

Taylor University

Pillars at Taylor University

White Papers

Academic Research

3-15-2020

2019 Year One Report

Hank Voss

Isaiah Swain

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pillars.taylor.edu/sr-whitepapers>

2020

Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry Project Year One Report

SRTM REPORT #3: THE SACRED ROOTS THRIVING IN MINISTRY PROJECT
MARCH 15, 2020
REV. DR. HANK VOSS



It has always therefore been one of my main endeavors as a teacher to persuade the young that firsthand knowledge is not only more worth acquiring than second-hand knowledge, but is usually much easier and more delightful to acquire. . . . It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones.

C. S. Lewis, 1944

You should read twenty-five percent of your books from the first 1,500 years of church history, twenty-five percent from the last 500 years, twenty-five percent from the last 100 years, and twenty-five percent from recent years.

Rick Warren, 2010

Hank Voss would like to thank his Taylor University Dean, Dr. Tom Jones; Department Chair, Dr. Greg MaGee, and Program Director, Dr. Mike Severe for support on the SRTM project. He would also like to acknowledge Rev. Bob Engel, Ms. Sue Gavin, Ms. Joy Brainer, Mr. Isaiah Swain, Mr. Lucas Hagan, Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper, Ms. Gillian Haenggi and Pastor Lezlie McCrory each made significant contributions to this report. Please send questions, comments, or corrections to Hank_Voss@taylor.edu.



This report dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sue Gavin. Dr. Gavin was Taylor University's Director of Sponsored Programs and an invaluable member of the Sacred Roots Team. Dr. Gaven passed away suddenly in December of 2019 and will be greatly missed.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
RELATIONSHIPS	7
Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) Core Teams	8
Conversations, Consultations, Conferences, and Cohorts	11
RESOURCES	20
Spiritual Classics.....	21
Future SRTM Series 1 Volumes.....	25
RESEARCH	26
Research Summary	27
Taylor Student Research.....	28
2018-2019 Research Presentations.....	30
2018-2019 Research Publications.....	32
REPORT APPENDIXES	33
Appendix 1: SRTM Core Values.....	34
Appendix 2: Project Timelines	35
Appendix 3: Organizational Charts	37
Appendix 4: SRTM Project Team Members	41
Appendix 5: SRTM Series 1 Proposed Spiritual Classics	42
Appendix 6: The Urban Ministry Satellite Statistics, April 2018.....	43
Appendix 7: SRTM Congregational Leader Profiles.....	44
Appendix 8: Participants.....	46
Appendix 9: Narrative Overview from 2018 Proposal.....	49

The Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) initiative was funded in October of 2018, and work began immediately. This report updates interested parties on the progress and plans which have been made from the project's funding through December 31, 2019.

The report summarizes the Sacred Roots project's progress in three areas with a number of additional items addressed in appendixes.

- 1) **Relationships.** This section reviews the five *Core Teams* and the more than eighty smaller teams which make up the Sacred Roots project. It reviews the relational strategy and tactics in use to accomplish the project's objectives including: *Conversations* (60), *Consultations* (6), *Conferences* (4), and *Cohorts* of Congregational Leaders (80-100).
- 2) **Resources.** This section reviews the resources being developed by the Sacred Roots project. The primary resource is the Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Collection. This collection consists of sixteen spiritual classics published in contemporary English. The Sacred Roots collection will be made available in print, in various electronic versions, and as an audio book. Electronic versions of the spiritual classics (text and audio) will be made available for free through Pillar (<https://pillars.taylor.edu/>).
- 3) **Research.** The report's final section reviews the progress made on research presentations and publications related to the Sacred Roots project. In 2019 there were three peer-reviewed journal articles published, sixteen professional presentations. One research book project was commissioned (T&T Press) and is due to be published in 2022. Some seventy-five academic faculty from thirty academic institutions or centers, one-hundred ministry practitioners from sixty-two congregations or ministries, and 153 undergraduate students from two CCCU universities (Taylor University and George Fox University) have participated in Sacred Roots research at some level during 2019.

Appendixes. The nine Appendixes include a number of details related to timelines, team members, and finances.

RELATIONSHIPS

The SRTM project has three core priorities: Relationships, Resources, and Research. With these three priorities, the SRTM Team equips under-resourced congregational leaders, develops relevant resources, and researches best practices and resources. The Relationships priority includes the various SRTM teams and four of the project’s five “C”s: Conversations, Consultations, Conferences and Cohorts.

Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) Core Teams

The SRTM project will succeed or fail based on the relationships, vision, and mission shared by its core team members. The project can best be understood as a partnership of five core teams working with a single mission toward a common vision supported and connected by at least eighty smaller teams. The five core teams are the Executive Team, the Leadership Team, the Editorial Team, the Conference and Cohort Team, and the Research Team.

1. Core Team #1: The Executive Team

The Executive Team consists of three members: the SRTM Director (Dr. Hank Voss), the SRTM Dean (Dr. Andrew Draper) and the Project Manager (Isaiah Swain). Executive members meet regularly to review vision, projects, and strategy.

2. Core Team #2: The Leadership Team



The five member SRTM Team meets twice a year. It can include members of the senior editor team as well as the Conference Convener for the upcoming year.

SRTM Role	Name	Institution	Department / Designation	Institutional Role	City	St.
Program Director and Executive Editor	Rev. Dr. Hank Voss	Taylor University	Christian Ministry	Assistant Professor	Muncie	IN
Dean, SRTM	Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper	Urban Light Community Church	Church of God, General Conference	Senior Pastor	Muncie	IN
Publisher	Rev. Dr. Don Davis	TUMI	World Impact	Founding Director	Wichita	KS
Senior Editor	Rev. Dr. Greg Peters	Biola University	Director of Faculty Advancement, Terry Honors Institute	Associate Professor, Theology	La Mirada	CA
Senior Editor	Dr. May Young	Taylor University	Biblical Studies	Assistant Professor	Muncie	IN
Lead Researcher	Dr. Jason Sexton	Cal State	Office of the Provost	Assistant Professor	Long Beach	CA
Project Manager	Mr. Isaiah Swain	Dillman Church	United Brethren	Youth Pastor	Upland	IN

3. Core Team #3: The Editorial Team

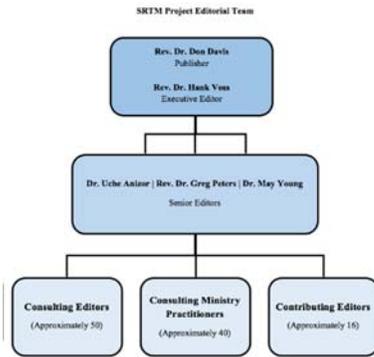


Figure 2: SRTM Editorial Team

The editorial teams consist of approximately eighty people including: 1) the Publisher and Executive Editor; 2) the three Senior Editors; 3) the Consulting Editors; 4) the Contributing Editors; and 5) the Consulting Ministry Practitioners.

4. Core Team #4: The Conference and Cohort Team

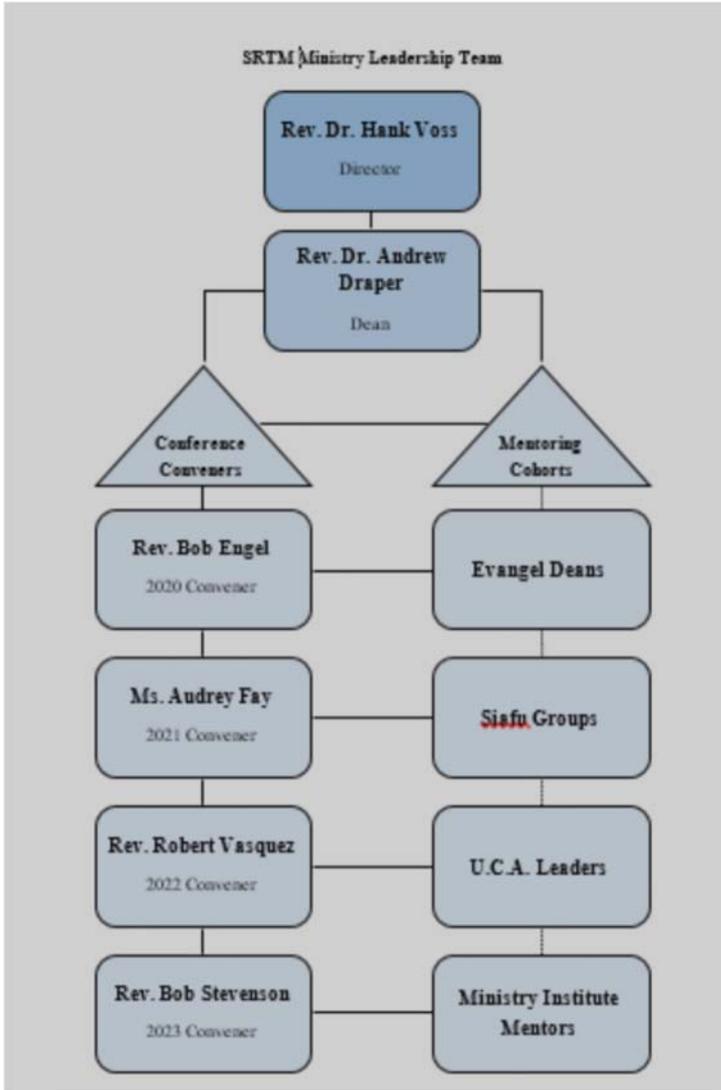


Figure 3: SRTM: Conference and Cohort Team

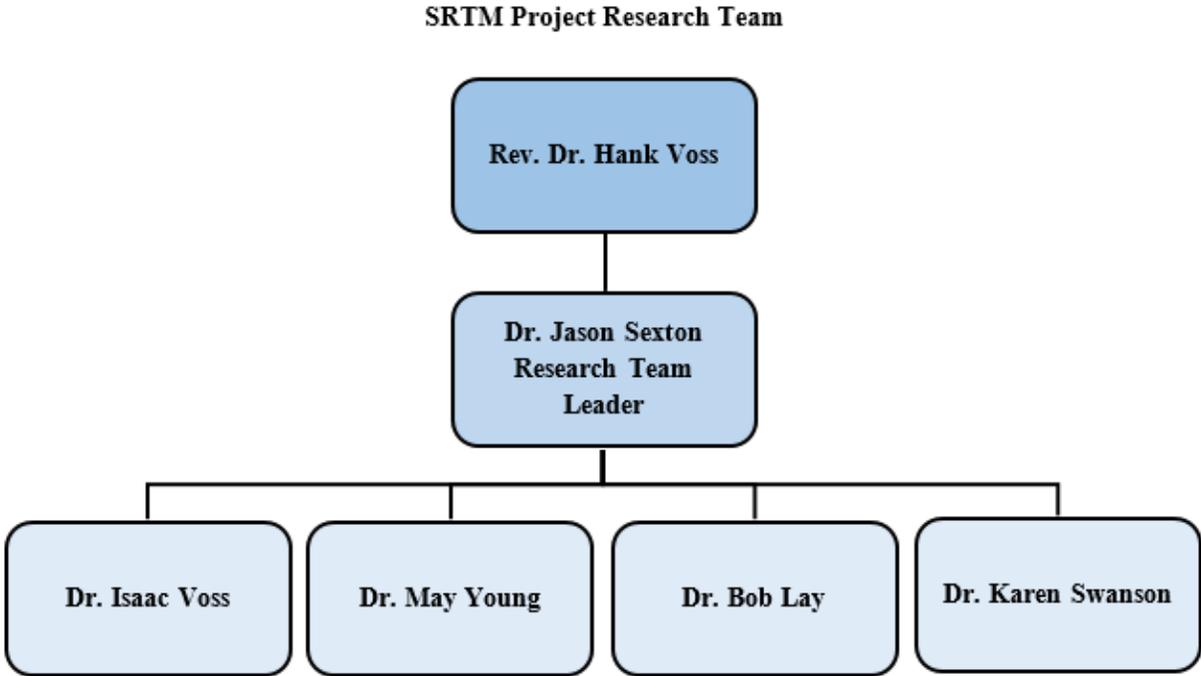
The Conference and Cohort Team is led by Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper in combination with a different Ministry Convener each year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023). The first Conference was scheduled to be held in Wichita, KS on June 1-3, 2020 (now postponed due to Corona Virus). The 2020 Conference will be convened by the Rev. Bob Engel and is especially focused on serving church planters working in under-resourced communities. Leaders will primarily be those associated with The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI). TUMI is a diverse ministry working with leaders from over fifty denominations and church associations who partner to reach under-resourced communities.

At the Evangel Gathering, twenty to thirty church-planter leaders will gather for training and resourcing. Each leader has identified a cohort of church planters who will be participating in the first year of the SRTM project. Each cohort will

include a veteran congregational leader who will serve as a facilitator and mentor for the cohort during their year of meetings to discuss the first four spiritual classics in SRTM Series 1.

Date	Location	Focus	Ministry Convener
June 2020	Wichita, KS Conference #1	Evangel Church Planting Movements and TUMI Network	Rev. Bob Engel
February 2021	Los Angeles, CA Conference #2	Prison Fellowship and TUMI Network	Ms. Audrey Fay
February 2022	TBA, Conference #3	Urban Church Associations (UCA) and TUMI Network	Rev. Robert Vasquez
February 2023	TBA, Conference #4	The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) and Satellite Network	Rev. Bob Stevenson

5. Core Team #5: The Research Team



The Research Team is responsible for the distribution and dissemination of research connected to the Sacred Roots project. This team distributes funding associated with project research and works with the Executive Team to ensure that research presentations and publications are being documented and collected in a central repository.

Conversations, Consultations, Conferences, and Cohorts

The SRTM Project uses a single relational strategy, the practice of friendship, to help congregational leaders thrive in challenging ministry contexts. Our strategy is applied practically through four tactical, relational, activities: Conversations, Consultations, Conferences, and Cohorts. Each tactic is defined briefly below.

“Conversations” include 2-10 people and generally range from 2-3 hours. Conversations were primarily being used during the 2019 planning year to gather information related to larger SRTM objectives. The Sacred Roots “Listening Tour” actually began in October of 2018 and continued through the end of 2019. By December of 2019, some 60 Conversations about the Sacred Roots project were held across the country.

“Consultations” generally involve 10-100 people and are eight hours or less in length. In 2019, six consultations were held: Amman, Jordan; Wichita, KS; Vancouver, Canada; Los Angeles, CA, San Diego, CA, and Muncie, IN.

“Conferences” include 50-1,000 people and generally run 24-48 hours in length. Conferences are aimed at regional or “bishop” type congregational leaders and equip participants to lead cohorts of congregational leaders within their *oikos* spheres of influence through a one-year Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics discussion group. Four conferences will be held, one in each of the following years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) with the first conference scheduled to take place in Wichita, KS June, 2020 (currently postponed due to Corona Virus).

“Cohorts” are regular meetings of congregational leaders over the course of at least one year. Cohorts are distinct from Conversations, Consultations, and Conferences in that while they are all one-time events, Cohorts meet regularly for a minimum of one year. Cohorts meet anywhere from four to twelve times during a year and generally consist of 3-12 congregational leaders with an experienced leader designated as the “mentor.” In 2019, SRTM began selecting and recruiting leaders for these cohorts. The leaders will receive initial training at a conference in partnership with their ministry network and ongoing support from SRTM teams.

Conversations

The first year of the SRTM project (2019) was set aside for planning and a listening tour. The Listening Tour was conducted through some sixty conversations and six consultations. Conversations were held in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, California, Colorado, and Kansas with representatives from a number of other states as well as nine countries (Singapore, Kenya, Vietnam, Philippines, Palestine, Ukraine, Canada, Jordan, and Croatia) joining in at one of those locations.



Left to Right: Jenny Collins, Dan Bowell (TU Faculty); Robert Roethemeyer (Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne Faculty), Lucas Hagen (TU Student), May Young (TU Faculty) and Isaiah Swain (TU Student) participated in a Sacred Roots Conversation on Aug. 13, 2019.

As part of this planning year, over sixty conversations with significant ministry or academic leaders were held around the country. See Appendix 8: Partial List of Conversation Participants for an overview of participants. Participants from the conversations and consultations represented over fifty congregations, thirty-one academic centers and institutions, and fifteen non-profit ministries or missions agencies.



Conversation with Rev. Cuco Moya, Rev. Rich Esselstrom, and Dr. Evan Howard in November of 2019 (San Diego).

Consultations

1. SRTM Consultation #1: Amman, Jordan (Jan 21, 2019)

In January 2019, Hank Voss traveled to Amman, Jordan to consult with the faculty of Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary. Ten faculty, including founding JETS President Dr. Imad Shehadeh, participated in the consultation.



Other participants included JETS Faculty Hanna Hattar, Eyad Oweis, Hudson Davis, Austin Surls, and Chris Dawson as well as JETS students, Jonathan Dionlar, Rami Jwainat, and Raed Haddad.

2. SRTM Consultation #2: Wichita, Kansas (Feb 14–16, 2019). The Evangel Gathering: Movements Collaborating for Revival and Radical Mission

On February 14th-16th, 2019, Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry project completed our second consultation in Wichita, Kansas. This consultation focused on church planters working among the poor. It was hosted by The Urban Ministry Institute of World Impact in Wichita, KS. Over fifty ministry practitioners participated in the gathering.



Breakout sessions at the Wichita Consultation



*Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper (Left)
and Rev. Bob Engel (Center)*



3. SRTM Consultation #3: Vancouver (July 30, 2019)



Isaiah Swain (Taylor University Undergraduate Student) in front of Regent College, Vancouver, Canada

The Vancouver Consultation was hosted by Dr. Jeff Greenman, President of Regent College. Participants include: Dr. Jim Houston; Dr. Jeff Greenman; Dr. Bruce Hindmarsh; Dr. Susan Phillips; Rr. Greg Peters; Dr. Hank Voss; Dr. Uche Anizor; Dr. Carmen Imes; Mr. Isaiah Swain, Rev. Ryan Carter (Wichita); Dr. Don Davis (Wichita); Pastor Lezlie McCrory (Muncie); Dr. May Young (Muncie); Dr. Andrew Draper (Muncie); Mr. Lucas Hagen (Muncie).

Core results of the Vancouver consultation included developing new friendships and deepening old ones, learning from the wisdom of Regent team members in working with spiritual classics (esp. *Classics of Faith and Devotion* series), and receiving critical feedback on Series 1 Spiritual Classic selections.



From Left to Right: Hank Voss, Greg Peters, Jim Houston, Uche Anizor and Carmen Imes. Dr. Jim Houston was in a small group with C.S. Lewis for six years as an Oxford Don. Houston later founded Regent College where he eventually served as North America's first Protestant professor of Spiritual Theology.

SRTM Consultation #4: Los Angeles (Aug 3, 2019)

The Los Angeles Consultation was hosted by Rev. Robert Vasquez, Regional Director of Ministry, World Impact. The consultation took place at the August gathering of The Los Angeles Urban Church Association. Over twenty congregational leaders and church planters took part in the consultation. The primary aim was to discuss the value and uses of the spiritual classics for leaders working among the poor.



Above. Members of the Los Angeles Urban Church Association enjoy breakfast during Sacred Roots Consultation.

Left. Rev. Robert Vasquez ensured that healthy breakfast options were available (pictured on right)

Right. Dr. Hank Voss shares vision for SRTM project and leads discussion on the role of spiritual classics in Urban Ministry.



4. SRTM Consultation #5: San Diego (Nov. 21, 2019)

The San Diego consultation was hosted by Hank Voss during the 2019 Evangelical Theological Society annual conference. Twenty-eight scholars and congregational leaders were present and participated in a conversation about the SRTM project. As a result of this consultation, six new potential consulting editors, four contributing editors, and three cohort hosts were identified.



Top. Photos of San Diego Consultation presentations and discussion.

Bottom. Dr. Bob Lay (The Urban Ministry Institute of Los Angeles), Lucas Hagen, Isaiah Swain, and Clay Wright in San Diego for SRTM presentations and leadership meetings (Taylor University Undergraduate Christian Ministry Majors).

5. SRTM Consultation #6: Muncie, IN (Dec. 7, 2019)



The Muncie consultation was held at Destiny Christian Center on Saturday, December 7th, 2019. SRTM hosted pastors and church leaders from around Indiana with consultation presenters coming from Los Angeles (Rev. Enrique Santis), Dallas Rev. Dr. Kwesi Kamau), and Oakland (Rev. Bernard Emerson).

Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper planned the event and Rev. Dr. Hank Voss presented at the event. We listened to one another over meals, received training from our partners in TUMI, expanded the vision of theological education across the Midwest, planned for theological education in Muncie, presented on the Sacred Roots project, connected ministers in under-resourced contexts to resources from the Great Tradition, and pitched the vision for the spiritual classics we are compiling.

Above. Rev. Bernard Emerson shares about the importance of Leadership Development among congregations serving the urban poor at the Muncie SRTM Consultation on Dec. 7, 2019.

Right. Rev. Enrique Santis explains to consultation participants how his church in Los Angeles has prepared leaders through a church based seminary approach.



Conferences and Cohorts

The Conference and Cohort Team is led by Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper in combination with a different Ministry Leader each year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023). The first Conference is scheduled to be held in Wichita, KS on June 1-3, 2020. The 2020 Conference will be convened by the Rev. Bob Engel and is especially focused on serving leaders of church planting movements working in under-resourced communities.¹ Leaders will primarily be those associated with the TUMI Network. TUMI is diverse with leaders from many denominations and church associations partnering to reach under-resourced communities.



Figure 4: Rev. Dr. Don Davis in 2019 Workshop



By the end of the Evangel Gathering, at least twenty church-planter cohorts will be identified to participate in the first year of the SRTM project. Each cohort will include a veteran congregational leader who will serve as a facilitator and mentor for the cohort during their year of meetings to discuss the first four spiritual classics in SRTM Series 1.

¹ David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements: How God Is Redeeming a Lost World* (Midlothian, VA: WIGTake, 2004).

RESOURCES

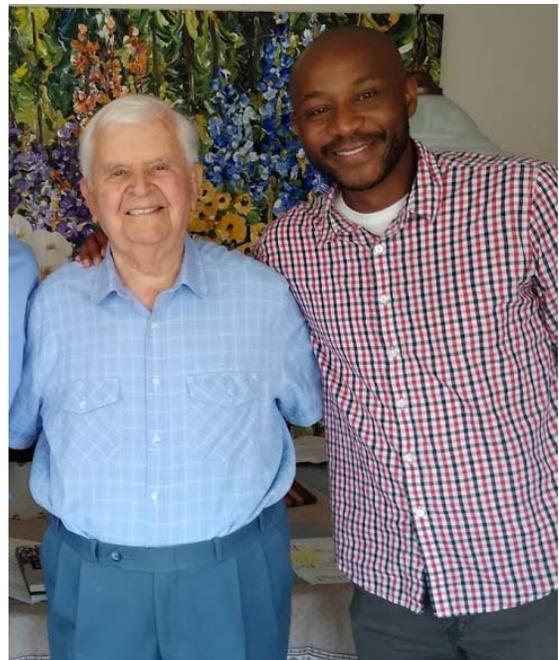
This section highlights the resources the Sacred Roots project is producing for under-resourced congregational leaders. Resources represent the second strategic emphasis of the project. The emphasis on resources recognizes the reality of perennial pastoral problems and the significance of providing the right resources to congregational leaders serving in under-resourced communities.

Spiritual Classics

“*Classics*” refer to sacred texts which have proven valuable to congregational leaders across both centuries and cultures. More specifically, they refer to the sixteen spiritual classics in *Series 1* of the *Sacred Roots Collection* published by Taylor University Press and TUMI Press (2020–2023).

The Sacred Roots 2019 Vancouver Consultation centered on a conversation with Dr. James Houston on the role spiritual classics can play in equipping evangelical church leaders for faithful and fruitful ministry.² Dr. Houston’s influence on North American evangelicalism is sometimes overlooked, but the ninety-six year old geographer of the soul has played a major role in calling evangelical practical theology to an emphasis on “the cure of souls” that takes advantage of wisdom from the church’s past.

Over fifty years ago, in 1969, Dr. Houston left his position as a faculty member at Oxford University to help found Regent College where he served as the college’s first Principal, recruiting faculty like J.I. Packer and Eugene Peterson, as well as serving as the first Protestant Professor of Spiritual Theology in North America.³



*Dr. Houston (retired) and
Dr. Anizor (SRTM Senior Editor)
at the August 2019 Vancouver
Consultation*

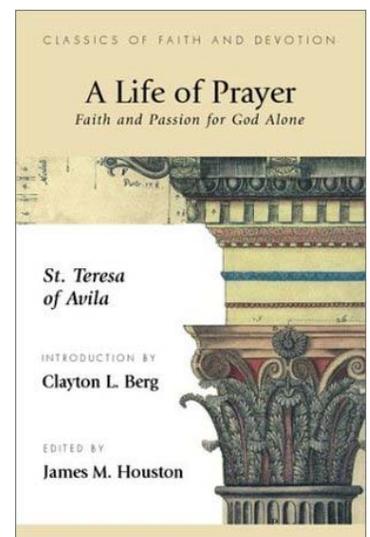
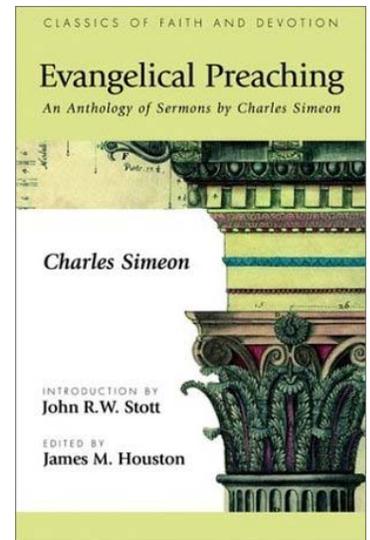
² Portions of the following section are adapted from, Hank Voss, “Retrieval Theology, Spiritual Classics, and the Cure of Evangelical Souls,” *Didaktikos: Journal of Theological Education*, Spring 2020.

³ Personal conversation with James Houston. For the story of his recruiting of Dr. Packer, see Alister McGrath, *J.I. Packer: A Biography* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997), 232.

Of special interest to evangelical theological educators is Houston's personal friendships with both C. S. Lewis (with whom he was in a faculty small group for over five years) and A. W. Tozer. Lewis and Tozer, both of whom died in 1963, are well known for their emphasis on reading spiritual classics. Lewis endorsed some thirty spiritual classics which he cited over 1,800 times in his published writings and personal letters.⁴ Lewis' advice to serious Christians was that "it is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between."⁵

A. W. Tozer grew up in a very different setting than the Irish Lewis, but shared with him a deep love for the church's spiritual classics. Tozer never had the opportunity to graduate from high school or attend any formal theological training, but he loved Scripture and had a deep hunger to know God. When asked where he had learned and nurtured this deep love, Tozer pointed to thirty-five teachers. These "teachers" were thirty-five spiritual classics that had shaped his life and ministry.⁶ Spiritual classics like Brother Lawrence's *Practicing the Presence of God*, Thomas a Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, Augustine's *Confessions*, Bernard of Clairvaux's *On the Love of God*, and Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* are among the texts that made both recommended reading lists.

Like his friends Lewis and Tozer, Dr. Houston has found transformational resources in the church's spiritual classics—resources that can serve as antidotes to many contemporary diseases of the soul. In the 1980's and early 1990's Houston edited and introduced a collection of ten spiritual classics in a series entitled *Classics of Faith and Devotion*.⁷ Dr. Houston's series is one



⁴ Isaiah Swain and Hank Voss, "Lewis and His Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders" (Paper Presented at the Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN, September 20, 2019).

⁵ Lewis, "On the Reading of Old Books," 201-202.

⁶ I first learned of these spiritual classics through a conversation with Bruce Demarest in 2003. The list of spiritual classics can be found in David J. Fant, *A. W. Tozer: A Twentieth-Century Prophet* (Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1964), Addendum.

⁷ See for example, Bernard of Clairvaux, *The Love of God and Spiritual Friendship*, ed. James M. Houston, Abridged edition (Portland, Or: Multnomah Pub, 1983). A number of these volumes have been reprinted; see, for example, Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor: A Pattern for Personal Growth and Ministry*, ed. James Houston (Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2001).

of the primary models for the spiritual classic resources being provided through the Sacred Roots project.

Retrieval Theology and the Renewal of the Evangelical Church

Together, Drs. Houston, Lewis, and Tozer could be considered evangelical practitioners of a form of retrieval theology. Retrieval theology is “a mode or style of theological discernment that looks back in order to move forward.”⁸ During the last fifty years, various forms of retrieval have been advocated for by evangelical theologians like Tom Oden (early church, reformation church, African church), Robert Webber (early church), J.I. Packer (Puritans), John Webster (medieval), Christopher Hall (early church), Andrew McGowan (early church), D. H. Williams (early church, Puritans), Don Davis (early church), Greg Peters (medieval) and many others.

In addition to James Houston’s Regent College, schools like Asbury Seminary, Denver Seminary, Wheaton College, Biola University, and Eastern College have all started programs of study for those interested in recovering the wisdom of the past for the challenges facing the church’s future.⁹ Resources to aid the church’s work of ministry, mission, theology, worship, engagement with Scripture, and soul care are being rediscovered in long forgotten places.¹⁰

Using Spiritual Classics as Resources for Biblical Studies, Theology, Christian Ministry, Global Mission

The North American church faces significant challenges as we move into the third decade of the new millennium. Spiritual classics are a resource to equip congregational leaders with the many riches of wisdom in the church’s treasury. Some years ago, Pastor Rick Warren challenged a group of young leaders to engage spiritual classics: “You should read 25 percent of your books from the first 1,500 years of church history, 25 percent from the last 500 years, 25 percent from

⁸W. David Buschart and Kend D. Eilers, *Theology as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), p. 12.

⁹A helpful volume with representatives from a number of these schools is Jamin Goggin and Kyle Strobel, eds., *Reading the Christian Spiritual Classics: A Guide for Evangelicals* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2013).

¹⁰See the helpful map of how fields like ministry, theology, missiology, and biblical studies have made use of retrieval theology in Buschart and Eilers, *Theology as Retrieval*.

the last 100 years, and 25 percent from recent years.”¹¹ The Sacred Roots project provides a practical way to accept Pastor Warren’s charge. Spiritual classics are being selected from the Sacred Roots Master List. This list currently contains some 1,600 spiritual classics and was compiled from some forty five collections of spiritual classics.¹² The Sacred Roots Top 100 List lists the top twenty-five spiritual classics for leaders working among the poor in four subject areas (BS, TE, CM, GM).

1. **Biblical Studies (BS).** This subject area includes spiritual classics with a special focus on helping leaders engage with the triune God as they read Scripture.
2. **Theology and Ethics (TE).** This subject area includes texts that especially help leaders understand who the triune God is and how they can better come to know him.
3. **Christian Ministry (CM).** This subject area includes texts that especially help leaders better understand the care, diagnosis, and cure of souls as practiced by some of the wisest doctors of the church.
4. **Global Mission (GM).** This subject area includes texts that equip leaders to understand the need, the models, the message, the challenges, the commitment, and the joys of participating in the Holy Spirit’s missionary work in the world.

The current schedule for all sixteen volumes of SRTM series are laid out in the table below.

SRTM Series 1 Target Publication Dates				
	Biblical Studies	Theology and Ethics	Christian Ministry	Mission and Evangelism
2020	Vol. 1	Vol. 2	Vol. 3	Vol. 4
2021	Vol. 5	Vol. 6	Vol. 7	Vol. 8
2022	Vol. 9	Vol. 10	Vol. 11	Vol. 12
2023	Vol. 13	Vol. 14	Vol. 15	Vol. 16

¹¹Sarah Pulliam Bailey, “John Piper v. Rick Warren Postponed,” *Christianity Today* (blog), October 4, 2010, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/octoberweb-only/50.13.0.html>. Retrieved October 11, 2010.

¹² Hank Voss and Lucas Hagen, “Forty-Five Lists, Anthologies and Collections of Christian Spiritual Classics: Their Breadth and Purpose,” SRTM Whitepaper #1 (Upland, IN: Taylor University, September 2019).

Senior Editorial Team

The 2018 proposal has been adapted. The Editor-in-Chief role has been split into three positions, namely Publisher (Dr. Don Davis); Executive Editor (Dr. Hank Voss), and Technical Editor (Rev. Ryan Carter). Dr. Uche Anizor will replace Hank Voss as one of the three Senior Editors, allowing Voss to move to the role of Executive Editor. The current plan is to identify and recruit the remaining twelve Contributing Editors by the end of 2020. See Appendix 5 for a list of potential forthcoming SR volumes.

SRTM Spiritual Classics in Series 1

Collections of Spiritual Classics abound, although few are specifically designed to serve the needs of the global poor. Over forty five curated groupings of spiritual classics have been reviewed in preparation for the selection of the SRTM volumes. More than 1,600 spiritual classics from within the Judeo-Christian tradition have been evaluated, but only the first four volumes have been finalized. The first four volumes are scheduled to be available via Amazon by June 1, 2020.

Subject Area	Vol. #	Title	Contributing Editor
Biblical Studies	Vol. 1	<i>Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends</i>	Dr. Carmen Imes
Theology and Ethics	Vol. 2	<i>Becoming a Community of Disciples: Guidelines from Abbot Benedict and Bishop Basil</i>	Dr. Greg Peters
Christian Ministry	Vol. 3	<i>Spiritual Friendship: Learning How to Be Friends with God and One Another</i>	Dr. Hank Voss
Global Mission	Vol. 4	<i>Christian Mission and the Poor: Wisdom from 2,000 Years of Church History</i>	Dr. Andrew Draper

Research Summary

The Research Team was formed during the Spring of 2018. While there had been an extensive amount of work done by research team leader Dr. Jason Sexton and Project Director Dr. Hank Voss, the first meeting of the whole team was not held until April 2, 2019. All members of the team were present (Drs. Sexton, Swanson, Young, Lay, I. Voss, and H. Voss). A second meeting of the research leadership team was held in San Diego (Nov. 21, 2019).

	Proposed	Approved	Complete/ Published	Notes
Presentations	16	16	16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Davis (Dec. 7, 2018) 2. Voss (Jan 21, 2019) 3. Estey and Voss (April 26, 2019) 4. Hagen, Juraschek, and Voss (April 26, 2019) 5. Swain and Voss (April 26, 2019) 6. Houston (July 30, 2019) 7. Voss (July 30, 2019) 8. Voss (Aug 3, 2019) 9. Voss (Aug. 13, 2019) 10. Swain (Sept. 20, 2019) 11. Imes (Nov. 22, 2019) 12. Peters (Nov. 22, 2019) 13. Voss (Nov. 22, 2019) 14. Hagen (Nov 23, 2019) 15. Swain (Nov 23, 2019) 16. Voss (Dec. 7, 2019)
Popular Media	0	0	3	The News Times, Insights into Religion, The Echo
Peer Reviewed Articles	3	3	3	Published.
Books	1	1	0	Anizor/Voss, T&T (Feb, 2019 contract signed)
Totals	20	20	22	

Purpose

To provide students with the opportunity to synthesize advanced Christian ministry concepts and skills as they conduct research on spiritual classics that have proven transformational in the lives of congregational leaders across cultures and centuries. Students also learn to identify perennial pastoral problems—those which every pastor in every culture and across all centuries have faced or are facing in the present. Select students travel to professional conferences and training events. They interact with ministry leaders serving in under-resourced communities and leading academic researchers. Students gain real world experience in grant writing, conference planning, writing and presenting research, and the use of spiritual classics as discipleship and leadership development tools for leaders in diverse ministries.

Spring 2019

Seven Taylor University students completed research with Dr. Hank Voss during the Spring 2019 semester: Lucas Hagen, Isaiah Swain, Morgan Benson, Trayvon Estey, Clay Wright, Mary Hawthorne, and Bailey Spiegel. Three Students and one graduate presented research at the 2019 Taylor University Celebration of Scholarship.



Clay Wright (TU Undergraduate Christian Ministry Major) and Dan Howell (Taylor University Librarian) celebrate after discovering a digital copy of a 300 year-old manuscript online.

Summer 2019

Three students conducted research for SRTM during the Summer of 2019. Isaiah Swain (Christian Ministry, Full Time), Lucas Hagen (Christian Ministry, Full Time), and Bailey Spiegel (Art, Part Time).



Taylor undergraduate student Isaiah Swain presents research at the Center for C.S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN.

Fall 2019

Eight Taylor University students completed research with Dr. Hank Voss during the Fall 2019 semester: Gillian Haenggi, Lucas Hagan, Isaiah Swain, Caleb Moser, Clay Wright, Nathan Peters, Mary Hawthorne, and Cheyenne King.



Upper left. Taylor University Christian Ministry students after presenting research during Spring of 2019. **Lower left.** Christian Ministry major Ben Robinson looks up from work in the Christian Ministry Research Center. **Upper right.** Dean Tom Jones provided a suite of rooms for the Sacred Roots team to work starting Fall of 2019—visit the research center in Reade 121. **Lower right.** Taylor undergraduate Christian Ministries major Cheyenne King researched letters of friendship in the spiritual classics genre.



Taylor University Student Involvement	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Fall 2019
Directed Research	7	3	9
Class Engagement with SRTM Project	0	0	1 class (14 students)
Students Participating in One Time SRTM Research Event	50		70
Term Totals	57	3	93
2019 Total*		153	
<i>*some students participated in two or more terms</i>			

Presentations Completed (December 2018–December 2019)

Davis, Don. “Barriers and Solutions for Indigenous Leadership Development: An Outline for Equipping a New Generation for Dynamic Mission Among the Poor.” Paper presented to the Sacred Roots Executive Team presented at the SRTM Executive Team Organizing Conference, Wichita, KS, December 8, 2018.

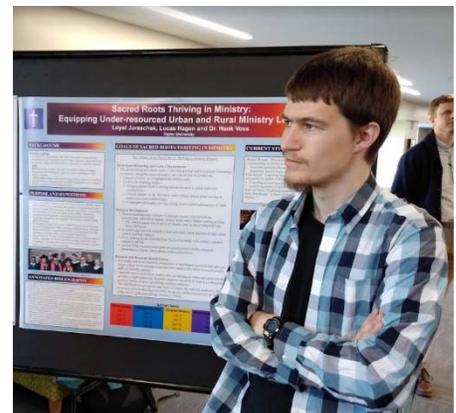
Estey, Trayvon, and Hank Voss. “Love and Friendship in Ambrose, Augustine, and Aelred.” Poster Presentation presented at the Taylor University Celebration of Scholarship, Upland, IN, April 26, 2019.



Hagen, Lucas. “Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry: Forty-Five Collections of Spiritual Classics.” Whitepaper and Poster Presentation presented at the Sacred Roots Senior Scholars Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2019.

Houston, James. ““Origins of ‘the Classics’”.” Presentation presented at the Regent College Consultation, Vancouver, CA, July 30, 2019.

Imes, Carmen. “Praying the Psalms with Augustine and the Poor.” Presentation presented at the Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA, November 22, 2019.



Juraschek, Loyel, Lucas Hagen, and Hank Voss. “Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry: Equipping Under-Resourced Urban and Rural Ministry Leaders.” Poster Presentation presented at the Taylor University Celebration of Scholarship, Upland, IN, April 26, 2019.

Peters, Greg. “Becoming a Community of Disciples: Guidance from Benedict and Basil.” Presentation presented at the Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA, November 22, 2019.



Swain, Isaiah. “C. S. Lewis and His Thirty Spiritual Classics: Four Lessons for Congregational Leaders.” Paper Presented at the Sacred Roots Senior

Scholars Meeting presented at the Sacred Roots Senior Scholars Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2019.

———. “Lewis and His Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders.” Paper Presented at the Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends presented at the Center for the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN, September 20, 2019.

Swain, Isaiah, and Hank Voss. “Calvin and the Spiritual Classics: Lessons for Congregational Leaders.” Poster Presentation presented at the Taylor University Celebration of Scholarship, Upland, IN, April 26, 2019.

Voss, Hank. “Poor Pastors with Rich Friends: Retrieving the Great Tradition’s Wealth to Serve the Poor.” Presentation presented at the Muncie Theology Institute Consultation, Muncie, IN, December 7, 2019.

———. “Spiritual Friendship in the Works of Ambrose, Augustine, and Aelred: Retrieving the Wealth of the Great Tradition in Service to the Evangelical Poor.” Presentation presented at the Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA, November 22, 2019.

———. “Ten Thousand Tozers: Spiritual Formation with Spiritual Classics among the Urban Poor.” Presentation presented at the Regent College SRTM Consultation, Vancouver, Canada, July 30, 2019.

———. “‘The UCA Can Change the USA’: Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Soul of Urban Church Planters.” Presentation presented at the Los Angeles Urban Church Association, Los Angeles, CA, August 3, 2019.

———. “The Use of Spiritual Classics as a Resource for the Ongoing Formation of Congregational Leaders with Special Reference to the Middle East.” Paper presented to the Faculty of The Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary presented at the JETS Faculty Training, Amman, Jordan, January 21, 2019.

———. “Toward Ten Thousand Tozers: Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Souls of Congregational Leaders.” Presentation presented at the Concordia Theological Seminary Sacred Roots Conversation, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, August 13, 2019.

Articles in Popular Media

No popular articles have been published using research funding. However, at least two articles about the SRTM project have appeared in media outlets.

Garringer, Jim. “Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant Establishes Sacred Roots Program at Taylor University.” *The News Times*. December 12, 2018.
http://www.hartfordcitynewstimes.com/news/lilly-endowment-inc-grant-establishes-sacred-roots-program-at-taylor/article_d9c83df8-fd4e-11e8-a954-c714e8bd61a6.html.

“Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) Project Gets Lilly Funding.” *Insights into Religion*, April 27, 2019. <http://www.religioninsights.org/news/sacred-roots-thriving-ministry-srtm-project-gets-lilly-funding.html>.

Tiemens, Ellie. “TU Professor Puts Dreams in Motion with Religious Grant.” *The Echo*. Nov. 27, 2018. Print Edition. <https://www.theecho.com/article/2018/11/tu-professor-puts-dreams-motion-religious-grant>.

Peer Reviewed Articles

Sexton, Jason. “Experiencing Justice from the Inside Out: Theological Considerations about the Church’s Role in Justice, Healing, and Forgiveness.” *Religions* 10, no. 2 (2019): 1–14.

———. “Redeemed on the Inside: Radical Accounts of Ecclesia Incarcerate.” *Ecclesial Practices: Journal of Ecclesiology and Ethnography* 5, no. 2 (December 2018): 172–90.

Voss, Hank. “Retrieval Theology, Spiritual Classics, and the Cure of Souls.” *Didaktikos: Journal of Theological Education*, February 2020, 10–11.

Research Books

Drs. Anizor and Voss have secured a contract as editors for the first research book related to the Sacred Roots project. The book is tentatively titled the *T&T Clark Reader in Global Evangelical Theology*. The contract is with T&T Clark (London) and the book is tentatively scheduled to be published in 2022.

REPORT APPENDIXES

Appendix 1: SRTM Core Values

The Sacred Roots project has adopted the core values of The Urban Ministry Institute. These values are listed below and more information on them can be found at <https://www.tumi.org/about-us/our-core-values>.

1. **Calling of God.** We do all we do fully assured that God is at this very moment calling, gifting, and anointing men and women in the city to represent his interests there, and are convinced that these chosen city leaders will be the vessels through whom he advances his Kingdom.
2. **The Centrality of the Church.** We hold deeply the conviction that effective ministry takes place in the Body of Christ, the agent of the Kingdom, where we facilitate the multiplication of healthy, reproducing urban churches, especially among the poor.
3. **God's Election of the Humble.** We possess a certitude that God has chosen those who are poor in the eyes of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him (James 2:5).
4. **The Kingdom of God.** We are burdened to see the freedom, wholeness, and justice of the Kingdom of God embodied, celebrated, and proclaimed in church communities who show visibly what the "Rule of God" looks like when it is embraced by people who acknowledge Christ's lordship.
5. **The Power of Community.** We share a passion to employ innovative distance education programming to create and outfit a network of training centers in urban areas that provide excellent, affordable, and spiritually dynamic ministry education that is sensitive to urban culture.
6. **The Standard of Excellence.** We are held by the consuming belief that all effective, credible leadership development demands the requisite formality and rigor of disciplined excellence, with a flat refusal to be remedial or second-class.
7. **The Explosiveness of Multiplication.** We are zealous to facilitate and empower urban church planting movements that share a common spirituality, express freedom in cultural expression, and strategically combine their resources to reach and transform the cities of America and the world.

Appendix 2: 2018 Proposal Project Timelines

Proposal Simplified Timeline

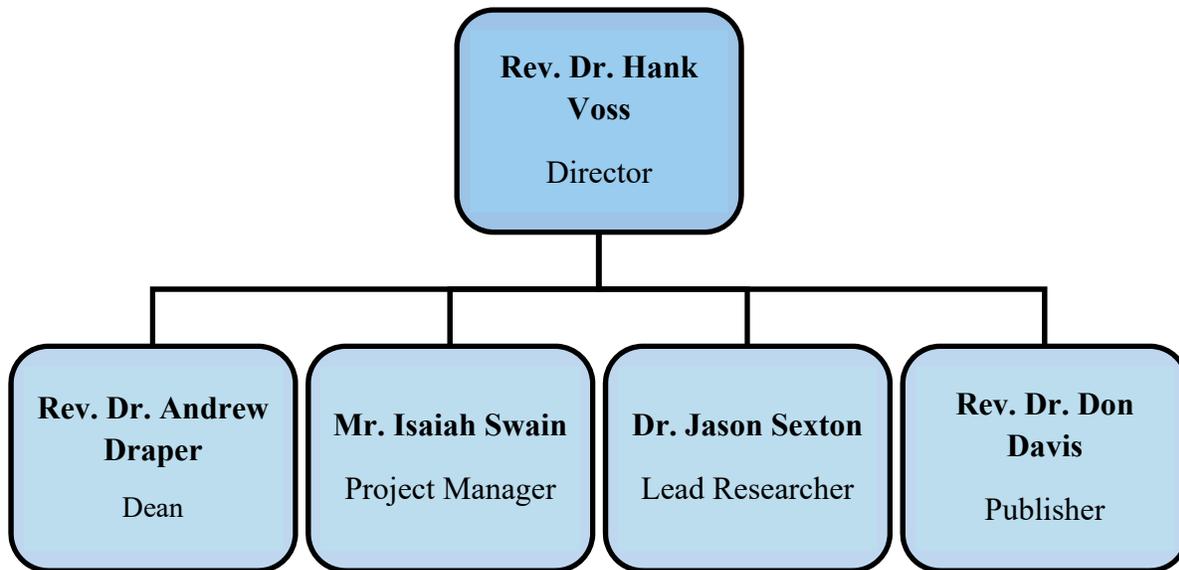
Date	Event	Location/Organization	Convener
May 2019	Consultation #1	Midwest	Dr. Hank Voss
June 2019	Consultation #2	Midwest	Dr. Hank Voss
July 2019	Consultation #3	Pacific Northwest	Dr. Hank Voss
August 2019	Consultation #4	Southern California	Dr. Hank Voss
June 2020	Conference #1	Evangel Network	Rev. Bob Engel
February 2021	Conference #2	Prison Fellowship Network	Ms. Audrey Fay
February 2022	Conference #3	Urban Church Association	Rev. Robert Vasquez
February 2023	Conference #4	TUMI Network	Rev. Bob Stevenson

Proposal Detailed Timeline

Planning Phase		
Phase #	Date	Event
1	November 2018	SRTM Project Leadership Planning Retreat
2	May 2019	Consultation #1
3	June 2019	Consultation #2
4	July 2019	Consultation #3
5	August 2019	Consultation #4
6	30 Oct 2019	2020 Research Proposal Deadline
7	November 2019	Research Team Meets
8	<u>November 2019</u>	<u>Executive Team Meets</u>
9	1 Dec 2019	2020 Research Winners Notified
Programming and Research Phase		
10	February 2020	Conference #1
11	30 Oct 2020	2021 Research Proposal Deadline
12	November 2020	Research Lead Team Meets
13	<u>November 2020</u>	<u>Project Team Meets</u>
14	1 Dec 2020	2021 Research Winners Notified
15	February 2021	Conference #2
16	30 Oct 2021	2022 Research Proposal Deadline
17	November 2021	Research Lead Team Meets
18	<u>November 2021</u>	<u>Project Team Meets</u>
19	1 Dec 2021	2022 Research Winners Notified
20	February 2022	Conference #3

21	30 Oct 2022	2023 Research Proposal Deadline
22	November 2022	Research Lead Team Meets
23	<u>November 2022</u>	<u>Project Team Meets</u>
24	1 Dec 2022	2023 Research Winners Notified
25	February 2023	Conference #4
26	30 Oct 2023	2024 Research Proposal Deadline
27	November 2023	Research Lead Team Meets
28	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>Project Team Meets</u>
29	1 Dec 2023	2024 Research Winners Notified
<u>30</u>	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>Project Team Meets-Evaluation</u>

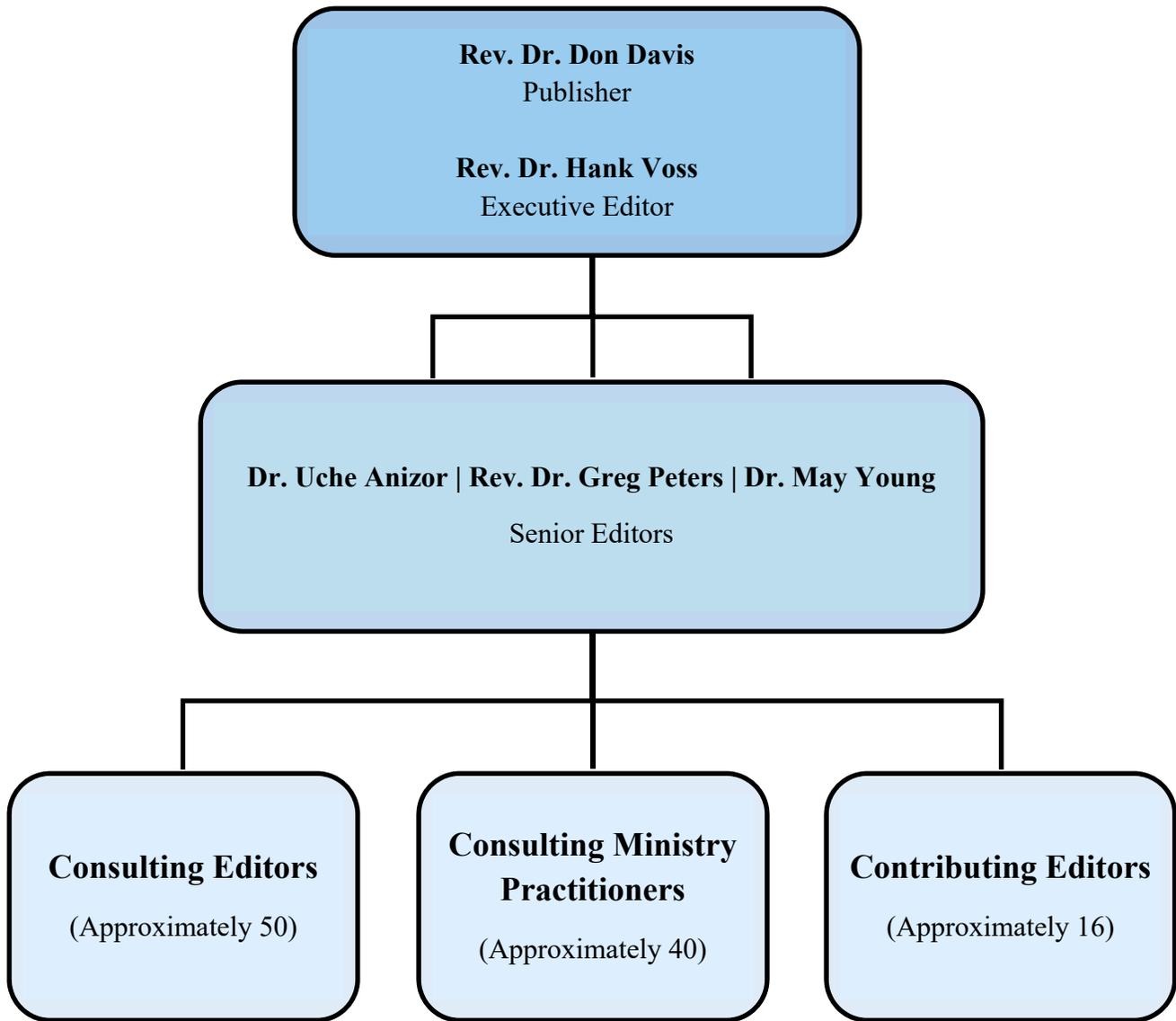
SRTM Project Executive Leadership



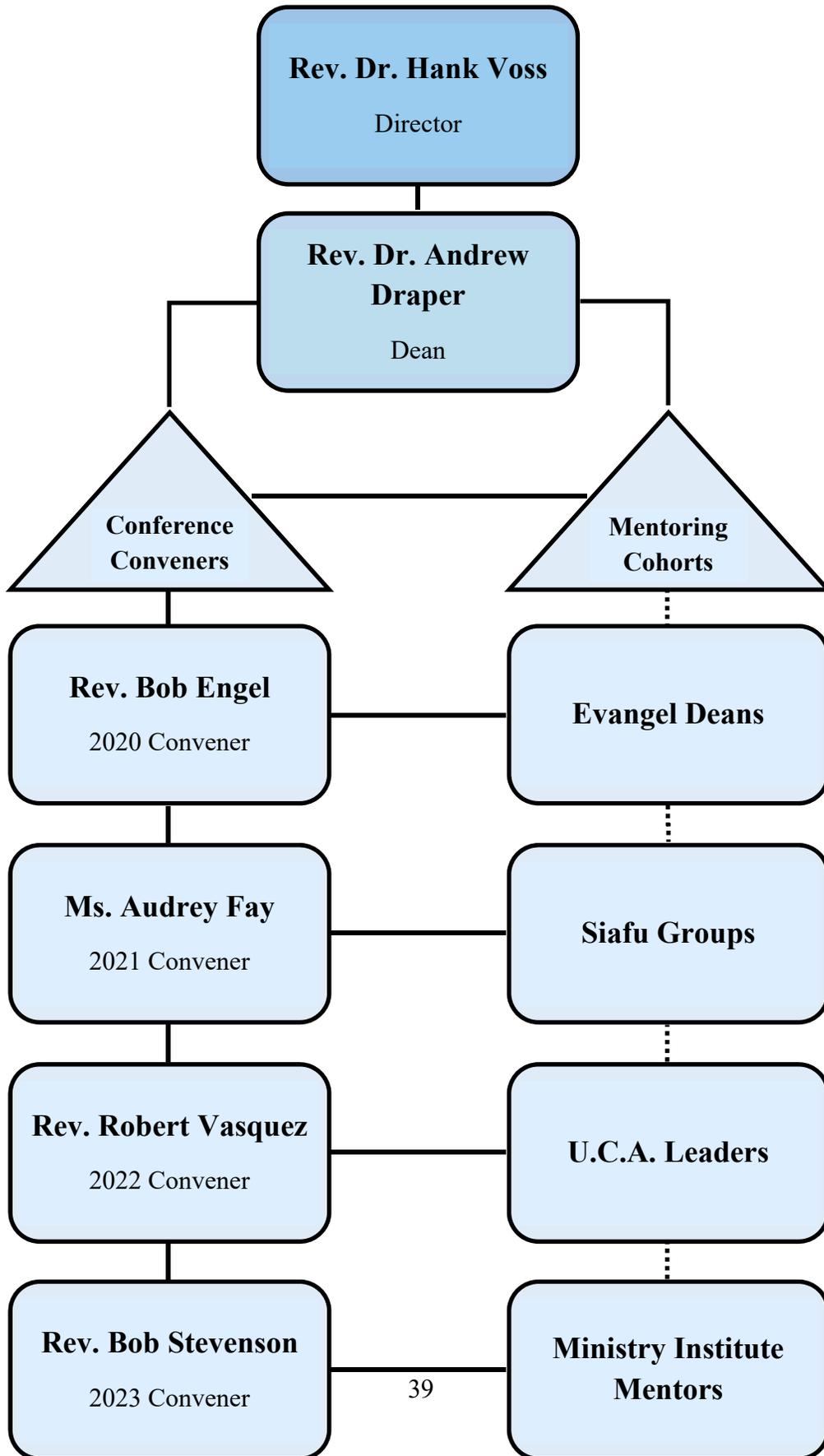
SRTM Executive Team

SRTM Role	Name	Institution	Department / Denomination	Institutional Role	City	St.
Program Director and Executive Editor	Rev. Dr. Hank Voss	Taylor University	Christian Ministry	Assistant Professor	Muncie	IN
Dean, SRTM	Rev. Dr. Andrew Draper	Urban Light Community Church	Church of God, General Conference	Senior Pastor	Muncie	IN
Publisher	Rev. Dr. Don Davis	TUMI	World Impact	Founding Director	Wichita	KS
Senior Editor	Rev. Dr. Greg Peters	Biola University	Director of Faculty Advancement, Torrey Honors Institute	Associate Professor, Theology	La Mirada	CA
Senior Editor	Dr. May Young	Taylor University	Biblical Studies	Assistant Professor	Muncie	IN
Lead Researcher	Dr. Jason Sexton	Cal State	Office of the Provost	Associate Provost	Long Beach	CA
Project Manager	Mr. Isaiah Swain	Dillman Church	United Brethren	Youth Pastor	Upland	IN

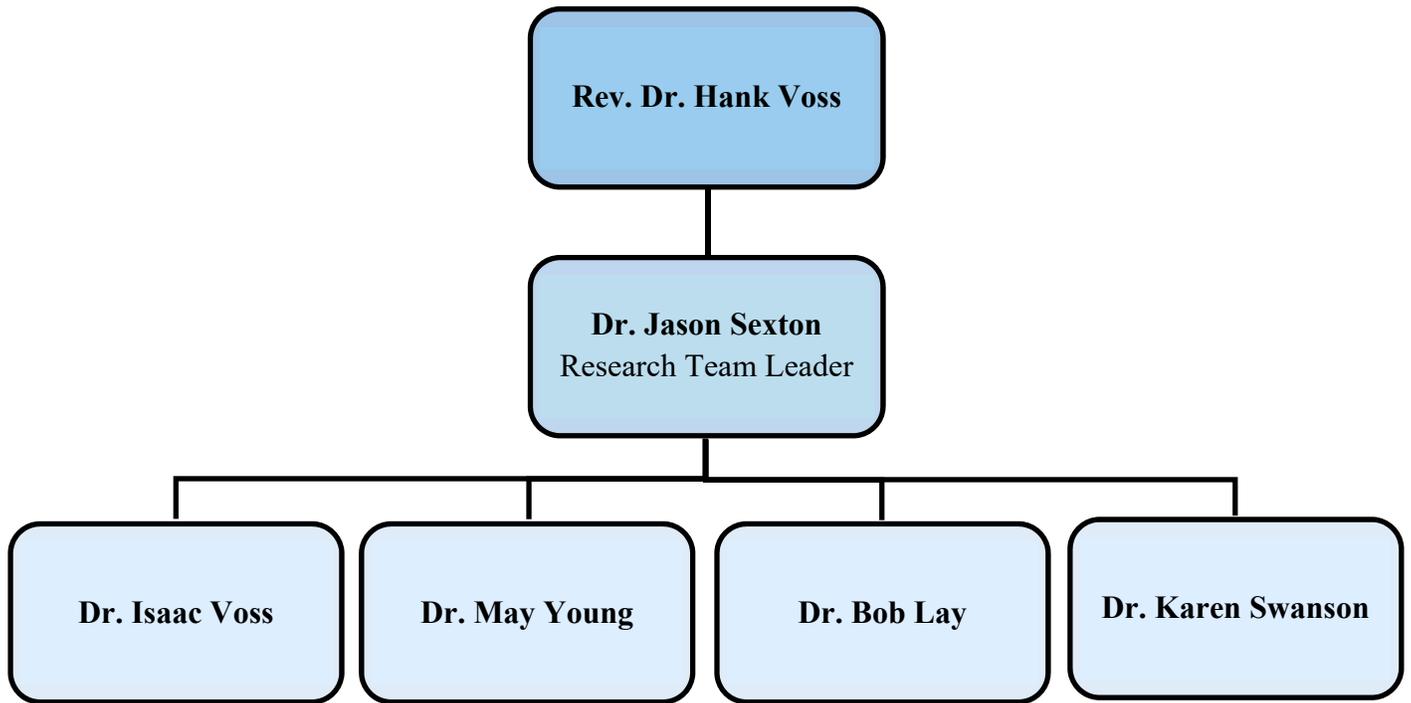
SRTM Project Editorial Team



SRTM Conference and Cohort Ministry Leadership Team



SRTM Project Research Team



Appendix 4: SRTM Project Team Members

	SRTM Project Role		First Name	Last Name
Project Team Leadership (7)				
1	Director, Executive Editor	Rev. Dr.	Hank	Voss
2	Dean, SRTM	Rev.Dr.	Andrew	Draper
3	Spiritual Classics, Publisher	Rev. Dr.	Don	Davis
4	Spiritual Classics, Senior Editor	Rev. Dr.	Greg	Peters
5	Spiritual Classics, Senior Editor	Dr.	May	Young
6	Lead Researcher	Dr.	Jason	Sexton
7	Project Manager	Mr.	Isaiah	Swain

Appendix 5: SRTM Series 1 Proposed Spiritual Classics

Spiritual Classics								
Series One (Draft 1)								
Biblical Studies		Theology and Ethics		Christian Ministry		Global Mission		
2019	V. 1	<i>Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends</i>	V. 2	<i>Becoming a Community of Disciples: Guidelines from Abbot Benedict and Bishop Basil</i>	V. 3	<i>Spiritual Friendship: Learning How to Be Friends with God and One Another</i>	V. 4	<i>Christian Mission and the Poor: Wisdom from 2,000 Years of Church History</i>
2020	V. 5	<i>Books Jesus Read: Learning from the Apocrapha</i>	V. 6	<i>Athanasias, On the Incarnation and Life of Anthony</i>	V. 7	<i>Practicing the Presence of God</i>	V. 8	<i>Social Justice and Scripture: The Witness of Bartolome de las Casas</i>
2021	V. 9	<i>Reading the Bible as One Story: Irenaeus' Against Heresies and On the Apostolic Preaching</i>	V. 10	<i>Basil, On the Holy Spirit</i>	V. 11	<i>Pastoral Leadership: Gregory, Cassian, and Baxter</i>	V. 12	<i>Business as Mission: The Journal of John Woolman</i>
2022	V. 13	<i>Reading Scripture with our Whole Heart: Ignatius and Guoyon on Praying Scripture</i>	V. 14	<i>"Our Father": Praying the Dangerous Disciple's Prayer with Tertullian, Theresa, and Calvin</i>	V. 15	<i>Showing God's Love: Julian of Norwich</i>	V. 16	<i>Worship, Work, and Witness with the Early Church: The Apostolic Fathers</i>

Appendix 6: The Urban Ministry Satellite Statistics, April 2018

TUMI Satellite Statistics April 2018	
Total satellites	266
Total TUMI students	2949
Prison sites	70
Incarcerated students	1375
International sites	42
International students	382
Total graduates	742
Total countries	18

TUMI Satellite Statistics July 2019	
Total satellites	297
Total TUMI students	2969
Prison sites	66
Incarcerated students	1365
International sites	26
International students	613
Total graduates	1282
Total countries	18

Appendix 7: SRTM Congregational Leader Profiles

The following five profiles represent current or current composite students with the TUMI network. These are the types of congregational leaders who will benefit from the SRTM project.

Phil

Phil is the pastor of a non-denominational evangelical church. He is a former alcoholic and crack addict who now ministers to the addicted, broken, and desperate people in his city. Many congregants live in halfway houses or addiction recovery homes. He had no formal ministry training until he started taking courses with TUMI. He reads maybe two or three books a year. His ministry is rooted in the trust he builds with people through shared life experience.

David

David was in prison for nine years. He got out a few months ago. He took TUMI courses in prison and latched onto the emphasis on the Great Tradition. Since getting out however, he has struggled to find his footing. Between long hours of hard physical labor and family life, he struggles to find time and energy for much else. He goes to church faithfully, but he is struggling to connect what he has learned about the ancient faith with the life he sees every day. David was an avid reader in prison. He feels guilty that he has not kept this up on the outside.

Leslie

Leslie is the pastor of a young but thriving church. She has had several traumatic experiences with Christian leaders who belittled and rejected her. She came to TUMI as a last-ditch effort to find training. In a couple of years, she has gone from a wounded person questioning her calling to a dynamic church leader. She ministers to a group of people who fall through the cracks of most churches because they are terribly poor but live outside of traditionally impoverished neighborhoods. She is a warrior who has had to fight for everything in ministry, and who continues to experience regular attacks that would undermine her church. Leslie reads 10-15 books a year, mostly focused on issues that apply immediately to her church.

Darrell

Darrell is leading a small urban church. He is a vibrant guy with a big personality. His church attracts a unique group of people who have backgrounds in other faiths and occult practices. The meeting place for the church has been vandalized and robbed. Some people who live near the church heckle him and shout at him and his family when they are around. TUMI is his only formal training for pastoral work. He works a full-time job, has seven children, volunteers with a local homeless shelter, and pastors his church. Darrell calls himself 'a simple dude' and he has a hard time with dense or complicated reading.

Beto

Beto is a devoted husband to his wife of twenty-five years. They have one daughter who is currently in High School and whom Beto enjoys taking on weekly “Dad dates.” Beto is a bilingual High School graduate who works full time at UPS and has repeatedly said “no” to promotions in order to have maximum time for working with his church. He has mentored over one hundred church leaders and coached over thirty as church planters in the US, central and south America. He uses his six weeks of vacation time strategically in rotating Latin American countries to hold training conferences for church planters. Bob is brilliant, but since his family had to flee death threats in a central American country when he was a toddler, he began working while in middle school and never had the chance to attend college. Beto now teaches courses for a local satellite campus of The Urban Ministry Institute. He is certified as an Evangel dean. Beto leads a national network of regional churches and church plants among the urban poor, and continues to annually train, coach, and equip church planters in Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other Latin American countries.

Partial List of Consultation and Conversation Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Institution	City	State
Dr.	Tim	Bassilen	Dallas Theological Seminary	Dallas	TX
Dr.	Uche	Anizor	Biola	La Mirada	CA
Rev. Dr.	Nigel	Black	Winslow Baptist Church	Sicklerville	NJ
Mr.	Dan	Bowell	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Rev.	Ronald	Branson	Grace United Methodist Church	Hartford City	IN
Rev.	Michael	Brown	Mission Church	Ft. Wayne	IN
Dr.	Jonathan	Calvillo	Boston University School of Divinity	Boston	MA
Rev.	Joe	Carpenter	Urban Light Community Church	Muncie	IN
Dr.	Faye	Chechowich	Taylor University	Muncie	IN
Mr.	John	Clarke	Crossroads Baptist Church	Detroit	MI
Dr.	Victor	Clay	Dynamic Life Baptist Ministries	Kansas City	KS
Ms.	Jenny	Collins	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Rev. Dr.	Phil	Collins	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Dr.	Jenny	Collins	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Dr.	Kevin	Diller	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Rev.	Greg	Dyson	Taylor University	Ft. Wayne	IN
Dr.	Kent	Eilers	Huntington University	Huntington	IN
Rev.	Bob	Engel	World Impact	Newark	NJ
Rev. Dr.	Nathan	Esla	Lutheran Bible Translators	Columbus	OH
Ms.	Audrey	Fay	Prison Fellowship	Santa Anna	CA
Dr.	Denise	Flanders	Taylor University	Muncie	IN
Ms.	Nancy	Frazier	Dallas Theological Seminary	Dallas	TX
Rev. Dr.	Wil	Hernandez	Centerquest	Los Angeles	CA

Pastor	Eric	Himelick	Evangelical Faith Missions	Upland	IN
Dr.	Evan B.	Howard	Spirituality Shoppe	Montrose	CO
Dr.	Jerry	Hwang	Singapore Bible College	Singapore	Singapore
Dr.	Carmen	Imes	Prairie College	Three Hills AB	Canada
Dr.	Munther	Isaac	Bethlehem Bible College	T0M 2N0	Canada
Ms.	Rachel	Jonker	Notre Dame	Bethlehem	Palestine
Rev. Dr.	Kwesi	Kamau	Impact Church DFW	South Bend	IN
Mr.	Jordan	King	World Impact	Dallas	TX
Rev.	Susie	Krehbiel	Retired Missionary	Indianapolis	IN
Rev. Dr.	Tim	Larsen	Wheaton College	Wichita	KS
Dr.	Bob	Lay	World Impact	Wheaton	IL
Mr.	Andrew	Lee	TUMI	Los Angeles	CA
Dr.	Steve	Long	Southern Methodist University	Philadelphia	PN
Dr.	Stephanie	Lowery	Africa International University	Waco	TX
Dr.	Greg	MaGee	Taylor University	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr.	Ed	Meadors	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Mr.	Larry	Mealy	Grace United Methodist Church	Upland	IN
Dr.	Jonathan	Morgan	Indiana Wesleyan	Upland	IN
Dr.	Tom	Nurkkala	Taylor University	Marion	IN
Dr.	Daniel	Owens	Hanoi Bible College	Upland	IN
Dr.	Joseph	Pak	Taylor University	Hanoi	Vietnam
Rev. Dr.	Matthew	Patton	Vandalia Orthodox Presbyterian Church	Upland	IN
Rev. Dr.	Richard	Perhai	Kyiv Theological Seminary	Vandalia	OH
Dr.	Nic	Piotrowski	Indianapolis Theological Seminary	Kiev	Ukraine
Dr.	Bob	Priest	Taylor University	Indianapolis	IN
Mr.	Bill	Reimer	Regent Bookstore	Marion	IN
Dr.	Robert	Roethemeyer	Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Vancouver	Canada
Rev. Dr.	Robert	Romero	University of California, Los Angeles	Ft. Wayne	IN
Rev. Dr.	Jerry	Root	Wheaton College	Monrovia	CA
Dr.	Fred	Sanders	Biola University	Wheaton	IL
				La Mirada	CA

Rev.	Darrell	Setler II	Westlawn Gospel Chapel	Chicago	IL
Dr.	Mike	Severe	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Dr.	Jason	Sexton	UCLA	Fullerton	CA
Rev. Dr.	Chris	Smith	Englewood Christian Church	Indianapolis	IN
Pastor	Anwar	Smith	By the Hand Ministries	Chicago	IL
Rev.	Mark	Soderquist	Westlawn Gospel Chapel	Chicago	IL
			Biola University, Institute for Spiritual		
Dr.	Kyle	Strobel	Formation	La Mirada	CA
Prof.	Jessica	Suh	Taylor University	Upland	IN
Dr.	Austin	Surls	Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary	Amman	Jordan
Dr.	Karen	Swanson	Wheaton	Wheaton	IL
			Evangelical Theological Seminary, Osijek,		
Dr.	Greg	Thellman	Croatia	Osijek	Croatia
Rev. Dr.	Jeremy	Treat	Reality LA	Hollywood	CA
Rev. Dr.	Gabe	Veas	Ashland Seminary	Ashland	OH
Dr.	Isaac	Voss	Vanguard University	Costa Mesa	CA
Dr.	Charles	Ware	Crossroads Bible College, Indianapolis, IN	Indianapolis	IN
Dr.	Don	Wiley	Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Ft. Wayne	IN

Marks of Thriving in Ministry: Strong Roots, Deep Friendships

Rev. Jorge Rivera (pictured at right) has served as a pastor and church planter in Los Angeles for over twenty years. He lives in a zip code (90011) with a population over 100,000 and in which 24% of the adults over age twenty-five have less than a fifth-grade education, some 13% have a high school diploma or GED, less than 2% have a bachelor's degree, and only .04% have a graduate degree (Census Bureau). Like hundreds of other pastors in his zip code, Pastor Rivera is bi-vocational, working at an aviation manufacturing plant as well as pastoring a diverse congregation at The Rock (Reformed Church in America). The Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry (SRTM) project will explore how pastors like Rev. Rivera can flourish as they lead congregations in challenging ministry contexts, especially among the poor (Gal 2:10; Bloom; Longenecker; H. Voss, "Poor").



Great leaders within the Christian tradition build and adapt the wisdom of previous generations. It is vital for gifted congregational leaders serving among the poor to have access to teachers from the universal (e.g. Nicene) church. Evangelicals have tended to emphasize both Scripture and missions, but this does not mean they need neglect the great teachers of the church (Anizor et al.; Noll). Taylor University's history is deeply connected to a group of itinerant Methodist pastors. Many of these pastors were ordained after reading a collection of thirty "spiritual classics" abridged and edited by John Wesley (Houston 109). Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker evangelist and English prison reformer, placed libraries of spiritual classics in prisons all across England as an important part of her strategy to bring transformation to England's broken prison system (Fry). More recently, evangelical pastors like A. W. Tozer (Christian Missionary Alliance), whose origins in poverty only allowed him to complete 5th grade, have discovered that their best teachers were "spiritual classics" (Davis and Voss, "Urban Church Planting").

North American evangelicals need another Fry, another Wesley, another Tozer. How can congregational leaders flourish, especially among urban and rural poor evangelical churches? In brief, resources to answer this question can be found along two trajectories. First, evangelicals need a "renewal through retrieval," a *resourcement* of pastoral leaders along the lines championed by Yves Congar in the Roman Catholic tradition nearly a century ago (Allen 15; D'Ambrosio). The SRTM Project contributes to this *resourcement* by providing spiritual classics which have proven faithful and fruitful over centuries directly to pastors serving among the poor. Secondly, we believe that helping congregational leaders develop friendships rooted in locale-based networks is essential to their long-term flourishing (I. Voss; D. L. Davis, *The SIAFU Network Guidebook*; Marler; Wind and Wood; Ambrose, sec.3.22).

Pastoral leaders thriving in ministry are people in reflective relationships with God and others (Bloom). They possess a strong sense of calling and are rooted in a community of practice consisting of a supportive group of friends who share a similar contextual calling (Marler; Wind and Wood). They share a deep commitment to listening Holy Scripture as it has been heard by diverse sisters and brothers in various cultures, centuries, and contexts (D. Davis, "Of Whose Spirit Are We?"). For these congregational leaders to truly flourish they "need to experience everyday happiness, have high resilience, experience self-integrity, and find meaning, purpose, and positive connectedness in all of the important spheres of [their] lives" (Bloom 34; cf. H. Voss, *The Priesthood of All Believers and the Missio Dei*).

Current State of Pastoral Ministry

Pastoral leaders in the late-modern West face many challenges including: urbanization and globalization, changing needs in theological education and pastoral training, shifting demographics, the need for multicultural competency, and the decreasing centrality of religious life in society. Pastors in under-resourced urban or rural communities often face additional challenges: balancing demands on time as a bi-vocational pastor, responding to the needs and crises faced by people in poverty, shepherding people from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, finding relevant theological resources representative of diverse cultural perspectives, resourcing ministry from a more limited economic base, and finding / connecting with other ministers in similar contexts.

While some studies suggest that around two-thirds of Protestant pastors have completed graduate degrees at the seminary level, the situation is vastly different for evangelical African American and Latino pastors serving among the poor in North America (“Pastors Continue to Value”). Jeffrey Wright, CEO of the largest African American-owned and operated Christian Media company in the United States (Urban Ministries, Inc.), recently remarked that less than 10% of the pastors served by UMI have received a formal theological degree (Personal conversation, Don Davis and Jeff Wright, 2015). A recent study of 290 African American church plants from twenty denominations reports that only 48% of the church planters received any level of financial support from the church (Stetzer et al. 3–4). At year two, 69% of the pastors were bi-vocational (Stetzer et al. 5). Statistics like these highlight the need for creative, affordable, and accessible ways of introducing emerging pastors to theological and spiritual formation resources (Jennings). Pastors and congregational leaders serving among the poor need theological training that is economically feasible and contextually relevant to the challenges faced in their communities (D. Davis, “Our Distinctive”).

Program Purpose and Goals

Pastors and church planters serving congregations in rural or urban poverty face unique challenges in the United States. This project will provide these congregational leaders with access to contextually sensitive mentors and to peer-learning groups centered on discussions of spiritual classics from previous centuries which have proven fruitful across multiple generations and in diverse cultures (Marler; Wind and Wood; Jarvis, “Role”; Jarvis, “Reading as Habitus”; Griffiths). The project aims to equip two hundred congregational leaders serving among the poor with theological resources from the great tradition and a local community of deepened ministerial friendships (D. Davis, *Sacred Roots*; D. L. Davis, *Sacred Roots Workshop*). The theological resources include a library of sixteen “spiritual classics” and training in how to read and digest these works. We are using an adapted definition of “spiritual classics” from Steve Porter: a spiritual classic is a writing that (1) is clearly attributable to a follower of the Lord, (2) focuses on a biblical understanding of sanctification, and (3) a multitude of voices across Church history attest to its value for Christian living (Porter). Ministerial friendships will be developed through intentional conversations at national conferences combined with locale-based, mentor-led cohorts (peer groups).

The purpose of Taylor University’s SRTM Project is to resource and develop congregational leaders serving in under-resourced urban and rural communities by providing resources and structured mentoring centered on spiritual classics and ministerial friendships. The grant’s first year (2019) will fund a period of planning and curriculum development during which four consultations will be convened involving some eighty academic and ministry leaders.

During each of the following four years (2020-2023), mentoring cohorts will discuss spiritual classics with a mentor experienced in the challenges posed by their respective contexts.

The SRTM Project has three goals:

6. Structured Mentoring and Cohort Development

The project will especially prioritize congregational leaders serving among the urban and rural poor and provide resources and structured mentoring centered on spiritual classics in peer groups. The vast majority of these pastors are bi-vocational, placing unique demands on their time, their families, and their ability to lead congregations. The project also attends to transitions of church planters serving in their first three years of church planting. Different strategies will be used to strengthen pastoral leaders depending on the context in which they serve. All strategies specifically prioritize the formation of friendships and the use of spiritual classics. The church planters will be served through the Evangel network and through locale based church associations. Urban and rural pastors serving in under-resourced communities will be served through the network of church associations currently being established by World Impact, by the mentor based cohorts found within the satellite network established by TUMI, and by the Sifafu network currently operated as a partnership between World Impact and Prison Fellowship in prisons across the United States.

7. Resource Development

The SRTM Project will create a set of resources to serve both domestic and global congregational leaders serving in challenging ministerial contexts. It builds on historical examples like John Wesley, Elizabeth Fry, and A.W. Tozer; leaders who prioritized broad access to spiritual classics in their ministries. Resources will be made available in print, on electronic platforms (e.g. Kindle), and through the SRTM App. The SRTM App that will allow congregational leaders to both read and listen to contemporary translations of the sixteen spiritual classics.

8. Research and Research Dissemination

The SRTM Project will encourage academic researchers to explore questions and issues related to helping congregational leaders flourish in challenging ministry contexts and to publish that research in both academic and popular outlets. There is a grave danger that a single and negative story is the only one a majority of North Americans will hear about congregational leaders serving in challenging ministry contexts (Adichie). This project provides resources to tell stories about leaders like the Rev. Bob Engel, Pastor Anwar Smith, Rev. Jorge Rivera, Paul Bernard, and Dr. La Verne Tolbert, leaders thriving in ministry. There is especially a need for research that takes seriously the agency of the incarcerated as bearers of the Spirit's gifts and calling (Sexton, I. Voss).

Every graduate of Taylor University receives a towel at graduation and is challenged to take seriously Jesus' example and call to service (John 13). Many Taylor's graduates have taken this emphasis and applied it by choosing a life of service in under-resourced communities. The SRTM Project especially seeks to partner with leaders like the Rev. Bob Engel ('82, Newark, NJ) and Pastor Anwar Smith ('00, Chicago, IL), leaders daily serving in challenging ministry contexts. It will expose undergraduate students to issues faced by congregational leaders serving in challenging ministry contexts and provide opportunity for students to interact with experienced practitioners. Taylor University's mission is to *develop servant leaders marked with*

a passion to minister Christ's redemptive love and truth to a world in need. The SRTM Project helps Taylor fulfill this mission by providing resources for students to serve and conduct research through academic courses, consultations, and conferences.

Program Activities

The SRTM Project consists of three movements, a planning phase (2019) followed by concurrent program (2020-2023) and research (2019-2023) phases. The timeline covers a five-year period (Appendix 2).

9. Planning Phase: Consultations (2019)

The planning phase of the SRTM Project will begin with four consultations involving both academic researchers and reflective practitioners. Each consultation will involve approximately twenty leaders from a specific geographic region. Consultations in 2019 are tentatively planned for: 1) Upland Indiana (Taylor University) 2) Chicago, IL (By The Hand Ministries or Wheaton College) 3) Los Angeles, CA (West Angeles Temple, COGIC or Biola University); 4) Pacific Northwest (Regent College, Vancouver, Canada or Prisoners for Christ, Seattle, Washington). The consultations will contribute to identifying sixteen spiritual classics of special relevance to congregational leaders serving in under-resourced communities. Together these classics will have proven their pastoral value over dozens of generations and across hundreds of distinct cultures. These texts provide a foundation of tested wisdom upon which pastoral leaders working among the poor can build with critical confidence. By the end of 2019, sixteen academics with expertise on each of the spiritual classics will be commissioned to edit a volume for the *Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Series*.

Each volume of the *Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics Series* will include a brand-new introduction, an updated and contemporary English version of the original with explanatory notes, and an appendix with recommendations on further resources for exploration. Each volume will also include illustrations commissioned for that particular text as suggested by the volume's editor. A model for the proposed illustrations can be found in the illustrations provided by Ron Hill in the Westminster John Knox "Armchair Theologian" series (e.g. Franke). Tim Ladwig, Artist in Residence at TUMI (Wichita, KS), has tentatively agreed to serve as series artist and Dr. Fred Sanders (Biola University) would serve as theological consultant.

Clearly, there is a danger that spiritual classics unhelpful or irrelevant to congregational leaders serving among the urban and rural poor might be selected. There also may be significant concerns that a retrieval of the Great Tradition itself is simply another attempt to colonize and control the imagination of congregational leaders working among the poor. Fortunately, a number of the SRTM Project leaders have done significant work on this problem. The Rev. Dr. Don Davis' work, especially *Black and Human* and *Sacred Roots*, provides a framework within which selection of classics can be made so as to better ensure contextual relevancy and Nicene catholicity (D. Davis, *Black and Human*; D. Davis, *Sacred Roots*; H. Voss, "Select Bibliography"). The project's lead researcher, Dr. Jason Sexton and other SRTM Project leaders demonstrate sensitivity to issues of culture, colonization, and contextualization (Sanders and Sexton; Leeman et al.; Sexton; Draper; Romero).

10. Program Phase: Curriculum, Conferences, and Cohorts (2020-2023)

The SRTM Project will identify mentors and congregational leaders serving as church planters or congregational leaders in under-resourced communities. It will begin with leaders serving in four networks associated with The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) and with Taylor

University alumni serving in challenging ministry contexts (e.g. communities of urban or rural poverty) domestically. The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) was founded in 1995 by the Rev. Dr. Don Davis to provide seminary level equipping to congregational leaders serving among the poor. There are currently well over 200 TUMI satellite campuses in under-resourced communities within the United States (Appendix 5). Seventy of these satellite campuses are working with incarcerated congregational leaders through a partnership with Prison Fellowship. The Urban Ministry Institute has developed four specialized mentoring networks which will be resourced by the grant. These networks include the Evangel Church Planting Network, the Urban Church Association (UCA) Network, the Siafu Network, and the TUMI Satellite Network.

The SRTM Project will focus attention on a different network each year for four years. Each network maintains its own system for mentoring congregational leaders. Network leaders will be equipped at a conference with a vision for using spiritual classics as a means for mentoring their own congregational leaders. They will also be trained in a curriculum adapted to the weekly or monthly gatherings for congregational leaders hosted by their network. At the conference, they will receive copies of the spiritual classics to be used within their network and invited to participate in a structured mentoring program centered on the spiritual classics.

Conference #1, Evangel Network Church Planting Conference (February 2020)



*2015 Evangel Church Plant School
Los Angeles, CA*

The Evangel Network began in 2000 with the launching of the first Evangel School of Urban Church Planting. Between 2000 and 2015 some two hundred church plants were planted in urban under-resourced communities (H. Voss, “Twenty-Five Years of Church Planting among the Poor: A Report”). In 2015, the Evangel School of Urban Church Planting was rebooted in light of lessons learned during the previous fifteen years as well as the success of the in-context theological education provided by the TUMI satellite network. Since then some sixty deans have been trained to run regional Evangel Schools of Urban Church Planting. The class of 2018 included coaches from “four church planting networks and eleven denominations” (Engel). In 2018 alone, Evangel Deans are on track to run twenty Evangel Church Plant Schools training some eighty church plant teams from under-resourced communities (Engel).

The Evangel Network makes use of an Assessment, Boot Camp, Coaching (ABC) model for training church planters (Davis and Voss, *Evangel Dean Handbook*). The proposed SRTM Project would bring together all deans trained during the period (2015-2019) at an invitation only conference for resourcing, encouragement, and additional training (February 2020). The training would introduce these deans to the SRTM Project and allow those interested in pursuing it within their network of church plants to receive training and copies of spiritual classics for use by their church planters and church plant coaches. Typically, coaches and church planters meet monthly for a one to three-year period following the Evangel Church Plant School and the spiritual classics curriculum would provide a resource for coaches during this time (Vasquez and Voss).

Reverend Bob Engel (TU, '82) currently serves as National Director for the Evangel Network and has been a student of the spiritual classics for over thirty years. He began by reading A. W. Tozer's list of thirty-five spiritual classics and then moved to additional lists (e.g. Elton Trueblood's list of twenty-five recommended texts). Rev. Engel's experience in church planting among the urban poor over the last thirty years combined with his love for the spiritual classics makes him an ideal choice to serve as the SRTM Project's first conference convener.



Rev. Bob Engel Speaking at 2016 Evangel Dean School

Conference #2: Prison Fellowship Network (January 2021)

Prison Fellowship was founded in 1976 by Chuck Colson, former Chief of Staff to President Richard Nixon. It is now the largest U.S. based Christian Non-Profit serving the incarcerated, their families, and victims of crime. Like Chuck Colson, Ms. Audrey Fay, Prison Fellowship's California Regional Vice President, was herself once incarcerated. She now oversees outreach and leadership development programs in thirty California prisons and in seventy-eight distinct yards. Prison Fellowship has partnered with TUMI to offer a seminary level certificate in Leadership Development in over fifty of these yards in California (i.e. the Capstone Curriculum, see Appendix 5). There are currently over 1,000 TUMI students studying Biblical Studies, Theology and Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Urban Missions in California State Prisons. Hundreds of these students have graduated from TUMI's four-year program and are now serving as congregational leaders. Those on the inside have the opportunity to participate in mentored groups through the TUMI satellite programs or through local SIAFU chapters (D. Davis, *Next Generation*; *ibid.*, *SIAFU Network*; *ibid.*, *La Red SIAFU Guía*).



Paul Bernard served over ten years in CA State Prisons. He now serves as a worship leader in AZ. To watch a brief AP Report on Paul click [here](#) (Bernard).

The second SRTM conference would resource congregational leaders serving the church on the inside (Sexton). It would be held the second week of January, 2021 inside Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility located just outside of Los Angeles. This prison currently has over 90 TUMI students and some 600 men involved in Prison Fellowship discipleship and reentry training programs. The conference would be recorded live and rebroadcasted on MLK Day (January 18, 2021) using the closed-circuit television networks of at least five California prisons where TUMI satellites are located allowing congregational leaders (e.g., Bernard) in prisons across California to participate in a simultaneous conference experience.

Conference #3: Urban Church Association (UCA) Network (February 2022)

When addressing the Los Angeles Urban Church Association, Rev. Dr. Cecil L. Murray once remarked, “The UCA can change the USA.”¹³ Rev. Robert Vasquez has taken this challenge to heart. He currently serves as the West Coast Coordinator for World Impact’s Urban Church Associations. Rev. Vasquez is a veteran church planter and church planting coach, having coached or trained over fifty church plant teams during the past twenty years. A central tenet of the UCA philosophy of ministry is the recognition that new church plants birthed in under-resourced communities need to network with other local congregation in order to thrive. Its motto is simple, “Why stand alone when we can stand together?” There are now some fifteen UCA’s across the country (e.g. www.urbanchurchassociation.org). The 2022 UCA conference would bring together the leadership of UCAs serving churches in under-resourced communities. These leaders would then be introduced to the SRTM Project and would have the opportunity to receive a set of spiritual classics for up to ten pastors within their regional network. Over the next year a discussion of spiritual classics would be led by local UCA network leaders or members of the pastoral peer group.



Rev Vasquez (left) with Rev. Dr. Don Davis (right)

Conference #4, Church Based Seminaries and Ministry Institutes (February 2023)

The final conference would be held at a TUMI satellite conference. These conferences bring together ministry institute leaders serving in hundreds of under-resourced communities across the nation. Each of these leaders is committed to a formal system of leadership development based on a shared philosophy of in-context mentoring, reflective praxis, and an openness to learning from the Nicene “Great Tradition” (D. Davis, *For the Next Generation*). At the conference, ministry institute leaders will be introduced to the SRTM Project and will be invited to introduce their mentors and congregational leaders to a Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics mentoring program. Those who choose to participate will receive copies of the spiritual classics library for each leader who participates (up to ten pastors per satellite).

Cohorts, Mentors, and Communities of Practice

All four conferences will resource cohorts of congregational leaders serving in challenging ministry contexts. One goal of these cohorts is to create communities of practice, “groups of people who share information, insight, experience, and tools about an area of common interest” (McDermott, 2001). Decision making in pastoral ministry is often driven by personal crisis and failure of programming (Severe, 2010). It is necessary to engage the tension, trigger event (Brookfield, 1987), problem (Tan, 2004), cognitive dissonance (Festinger, 1957), disorienting dilemma (Mezirow, 1991, 168), or disequilibrium (Piaget, 1971, 1975) as a reflective practitioner (Argry and Schon 1974; Schon 1983). Simplistic forms of evaluation of the crisis or pastoral transition can reinforce a predetermined plausibility structure. Pastors must

¹³ Rev. Dr. Murray mentored Rev. Joseph Hamilton who was then President of the LA UCA. For more on Rev. Dr. Murray, see <https://crcc.usc.edu/people/cecil-l-murray/>.

engage prior to the onset of the crisis or trigger event, such as a pastoral transition, through critical reflection.



*Presentation to Congregational Leaders
at a 2016 UCA Meeting*

Participation in a network or community that can provide a scaffolding of support (Schon 1987) throughout the process can challenge a pastor's assumptions concerning the crisis itself. Each cohort possesses an expert practitioner who serves as both a co-participant and as a guide. Expert practitioners, in both mentoring and cohort environments, can model the ability to transfer implicit assumptions, skills, knowledge and data to explicit forms necessary to adequately confront the challenge. These cohorts identify and pursue the following characteristics and goals: 1)

Overcome cognitive and social isolation and provide a safe environment to explore ideas and tell their stories; 2) Provide a place to dream and envision solutions that are outside of their given context; 3) Hear the stories of what is going on in the research and practice of churches that are engaging the People of God; 4) Interact with others who are researching and creating contexts for congregational transformation; 5) Validate work and ideas within a safe environment that offers corrective insight and sharpening of ideas and practice; and 6) Provide accountability and an environment where members can move beyond program solutions

11. Research and Research Dissemination Phase

The SRTM Project makes a substantial contribution to research on the role of spiritual classics, ministerial friendships, and congregational leaders serving in challenging ministry contexts. During the first year (2019), some eighty academic and ministry leaders will meet at one of four consultations to identify the needs of congregational leaders serving in under-resourced communities as well as sixteen spiritual classics relevant to those needs. After these consultations, the Senior Editors will select sixteen spiritual classics especially relevant to pastors serving among the poor. Sixteen Contributing Editors will be commissioned to edit these classics and they will be matched with spiritual classics they have personally found fruitful and for which they are academically equipped to provide an introduction, translation update, textual notes, and a further reading section. This will result in sixteen contemporary translations of spiritual classics (including introductions, illustrations, and further resource sections) of significant interest to evangelical congregations serving in under-resourced communities.

Taylor University's Center for Missions Computing will develop a free "Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry App (both Apple and Android) allowing congregational leaders to both read and listen (as an audio book) to the spiritual classics. These spiritual classics will also be permanently available to global congregations through Taylor University's Pillar Institutional Repository. They will also be made available to the wider evangelical and ecumenical community in both print and electronic formants through Amazon platforms.

Undergraduate students will participate in research throughout the SRTM Project. Eight courses on topics related to the SRTM Project will be taught by Dr. Hank Voss over a four-year period. In total, some forty undergraduate students from Taylor University will participate in SRTM Project research. Finally, at least forty commissioned books, peer-reviewed journal articles, research presentations, and popular media publications will describe factors helping congregational leaders to thrive in ministry in under-resourced communities. A research group will meet regularly to review research proposals and to award research grants to scholars writing and researching on the SRTM Project.

Leadership

The SRTM Project Leadership Team consists of six scholar practitioners (Voss, Draper, Davis, Peters, Young, and Sexton). Members have significant experience with church planting, incarceration, and congregational leadership in challenging ministry settings. Together they have worked with thousands of congregational leaders serving in incarcerated and under-resourced communities (*Appendix 3: Organizational Charts*).

Expected Outcomes

1. Eighty academic and ministry leaders will meet at one of four consultations during 2019 to discuss the needs of congregational leaders serving in under-resourced communities and to identify the top sixteen most relevant spiritual classics (Research).
2. Sixty Network Leaders a year (2020-2023, some 240 leaders) will participate in a national conference introducing the spiritual classics as a resource for fostering ministerial friendships and helping congregational leaders in their networks flourish. Over two hundred congregational leaders serving in under-resourced communities will participate in (at least) a yearlong mentoring program focused on fostering friendships and exploring the wealth of the Christian theological tradition through conversations on select spiritual classics (Structured Mentoring and Cohort Development).
3. Sixteen Contributing Editors will be commissioned to edit a spiritual classic they have personally found fruitful and for which they are academically equipped to provide an introduction, translation update, textual notes, and a further reading section. This will result in sixteen contemporary translations (with introductions) of spiritual classics of significant interest to evangelical congregations serving in under-resourced communities (Resource Development).
4. Sixteen spiritual classics will be made available to the wider evangelical and ecumenical communities in both print and electronic formants through Amazon platforms. Taylor's Center for Missions Computing will create the SRTM App allowing the sixteen spiritual classics to be both read and heard (audio book) for free. Taylor University's Pillar Institutional Repository will make the sixteen spiritual classics permanently available to global congregations serving in under-resourced communities (Resource Development).
5. Forty undergraduate students from Taylor University will conduct research related to the SRTM Project (Research; Structured Mentoring and Cohort Development).
6. At least forty commissioned peer-reviewed journal articles, research presentations, books, and popular media publications related to the SRTM Project will be commissioned (Research).

Evaluation

The project's success will be evaluated in annual reports submitted to both Taylor University's Provost and President as well as to the Lilly Endowment. Each year an update on performance related the project's six objectives will be submitted as well as the required Lilly Endowment reporting.

Sustainability and Continuation

The SRTM Project involves both Taylor University and a significant number of ministry and academic partners. For the ministry partners, future funding for programs within under-resourced communities is primarily based on Asset Based Community (ABC) Development

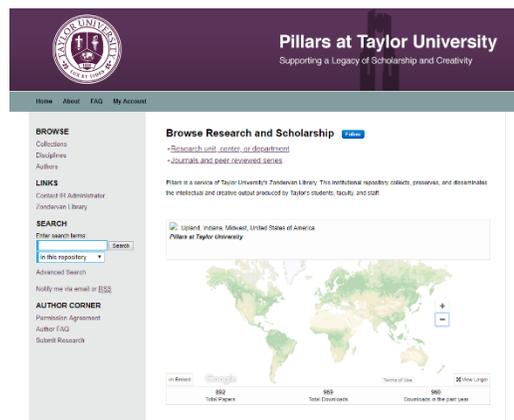
models. This development philosophy identifies community based resources to address the challenges identified by that community as needs. Locale based congregational leaders are best equipped to address the needs and challenges faced in their own communities. By helping these leaders flourish in ministry, they themselves provide the best long-term continuation of the project. For the non-profit ministry partners involved, it is expected that current research will provide data helpful for fund-raising and new grant initiatives.

Publications of spiritual classics on Amazon's platforms may ensure that resources are available into the foreseeable future. Proceeds from sales will go back into maintaining the long-term sustainability of the SRTM Program. At Taylor University, the grant period will provide opportunity for the SRTM Director (Dr. Hank Voss) to work with advancement leadership (Mr. Rex Bennett) to explore next steps. Depending on the initiative's success, a long-term center of excellence might be developed at Taylor focusing on congregational leadership development in under-resourced urban and rural communities. Long term sustainability of this center would continue as a partnership between Taylor University's Christian Ministry department and the Advancement office. A model for this type of center can currently be found at Taylor University's Center for Scripture Engagement (www.tucse.taylor.edu). This Center partners with Bible Gateway to provide scripture engagement resources to a global community of evangelicals (over 1,000,000 distinct web hits a year) as well as conducting ongoing research on evangelical engagement with Scripture (www.biblegateway.com/resources/scripture-engagement).

Organizational Capacity

Taylor University's organizational capacity includes programs which will partner or support the SRTM Project. These include Taylor's Empower Institute and Acts Six Scholarship Initiative. These programs work with Taylor's alumni network serving in under-resourced communities to bring student leaders from under-resourced communities (Indianapolis, Chicago) to Taylor's campus. The Empower Institute brings some thirty teens and community mentors to campus from under-resourced communities each summer for theological and leadership training. The Acts Six initiative provides full scholarships for fifteen students from under-resourced communities to attend Taylor University each fall. Together, the Empower Institute, the Acts Six Scholarship initiative, and the SRTM Project stand to provide a significant long-term investment in community leaders serving in under-resourced communities.

Taylor University's Center for Scripture Engagement and Center for Mission Computing provide important institutional models for research and hosting conferences combining academic and ministry practitioners.¹⁴ Other significant institutional resources to be leveraged include, Taylor



¹⁴ See www.tucse.taylor.edu/our-research/ and the International Conference on Computing and Missions which began at Taylor University (www.iccm.org/about/history/).

University's Alumni Network, Taylor's Camp and Conference Center, the Taylor Faculty and Staff, and Zondervan Library's Pillar Institutional Repository.

This page intentionally left blank.



Dr. Hank Voss
Sacred Roots Thriving In Ministry Project
Taylor University
236 W. Reade Ave.
Upland, IN 46989