

# Start with Good News

## Rediscovering the Why of Evangelism

### About the Leaders

#### **Nikki MacMillan – “A Day at the Beach”**



**Nikki Collins MacMillan** serves as the Stated Clerk and Mission Coordinator for Cherokee Presbytery. Previously, she served as the organizing pastor, ministry director, and head percolator for Bare Bulb Coffee, an innovative new church development dedicated to inviting people to follow Jesus in their daily lives. In that capacity, she was a missionary to the American culture, sharing coffee and conversations about trusting God with thousands of people each month.

Nikki attended Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia where she earned an interdisciplinary degree in psychology and religion. Nikki is also a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. As an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she has served congregations in Virginia, Idaho, Arkansas, and Georgia and on the staff of Flint River Presbytery as the Associate for Mission and Evangelism. Nikki frequently speaks and consults with congregations and denominational bodies across the United States.

Nikki enjoys tennis, kayaking, and reading. She is a connoisseur of tacos and beaches. Nikki and her husband, Doug, live in Chattanooga, TN with their two sons and more than their fair share of cats and dogs.

## Roger Ross – “Back to the Future Faith Sharing”



**Roger Ross** has served local churches from Texas to the British Channel Island of Guernsey to his home state of Illinois, where he’s been involved in starting two new churches. Roger currently serves as senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, a large and vibrant congregation in Springfield, Illinois. He is the author of *Meet the Goodpeople: Wesley’s 7 Ways to Share Faith*, and has contributed to several publications and journals. He is married to Leanne Klein Ross, and they have two children, Zach and Jane.

## **Anthony Smith – “Being Good News”**

Anthony Smith serves as teaching pastor of Mission House, a new church in Salisbury, NC. Anthony is known for his community activism and organizing in the Salisbury community. He was recently selected to serve as a commissioner on the Truth, Healing, Hope and Equity Commission. A commission modeled after South Africa's and Greensboro's Truth and Reconciliation efforts whose mandate is to address longstanding racial inequities in Rowan County, North Carolina. He also serves on the national leadership team of Transform, an international interdenominational missional community formation network that seeks to help churches and faith communities root their community engagement and activism in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



He has been in ministry for over 20 years in the Pentecostal tradition and has recently transitioned into the Wesleyan Church. He also blogs under the name Postmodern Negro. Anthony is a published author and nationally-recognized conference speaker, and is a part of the nationally-recognized group Red-Lettered Christians. He has co-authored several books with prophetic Christian leaders such as Brian McLaren, Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne and many others. More importantly, he is married to Toni Smith, a preacher in her own right. They have six children (Isaiah, Joshua, Israel, Abraham, Jasmine, Deborah) and a dog named Toby.

A question that drives Anthony's ministry work: how might the body of Christ mobilize around God's intention to heal communities?

## Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove – “What Good News Tastes Like”



**Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove** is a celebrated spiritual writer and sought-after speaker. A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of Eastern University and Duke Divinity School. An evangelical Christian who connects with the broad spiritual tradition and its monastic witnesses, Jonathan is a leader in the New Monasticism movement. He speaks often about emerging Christianity to churches and conferences across the denominational spectrum.

In 2003, Jonathan and his wife Leah founded the Rutba House, a house of hospitality where the formerly homeless are welcomed into a community that eats, prays, and shares life together. Jonathan directs the School for Conversion, a nonprofit that has grown out of the life of Rutba House to pursue beloved community with kids in their neighborhood, through classes in North Carolina prisons, and in community-based education around the country. Jonathan is also an Associate Minister at the historically black St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church.

Jonathan is a co-compiler of the celebrated *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*, and is the author of several books on Christian spirituality, including *Strangers at My Door*, *The Awakening of Hope*, *The Wisdom of Stability*, and *The New Monasticism*.

## John Vest – Event Leader

**John Vest** is visiting assistant professor of evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary in partnership with the Presbytery of the James. After earning a B.A. in Religious Studies and Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations from Rice University, and an M.Div. at the University of Chicago Divinity School, John went on to complete the coursework for a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. Recently, however, he has changed his course of study and has earned a D.Min. at McCormick Theological Seminary. John served on the pastoral staff of Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills for six years and joined the staff of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago in 2006 as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry. He came to UPSem in June of 2015.

