believing” in *Wineskins* 15 (April 2012).
- “Incarnational Living” in *Wineskins* 15 (January 2012).
- “The Future of the Churches of Christ,” in *Wineskins* 14 (January-February 2010).
- “Enduring Life in the Mystery of God’s Goodness,” in *Wineskins* 13 (July-August 2009).

Personal

Family and Hobbies

- Married to Laura J. Butts since August 8, 1998
- 3 Children: Kenneth James (deceased); Caryn Mae; Jared Stone.
- Reading, Outdoor Sports, Acoustic and Electric Guitar.

Letters of reference and recommendation are available upon request.