

*Senior Fellow*  
The Youth & Family Institute  
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### **SUMMARY**

Dick Hardel adds radical thinking to the basics of faithful ministry of passing on faith in Jesus Christ. He believes that innovation is part of everyday living in the promises of God. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, God has provided each of us with a new way of seeing the world. It is radical because the cross of Jesus Christ makes us new and different every day. We are called to live well in Christ and proclaim the Gospel.

Dick's strong theological and biblical training, passion for living the Gospel and passing on faith, creative thinking, and wonderful sense of humor make him a most sought after international speaker. His style is that "He brings you along a journey into his story and fills you with tears of laughter, tears of pain, and suddenly you find yourself encircled with the grace of God." He inspires, affirms, and challenges leadership in homes and congregation to make a difference for the sake of the Gospel. He is passionate about parish ministry.

### **TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

- 20 1/2 years as a parish pastor
- 3 1/3 years as Assistant to the Bishop, Nebraska Synod, ELCA
- 14 years in leadership at The Youth & Family Institute
- Organizational Development (University Associates)
- Team Building (University Associates)
- Congregational Coach (University Associates and KRW International)
- Leadership Development
- Christ Clown (Trained by older Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns)
- National Youth Gathering Planner/Facilitator
- Vision-to-Action Strategy
- Retreat Designer/Facilitator
- Family Systems

### **EDUCATION**

- B.A. from Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, IN (Major: Greek) 1966;
- M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (Focus in N.T. Exegesis) 1970;
- D. Min. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1985, receiving the Richard Rapp Award for Doctoral Studies.

### **BOOKS AND RESOURCES AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED**

- *Passing On The Faith: A RADICAL New Model for Youth and Family Ministry*, Merton P. Strommen and Richard A. Hardel (new edition 2008).
- *FaithTalk™ With Children*, Dick Hardel & Deb Stehlin
- *Blest Be The Pie That Binds* by Dick Hardel
- *It's For L.I.F.E!* (Congregational based Wellness manual) with Jennifer Mull
- *The Cross in the Sawdust Circle* by Dick Hardel
- *Welcome to the Sawdust Circle Part 1 and Part 2* by Dick Hardel
- *Tag, You're It!* by Dick Hardel, Herb Brokering, and Penne Sewall
- *It's For L.I.F.E!*, Manual and Video The Youth & Family Institute
- *Splashed With Promise, DVD* The Youth & Family Institute
- *The Child In Our Hands, Video* The Youth & Family Institute
- *A Breath of Fresh Air, DVD* The Youth & Family Institute
- Published over one hundred articles in church periodicals
- Written and facilitated over 400 retreats