



Rev. Dr. Paul G. Hill
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Passions and Trajectory:

I have spent 37 years studying and doing ministry in the area of youth and families, and outdoor ministries. Plus, I have led a number of non-profits during that time. My sense of call in this regard developed while working at Wilderness Canoe Base in my late teens. This call is deeply rooted in my conviction to further establish an ecclesiological paradigm committed to the development of lay leaders, as well as public ministers, dedicated to the evangelical task of passing on the faith to the emerging generations. This call has led to a wide and diverse career:

- Executive Director of Vibrant Faith Ministries, 2007 to present
- Adjunct faculty at Luther Seminary providing point leadership in the outdoor ministry concentration, 2005 to present
- Affiliated faculty on the Children, Youth and Family Ministry team of Luther Seminary, 2005-2007
- Developer and director of the Center for Youth Ministries of Wartburg Theological Seminary, 1994-2005
- Established the Youth and Family Ministry Certification School system for lay leaders: 1994 to present
- Developer of the Wartburg Seminary Youth Leadership School
- Camping Ministries
 - President of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Network, present
 - ACA certified camp director
 - Executive director, Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, WI 1981-1990
 - ABEE certified adventure facilitator
- Financial Development
 - Many annual funds, major gifts and grants up to \$2,000,000
- Pastoral Ministry
 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Denver, CO 1977-1980
 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA 1980-81
- Churchwide Youth Gathering Team Leader
 - Interaction center: 2000, 2003, 2006

General Background:

I started going to camp in 4th grade and have been hooked ever since. Coming through the ranks of Lutheran outdoor ministries I served as a swamper and guide at Wilderness Canoe Base (1967-1971) and remember the days before rip-stop nylon and dehydrated food. While working as a whitewater canoe guide and program director at Camp Chrysalis, Texas, I met my wife, Elaine, and we've been married 36 years. That is a testimony to her infinite patience. After serving in two parishes (Denver and Oakland) I became executive director of Lutherdale Bible Camp (Wisconsin 1981-90)). It was there I became an ACA certified camp director, and an ABEE certified adventure facilitator. I am currently the president of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (LOM) network.

I attended St. Olaf College during the Jurassic era majoring in psychology and Asian Studies. My M Div. is from Wartburg Seminary, and my doctoral degree is from Luther Seminary. As adjunct faculty (or my daughter would say "junk faculty") at Luther I co-designed and now lead the outdoor ministry concentration within the MA-CYF degree program.

I am co-author of *UP THE CREEK WITH A PADDLE: Effective Youth Ministry Practices*, *FROGS WITHOUT LEGS CAN'T HEAR: Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation*, and *COMING OF AGE: Exploring Identity and Spirituality in Younger Men*.

We have two grown children, Josh and Amber. And I am a proud grandfather of a 3-year old boy who is beyond very cool.

I enjoy anything that has to do with being outdoors especially biking, cutting and splitting wood, downhill skiing, snowshoeing and boating. In addition, I'm a disciplined exerciser enjoying weight training and racquetball. My reading interests include the usual academic fare in my field, with particular attention given to adolescent brain development. I love to read presidential biographies and will read anything and everything about Teddy Roosevelt.

Helping people live an authentic, available and affirming faith!

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Academic Background:

Bachelor of Arts, 1973, St. Olaf College: major-psychology, minor-Asian studies.

Master of Divinity, 1977, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry, 2004, Luther Theological Seminary:

Thesis: *The Excited Imaginations and Existential Struggles of Early Adolescent Males and the Missiological Implications for the Church.*

Additional Certifications:

Certified Camp Director, The American Camping Association

Certified Adventure Facilitator, Adventure Based Experiential Education, Inc

Certified Peer Ministry Basics, Youth and Family Institute

Certified Prepare and Enrich

Ministries:

1968-1971: Assistant guide and guide, Wilderness Canoe Base, BWCA, Minnesota

1974: Whitewater canoe guide, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Southwest, Kerrville, Texas

1975: Program director, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Southwest, Camp Chrysalis, Kerrville, Texas

1977-1980: Associate Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado.

1980-1981: Pastor of Outreach, Trinity Lutheran Church, Oakland, California

1981-1990: Executive Director of Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

1990-1994: Associate Director of Development at Wartburg Theological Seminary

1994-2005: Developer and director of the Center for Youth Ministries of Wartburg Seminary

2005-2007: Affiliated faculty in the Children, Youth and Family Ministry degree program

2007-present Executive Director of Vibrant Faith Ministries