

Professional Credentials

- **Ordained Elder in the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**
 - Ordained in 2018
- **Facilitator, Center for Courage and Renewal**
 - Completed Facilitator Preparation Course in 2017-2018 lead by Parker Palmer
- **International Coaching Federation, ACC accreditation**
 - *In Progress*

Education

- **Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO**
 - Graduated May 2015; Degree Received: Masters of Divinity
 - Honors: Senior Preacher Award

- **Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois**
 - Graduated in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Sociology
 - Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Kappa Delta, Magna Cum Laude
 - Awards and Leadership: President, Class of 2005; Writing Center Tutor; Academy of Poets Prize (2004)

- **Industry CUSD #156, Industry, Illinois**
 - Graduated May 2001
 - Honors: Voted Class Clown and Most Likely to Succeed

Selected Publications and Workshops:

- Collegeville Institute's *Writing Spirit, Writing Faith Workshop* lead by Mary Potter, Fall 2021.

- Orion Magazine Nonfiction Writing Workshop lead by Belle Boggs, Summer 2021

- "Garth Brooks, Chris Gaines, and the Midwestern Psyche," Feature, *The New Territory Magazine*, vol. 12, Spring 2022. Print

- "The Room Is Not a Metaphor" *The New Territory Magazine*, vol. 10, Spring 2021. Print.

- "Between Fear and Faith: June 17-23, 2019," published in *The Upper Room Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions 2019*, Upper Room Books, Nashville: 2019. Print.

- "Point to the Truth," commentary for website Modern Metanoia, Link: <https://modernmetanoia.org/2017/01/23/5th-sunday-after-epiphany-point-to-the-truth/>

- "A Good Friday," personal essay for Young Clergywomen International Magazine, Link: <https://youngclergywomen.org/a-good-friday/>

Rev. Chelsey D. Hillyer
Website: www.amateurefforts.com

- All content and blog posts at www.amateurefforts.com

Professional Experience

- **January 2020 – Present: Founder of Amateur Efforts Coaching, Consulting, and Facilitation**
 - Facilitate retreats for a variety of groups, including:
 - Center for Courage and Renewal’s [Flourishing in Ministry Project](#), a Lily Grant-funded project seeking to grow trustworthy relationships amongst religious leaders.
 - Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church’s Residency Program, teaching young leaders how to utilize both community and inner resources for resilience in ministry.
 - SLUMP—Speaking and facilitating youth, ages 13-18 about social activism as part of spiritual life.
 - Offer coaching and spiritual direction to progressive and post-denominational Christian leaders with a focus on building healthy communities that integrate social justice, ministry, and spirituality.
 - Offer consulting and speaking for small groups, faith communities, and denominational entities, including:
 - “Living Courageously” for Lincoln Street United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon, May 2021
 - “Called: Discerning the Voice of Vocation” for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, February 2021
 - “Cultivating a Collaborative Culture” for Missouri Annual Conference Right Start Meeting, Columbia, Missouri, May 2019
 - Create opportunities for progressive and post-denominational leaders to collaborate and grow, including:
 - Co-Founder of Nourish: An Emerging Leadership Collective
- **July 2017 – January 2018: Pastoral Excellence Fellow appointed as Pastor of Worship and Leadership, First UMC Jefferson City, Jefferson City, Missouri**
 - As the Pastoral Excellence Fellow, I was identified as a high-capacity young leader in the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
 - Interim Lead Pastor, during a 3-month period in which the Lead Pastor was on Sabbatical, I functioned as Interim Lead Pastor. I handled administrative leadership for the church, including direct work with our governing board, staff oversight, and maintaining my normal workload. Important tasks accomplished

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included coordinating a staff-wide job description update and approval, developing goals and messaging for congregation-wide stewardship campaign.

- **July 2015 – June 2017: Pastor, Union UMC, St. Louis, Missouri**
 - Solo pastor of an urban congregation. My main work in this context was to assist an aging congregation that had seen significant decline in discerning a faithful plan forward. Ultimately, the congregation voted to close, and so I walked with them through the year-long process of grieving, wondering, and trusting on their journey to discontinuing as a congregation. This involved significant pastoral work, as well as administrative skill, as we navigated the loss and work of selling the building and navigating denominational processes. At the same time, I lead the congregation continued to carry out our mission as a church focused on intersectional justice by partnering with the Black Lives Matter movement, supporting local unhoused populations, and advocating for LGBTQ+ rights.

- **May 2015: Student Professor for Theology of the Body, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri**
 - Following my graduation from Eden, I was hired by faculty member Rev. Dr. Damayanthi Niles to collaborate in the creation and teaching of a class on intersectional, incarnational theology, exploring how somatic knowledge impacts faith development. The intensive course included lessons involving art, drama, and Theater of the Oppressed, and encouraged students to become more attuned to how their embodied experiences nuanced their theological viewpoints, with special attention to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and place.

- **July 2013 – May 2014: Pastor, Open Hearts UMC, Wright City, Missouri**
 - As solo pastor of a rural congregation, I assisted this congregation in discerning the most faithful path for their future. In this context, it was to close the existing congregation and to become a satellite site for a larger UMC congregation nearby. This role required me to navigate denominational requirements, denominational politics, while caring for a grieving congregation to point them in a direction of hope.

- **May 2009 – February 2010: Director of Adult Ministries, Kirkwood UMC, Kirkwood, Missouri**
 - In this position, I recruited and trained facilitators to lead small group studies offered by a large local congregation. I also facilitated and lead groups with participants ranging in age from 3 years to 90 years. I researched and implemented curriculum and teaching strategies that would reach learners across various stages of faith and cognitive development.

- **February 2008 – May 2009: Counselor, Hope Clinic for Women, Granite City, Illinois**

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- Provided pre-abortion, options, contraceptive, and post-abortion counselling for women and support people considering and seeking abortion. In this position, I worked daily with women seeking abortion to provide clear information about abortion procedures, to help identify networks of support and coping strategies post-abortion, and to offer spiritual support, when appropriate. I completely redesigned our consent procedures, seeking to make the experience as clear to understand for individuals as possible.
- **January 2008 – May 2009: PRN Hotline Operator, Lifeline, St. Louis, Missouri**
 - I was responsible for answering a hotline dedicated to suicide assessment and crisis intervention counseling. I assisted numerous individuals who indicated suicidal ideation. I was responsible for supervising and training interns from area social work programs.
- **May 2007 – January 2008: Freelance Editor, Missouri Botanical Garden**
 - I worked as a copyeditor for a number of the Missouri Botanical Garden's academic publications, including the journal *Novon* and the major international effort *Flora of China*. My work required me to communicate regularly with international writers and scholars, assisting them with edits to present their work in an English-language publication for the first time.
- **August 2005 – May 2007 – Associate Editor, American Oil Chemist's Association, Urbana, Illinois**
 - I worked on the monthly production and publication of *Inform Magazine*, the membership publication for the international scientific non-profit AOCS. I wrote news, features, and departments, coordinating with our editorial board and international membership to ensure our topics were relevant and on-topic.
 - As a team member on a small non-profit staff, I also assisted in conference and special event coordination, research facilitation, and communications beyond the publishing department.

References happily provided upon request.