

SHANDON KLEIN

Ph.D Student, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

Contact: scklein@smu.edu

EDUCATION

- PhD** Southern Methodist University, Religious Ethics Expected May 2026
Dissertation Committee: Karen Baker-Fletcher (chair), Steve Long, Rebekah Miles, AnneMarie Mingo (external reader)
- MDiv** Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology May 2021
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- MS** Johns Hopkins University, Biotechnology May 2012
Emphasis in Biotechnology Enterprise
Graduated Cum Laude
- BA** Minnesota State University Moorhead, Biology and Chemistry May 2009
Emphasis in Biotechnology and Biotechnology
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Minored in Communication Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Theological ethnography
- Ethic of Resistance
- Ethic of Control
- Pneumatology
- Trans-religious theology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX March 2023 – Present
Committee: Karen Baker-Fletcher, Steve Long, Rebekah Miles, AnneMarie Mingo

- An ethnographic study of theo-ethical frameworks around the conception of resistance and control in the lives of political activists, discerning the role of religion and/or spirituality in cultivating these ethics for good or for ill.

Co-Investigator, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX Summer 2022 – Fall 2023
Primary Investigator: Dr. Abbie Salcedo

- Conducting phenomenological research on religious studies professors regarding theological virtues used in their anti-Black racism discourse in the classroom and everyday life.

Research Associate, Southern Methodist University, TX Jan 2022 to Dec 2022
Advisor: Karen Baker-Fletcher

- Researching and helping create book proposal for Dr. Baker-Fletcher’s two upcoming book projects: one on black women activists who are survivors of unjust violence and exemplars of spiritual resilience, the other on Mamie Till and Mariology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX May 2022 to Aug 2022
Teaching Assistant, United Methodist Doctrine

- Responsible for grading assignments
- Engaging students in online discussion boards

COPYEDITING EXPERIENCE

Editorial Assistant, Southern Methodist University, TX Jan 2023 to Present
Advisor(s): Karen Baker-Fletcher

- Aiding copyediting manuscript of upcoming book on Mamie Till and Mariology for delivery to publisher Westminster John Knox Press.

Editing Assistant, Southern Methodist University, TX Summer/Fall 2022
Advisor(s): Rebekah Miles, Joshua Mauldin, & Dallas Gingles

- Aided copyediting final manuscript of upcoming book, *The Future of Christian Realism: International Conflict, Political Decay, and the Crisis of Democracy*, for delivery to publisher Lexington Books

Research Assistant, Southern Methodist University, TX Spring 2022
Advisor: Karen Baker-Fletcher

- Aided in copyediting Baker-Fletcher’s “Gender and Creation” essay in *Routledge Companion to Christian Ethics* to be published in December 2022

PROFESSIONAL & HONORS AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, 2021 - Present

Society of Christian Ethics, 2021 – Present

- Elected Student Member of the Board of Directors for Society of Christian Ethics, 2023 - 2025

Society of Biblical Literature, 2021 – 2022

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, 2022 – 2023

Alpha Chi Honor Society, 2022 – Present

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Klein, Shandon C. “The Structures of Virtue and Vice, by Daniel J. Daly.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 43, no. 1 (2023): 233–34.

Article in Progress

Klein, Shandon. “Empowered Resistance: The Impact of an African Indigenous Faith on the “Woman Who Was More Than a Man.” Submitted to *African Journal of Gender and Religion* for Special Issue. Article to be published June 2024.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Klein, Shandon, “Out of the Mouths of Babes: An Ethic of Control, An Ethic of Resistance, and Dylan Roof.” Disrupting White Privilege Working Group, Society of Christian Ethics, January 2024.

Klein, Shandon, “Quaring an Ethic of Resistance and Ethic of Control: The Exemplar of Pauli Murray.” Queer Studies of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 18, 2023

Klein, Shandon, “Theology without Walls as an Open System” Theology Without Walls Group, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 19, 2023

Salcedo, Abbie and Klein, Shandon. “Theological Virtues in the Anti-Black Racism Discourse of Religious Studies Professors,” American Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 14, 2022.

Colloquy Presentations

Response to *Asian Americans and the Spirit of Racial Capitalism*. Graduate Program of Religious Studies Ethics Colloquy for Tate Wilson Lecture, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, March 9, 2022.

- Invited to respond to guest lecturer Jonathan Tran in colloquy

PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Commissioned Articles

Klein, Shandon. “Following in Faithfulness.” *Rethink Church*, The United Methodist Church, Published in April 2022. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/following-in-faithfulness>

Klein, Shandon. "Seeing Jesus through Tears." *Response Magazine*. United Methodist Women: New York. Published in March 2022.

Klein, Shandon. "Do We Need the Institution to Do Church?," *Rethink Church*, The United Methodist Church, Published on June 10, 2021. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/do-we-need-the-institution-to-do-church>

Published Articles

By Invitation

Klein, Shandon. "Why I'm Still United Methodist: My Testimony." Blog Post. Published on January 14, 2022. <https://www.shandonklein.com/why-im-still-united-methodist-my-testimony/>

- Shared as a resource for the #BeUMC campaign of United Methodist Communications. (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/agencies/communications/church-and-conference-resources/people-of-god-campaign-new/social-media-and-awareness-tools/beumc-get-inspired>)

Klein, Shandon. "Lent 2020: A Devotional on Fasting." North Texas Annual Conference. Published on April 7, 2020. <https://ntcumc.org/news/lent-2020-devotional-on-fasting-by-shandon-klein>

Media Published

By Invitation

"S1E8 – Faces of the Future UMC with Shandon Klein" Guest Appearance on Bar of the Conference Podcast. Published on March 3, 2023. https://open.spotify.com/episode/2x5DEkLHIDLjZGFxUOTBLD?si=RP3ivGPRRoiffPyHmvo5Lg&utm_source=copy-link&dd=1

"Episode 35: Two Ends of Imposter Syndrome" Guest Appearance on Doc101 Podcast. Published on January 26, 2022. https://open.spotify.com/episode/5wleXaveLgQ0mXxvIJhwUO?si=9Qs2YVCNSKui1rJmZqjlpq&utm_source=copy-link

Klein, Shandon. "Christmas Covenant Testimonial". Endorsement for Christmas Covenant Legislation for 2020 General Conference of United Methodist Church, Christmas Covenant website. Published on December 23, 2020. <https://www.christmascovenant.com/testimonies>

Other Media

Klein, Shandon. "Devotional by Shandon Klein" Devotional for First United Methodist Church Richardson, Published on Facebook and YouTube, August 22, 2020. <https://youtu.be/nOKmNqDhzUE>

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

By Invitation

Sermon, St. Stephen United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on August 6, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/live/YqKALkYnX5c?si=yDApNgLXUEMx8NPL>

Sermon, Spring Valley United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on July 9, 2023.

Guest Speaker, Women's Night, St. Luke United Methodist Church, held onn May 24, 2023 online.

Sermon, "Now What?" Lakewood United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on April 16, 2023.

Panelist, "A Challenge to Act with a Heart for Justice," sponsored by North Texas United Women in Faith, held on February 18, 2023

Sermon, "Vision of a Multiethnic Church," Greenland Hills United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on January 22, 2023.

Panelist, "Uncharted Waters," St. Luke United Methodist Church Leadership Summit, held January 21, 2023

Sermon, United Methodist Women Officer Installation Service, Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on April 3, 2022.

Sermon, UMW Sunday, University Park United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX, held on February 20, 2022.

Sermon, "Casting Visions." McMurray University, Abilene, TX, Chapel service held on February 15, 2022.

Panelist, "Our Wesleyan Roots." Laity Training for North Texas Annual Conference, Online, held on February 6, 2022.

Sermon, "Where is Your Treasure?" Perkins Chapel, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, held on November 10, 2021.

Keynote Address, “Loving Troublemakers.” United Methodist Women North Texas Annual Conference, Online, October 23, 2021.

Sermon, “Hold on to the Covenant.” NewStory Church, Chicago, IL, Streamed via Facebook, July 11, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/newstorychicago/videos/183784850396058/>

Sermon, “Why Have You Forsaken Me?” Texas Youth Academy, Dallas, TX, June, 18, 2021.

Sermon, “It’s in You.” H.E.R. Worship Series for Church of the Disciple, Warren United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church Lancaster, and Wheatland United Methodist Church, Live Streamed via Facebook and Aired In-Person in Dallas, TX, May 9, 2021.

Sermon, “Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother...” Seven Last Words sponsored by the Black Seminarians Association of Perkins School of Theology, Streamed via Facebook, April 2, 2021. <https://youtu.be/y1Xmpr4qgl4?t=2549>

Sermon, “Loving Your Enemies.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Streamed via Facebook and Published on YouTube, February 28, 2021. <https://youtu.be/HmDHOs-mFwA>

Sermon, “It’s Enough.” A Night of Prayer & Healing, hosted by Black Seminarians Association of Perkins School of Theology, Online. January 28, 2021

Keynote Address, “Dare to Stare at the Son” United Methodist Women Metro District Conference, Online, September 20, 2020.

Other Presentations

Sermon, “Do Nothing” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Dallas, TX, Service Held November 12, 2023.

Sermon, “After It All Falls Apart” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, Service held on April 23, 2023.

Sermon, “Encountering Jesus,” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Service held online and in-person on July 17, 2022.

Sermon, “Mental Wholeness.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, February 6th, 2022.

Sermon, “Show Up,” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, July 25, 2021.

Sermon, “Loving Your Enemies.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Streamed via Facebook and Published on YouTube, February 28, 2021. <https://youtu.be/HmDHOs-mFwA>

Sermon, “Relationship.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Live Streamed via Facebook and Published on YouTube, January 10, 2021. <https://youtu.be/CQOzSkzvCXM>

Sermon, “Play in the Mud.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, October 18, 2020.

Sermon, “Speak Life.” First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, September 13, 2020. <https://youtu.be/Rg8Jbl3NdJM>

PUBLIC TEACHING & FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

Level Up Adulthood Camp

Workshop Leader, “Rest is Resistance: Spiritual Practices in Busy Life,” Bridgeport, TX, September 9, 2023.

- Created 1 hr workshop curriculum for college students, leading them in discussion regarding the prioritization of rhythms of rest in the midst of production culture.

First United Methodist Church Richardson

Lead Facilitator, Women’s Spiritual Retreat, Lake Texoma, TX April 1-2, 2022

- Invited to lead and create a 2-day spiritual retreat sponsored by FUMCR United Women in Faith
- Led a total of 65 women in contemplative practices and spiritual exercises

Ministry Associate, Sermon on the Mount Bible Study, Online February & March 2021

- Presented alongside Pastor Clayton Oliphint to give pastoral thoughts for Week 2 of the all-church bible study.
- Trained facilitators and created curriculum for the bible study

Ministry Associate, Dear Church Bible Study, Online October & November 2020

- Trained facilitators and created curriculum for the bible study

Co-Facilitator, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Online Fall 2020

- Co-lead and adapted United Methodist Women Self-Study Curriculum for an online group study.

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Southern Methodist University, 2019 – Present

- Graduate Program of Religious Studies Perkins Student Association Liason, August 2023 – May 2024
- Student Representative, Search Committee for Associate Director of Communications and Student Life for Moody School of Graduate Programs, October-November 2023
- Board of Advisors, Black Africana Studies Program, 2021 - Present
- Student Representative, Fall Convocation Advisory Board, 2019 - 2021

United Methodist Church, 2019 - Present

- Lay Delegate to 2020 General Conference, *Re-scheduled for 2024*
- Lay Delegate to 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference, October 2022
 - Assigned to Boundaries Committee 2022 – 2024
 - Helped lead feasibility study subcommittee

North Texas Annual Conference, 2018 - Present

- Black Church Initiative, History of Black Church Book Task Force, 2023 - Present
- Metro District Nominations Committee Member, 2023 - Present
- Black Church Task Force, Participant, 2020 – 2021
- Lay Member, 2019 – Present
- Certified Candidate for the order of Elder, 2018 – Present

Texas Methodist Foundation, 2020 - Present

- Online Discipleship Think Tank, Participant, 2020 – 2022

United Women in Faith, 2022 – Present

- Elected to Metro District Nominations Committee of the North Texas Conference, 2022 – 2024

First United Methodist Church Richardson, Richardson, TX, 2016 – Present

- Ministry Associate, 2020 – Present
- Circle Leader, United Methodist Women Esther Circle, 2019 - Present
- Assistant Director of Welcoming Ministries, 2016 – 2020

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Genesis Church Planting Cohort

North Texas Annual Conference, 2020 - 2021

- Planters enter the 12-month Genesis cohort to help them in the development and execution of their vision

HONORS AND AWARDS

Angella P. Current-Felder Women of Color Scholars 2022, 2023
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry – United Methodist Church
Competitive scholarship and mentorship program for female scholars of color pursuing a Ph.D. or Th.D. within the field of religious studies.

Doctoral Fellowship 2022 - 2024
Louisville Institute
Fellows take part in Vocation of Theological Educator (VTE) Initiative Gatherings three times a year for two years.

Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship 2022, 2023
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine

Mustang Fellowship 2021 - 2026
Southern Methodist University
Competitive fellowship for Ph.D. students who identify as diverse in their disciplines.

The Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Flinn Senior Award 2021
Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology
Given to the member of the graduating class who, in the judgment of the faculty, best exemplifies the aims of the school and the church for its ministry.

The Charley T. and Jesse James Bible Award 2021
Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology
Awarded for academic achievement in biblical courses and overall scholastic performance.

The Robert Weatherford Prize for Internship Preaching 2021
Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology
Awarded for excellence in preaching during internship.

B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics 2020
Harold M. Kaufman Memorial Foundation
Given for scholarly competence in the field of social ethics and personal commitment as shown in voluntary activity in support of worthy causes.

REFERENCES

Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher, Professor of Systematic Theology
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University

Dr. Steve Long, Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics
Graduate Program of Religious Studies
Southern Methodist University

Dr. Rebekah Miles, Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics,
Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, Coursework Advisor
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University

Dr. Jill DeTemple, Chair of Religious Studies, Professor of Religious Studies
Graduate Program of Religious Studies
Southern Methodist University

Dr. Abraham Smith, Professor of New Testament
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University