

# Curriculum Vitae

## Dr. Robert E. Ribbe, Jr., Ph.D.

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Married: Wife, Jacquelyn 1991; four children

## EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph.D., Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, La Mirada, CA. Dissertation: Understanding the Impact of Adventure-based Orientation Programs on Adaptation to College and Identity Formation in Traditional Incoming College Students. Foci of study: spiritual formation, theological integration, theory and theology of leadership, higher education administration. Received the North American Professors of Christian Education Award for the dissertation most likely to impact higher education.
- 1991-1995 Continuing education through graduate courses in spirituality, worship, and theology through Wheaton College Graduate School.
- 1990 M.A., Educational Ministries, Wheaton College Graduate School, Wheaton, IL
- 1987 B.S., Exercise Science, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2000-present Director, HoneyRock, Outdoor Center for Leadership Development of Wheaton College  
*Administratively:* Provide overall leadership to HoneyRock as part of Wheaton College. Also involved in business administration, site/facility development, marketing, fundraising, staff supervision and development, program design/development, and teaching. Serve in co-curricular coordination with Student Development and as member of Deans and Directors in that division.  
*Academically:* Assistant Professor, Christian Formation and Ministry Department of Wheaton College. Work extensively with multiple academic departments to develop and supervise leadership development and educational programs. Curriculum design and faculty supervision and support at Northwoods campus. Teach 2-4 graduate courses in outdoor ministry and leaders. Provide multiple workshops per year in experiential education for Wheaton faculty.
- 1996-2000 Dam Tender, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, Wausau, Wisconsin.
- 1990-2000 Associate Director/Program Director, HoneyRock, Northwoods Campus of Wheaton College  
Student advisor, internship supervisor, instructor in Christian Education and Applied Health Science departments, and student development staff trainer. Supervise HoneyRock programs, budgets, personnel. Train 30-60 college students per year in leadership, camp programming and youth ministry. Curriculum design and program development for students and campers.
- 1987-Present Wilderness Instructor and Ropes Course Facilitator, HoneyRock, Wheaton College  
Lead extended wilderness trips and group learning experiences for adults, incoming freshman, juvenile offenders, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, Wheaton College

faculty, and high school age young people. Train college students in wilderness programming and leadership.

- 1989-1990 Youth Pastor, Butterfield Community Church, North Aurora, IL
- 1989-1990 Mental Health Technician, Glen Oaks Medical Center, Glendale Heights, IL
- 1987-1988 Prison Ministries Program Coordinator, Institute for Prison Ministries, Billy Graham Center, Wheaton, IL

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 1990-Present Christian Education undergraduate courses: CE 452 Camp Ministry, CE 453 Leadership Development, CE 233 Discipleship.
- Christian Formation and Ministry graduate courses: CFM 662 Theology and Practice of Outdoor Ministry, CFM 663 Leadership Development in Outdoor Ministry, CFM 564 Adventure Challenge Education, CFM 563 The Church and Outdoor Ministry, CFM 521 Personal Spiritual Formation.
- Christian Formation and Ministry undergraduate courses: CE 452 Camp Ministry, CE 453 Leadership Development.
- Wheaton Passage Program Director: This is a 9-17 day adventure-based pre-orientation program that serves over 200 incoming students (approx 30% of class) of Wheaton College. This 2 credit course involves over 30 faculty in a adventure based, service learning oriented experience and covers a set curriculum that focuses on community, service, life of the mind, and character development. Developed the original curriculum and format in conjunction with Dr. Barrett McRay.
- 2004-07 Business/Economics courses: B/EC 411 Experiential-based Leadership Development.
- 1990-2009 Applied Health Science Wellness/Activity Courses: Canoeing, Emergency Water Safety, Archery, Camp Skills, Wilderness Skills, Adventure Challenge Activities, Foundations of Wellness, Mountain Biking/Climbing, Cross Country Skiing.
- Applied Health Science Theory Courses: Camp Administration, Camp Programming, Wilderness Learning Seminar.

## **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

- 2017 Convened symposium: *Ministry to the Fatherless*. A gathering of 10 Wheaton faculty and 10 outside experts to develop a camp programs and leadership training for ministry to the fatherless in Christian camps across the U.S. Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. April 2-5, 2017.
- 2016 Conference speaker: *Program Assessment and Evaluation. Exploring the Impact of Employment on Summer Camp Staff. Gap Year Programs at Camps*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Nashville, TN. December
- Conference speaker: *Veteran Leadership Panel*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Midwest Section, Covenant Harbor, Wisconsin. March 14-16, 2016.

Webinar Speaker: *Research in Christian Camping*. Excellence in Training Series. March 2016. Christian Camp and Conference Association.

2015

Conference speaker: *Creating a culture of leadership development at your Camp. Foundations of Camp Ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Nashville, TN. December

Convened symposium: *Exploring the Power of Camp*. A gathering of 10 scholars and 10 camp leaders to develop a research agenda for the movement of Christian camping. Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. March 23-25, 2015.

Conference speaker: *Program Assessment and Evaluation*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Midwest Section, HoneyRock, Wisconsin. March 9-12, 2015.

Key Note Speaker: *The Heroes Journey: A study of Joseph, Moses and Paul*. Seminar speaker: *Principles of Experiential Education; Leadership Development in Outdoor Ministry; Foundations of Christian Camping; Program Assessment and Evaluation*. Christian Camping International-Spain/Portugal. Porto, Portugal. January 21-26, 2015.

2014

Conference speaker: *Theological Foundations of Camp Ministry, Organizational Revitalization, Program Evaluation and Assessment*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Orlando, Florida. December 9-12, 2014.

Conference speaker: *Foundations for Camp Ministry and Unlikely Partnership: Christian camping and higher education—A Premier Laboratory for Leadership Development*. Christian Camping International-Latin America. Siguatepeque, Honduras. October 23-26, 2014.

Conference speaker: *Experiential Education in Christian Camping, Camping and the Church, Theological Foundations for Camp Ministry, Leadership Development in Camp Ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Sectional Conferences, Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast. Spring 2014.

Guest speaker: *Rites of Passage and our Children*. First Baptist Church, Geneva, IL. February 23, 2014.

Members Advisory Council: Professional education curriculum planning team for the Christian Camp and Conference Association. One to two multi-day planning meetings per year with ongoing input, speaker recruitment, assessment, and evaluation.

2013

Conference speaker: *Theological Foundations of Camp Ministry and Revitalizing your ministry for Transformation—a fourteen hour workshop on developing a theologically based philosophy and practice of ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, San Diego, CA. December 9-12, 2013.

Members Advisory Council: Professional education curriculum planning team for the Christian Camp and Conference Association. One to two multi-day planning meetings per year with ongoing input, speaker recruitment, assessment, and evaluation.

Conference speaker: *Christian camping and the Church*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Wisconsin Section, Silver Birch, Wisconsin. March, 2013.

Symposium Convener and Host: *Global Symposium on Experiential Leadership Development: Exploring College and Camp Partnerships*. Hosted 21 Christian camping and Christian higher education leaders from 22 countries at Wheaton College. March 18-21, 2013.

2012

Conference speaker: *Revitalizing your ministry for Transformation-a fourteen hour workshop on developing a theologically based philosophy and practice of ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, San Diego, CA. December 2-6, 2012.

Conference speaker: Keynote speaker: *Why Camp?* Indian Christian Camping Conference, Chennai, India. October 17-21, 2012.

Conference speaker: *Transformational Ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Michigan Sectional, Hickory Corners, Michigan. March 4-6, 2012.

Members Advisory Council: Professional education curriculum planning team for the Christian Camp and Conference Association. One to two multi-day planning meetings per year with ongoing input, speaker recruitment, assessment, and evaluation.

Conference speaker: *Revitalizing our Ministry-a 10 hour, multi-day workshop on re-visioning organization*. Christian Camping International Russia, Moscow, Russia. January, 2012. (An international conference drawing camp leaders from across the Russian Federation)

Conference speaker: *Transformational Ministry-a fourteen hour workshop on developing a theologically based philosophy and practice of ministry*. Christian Camping International Russia, Moscow, Russia. January, 2012. (An international conference drawing camp leaders from the Russian Federation)

Parent Seminar Speaker: *Helping our Children Listen to God*. Blanchard Alliance Church, Wheaton, IL. February 9, 2012.

Guest speaker: National radio guest with President of Christian Camp and Conference Association Gregg Hunter on Midday Connection with Melinda Schmidt. *The Power of Camp to Change Lives*. January 17, 2012.

Parent Seminar Speaker: *Raising Courageous Kids in a Culture of Fear*. First Baptist Church, Geneva IL. January 17, 2012.

2011

Conference Speaker: *Identity Formation and Emerging Adulthood*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Ashville, North Carolina. December, 2011.

Conference Speaker: *The Power of Sabbatical: Insuring your ministry and team will survive your exit and re-entry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Ashville, North Carolina. December, 2011.

Conference speaker: *Transformational Ministry-a six hour workshop on developing a theologically based philosophy and practice of ministry*. Christian Camp and Conference Association Wisconsin Section, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. March 11-13, 2011.

Guest speaker: National radio guest on Midday Connection with Melinda Schmidt on *Role of Summer Camp Experience in our Childrens' Growth*. April 11, 2011.

Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, Wheaton College, Illinois. August, 2011.

2009-2010

Sabbatical from Wheaton College to the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Research Associate at the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina. Served on presentation proposal review committee for national conference. Presentation to the Chaplains of the University of South Carolina on identity formation and the transition to college: March 2, 2010. Consultations with various departments and ministries at USC. Working with director of National Resource Center to create training program and partnership with outdoor orientation program directors in higher education. Participated in three-day faculty workshop on teaching first year seminar courses.

Presentations at the National Conference on the First Year Experience Denver, CO. February 11-17, 2010:

1. *Into the Woods: How Wilderness and Adventure Programming Enhance the First-year Transition.*
2. *The Challenges and Opportunities of Outdoor/Adventure-based Orientation Programs*
3. *The Unique Issues of First-year Programming at Smaller, Religiously-based Schools*

Guest scholar at Columbia International University, Columbia South Carolina. Participated in monthly faculty/administration dialogs on various aspects of change and leadership in Christian higher education and the growing movement of Anglicanism in North America. Presentation to faculty and administration: *Identity Formation in Emerging Adults in Christian Higher Education* Dec. 7, 2010.

Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, Wheaton College, Illinois. August, 2010.

2009

Conference speaker: *Equipping Leaders through Camp Ministry.* Christian Camp and Conference Association Wisconsin Sectional, Rhinelander, Wisconsin. March 15-17, 2009.

Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, Wheaton College Illinois. August, 2009.

2008

Conference speaker: *A Camp Re-visioned: How the challenges of the last 5 years impacted our ministry.* Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, Orlando FL. December, 2008.

Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, Wheaton College, Illinois. August, 2007.

2007

Discipleship conference keynote speaker: *The Role of the Outdoors, God's First Word, in Spiritual Formation and Discipleship,* Church of the Apostles, Columbia South Carolina. December 3- 5, 2007.

Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton College, Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, Wheaton College, Illinois. August, 2007.

Guest faculty for Advanced Outdoor Leadership and Ministry course, Department of Youth Ministry, Columbia International University, Columbia South Carolina. November 26-30, 2007.

- 2006
- Conference speaker: Christian Camp and Conference Association National Conference, *Partnering with Christian Colleges in developing leaders for the Church*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. November 27-29, 2006.
- Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, *Role of Experiential Education in preparing incoming students for College*, Wheaton College Illinois, August 2006.
- Symposium Participant: Tinning Symposium, Christian Camp and Conference Association, *Critical Concerns for Christian Camping*, Ridgecrest Conference Center, North Carolina. April 23-26, 2005.
- 2005
- Guest Instructor: Columbia International University, Department of Youth Ministry, Advanced Outdoor Ministry Course, December 2-6, 2005 held in the woods around HoneyRock.
- Guest Instructor: The Bethlehem Institute, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Course: *God-centered Spiritual Formation*. September 2-9, 2005 held in the woods around HoneyRock.
- Faculty Seminar Instructor: Wheaton Passage Faculty Training Seminar, *Preparing Incoming Students to maximize the college experience*, Wheaton College, Illinois. August 2005.
- 2004
- Guest Instructor: The Bethlehem Institute, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Course: *God-centered Spiritual Formation*. September 3-11, 2004 held in the woods around HoneyRock.
- 2003
- Guest Lecturer: Crown College, St. Bonaventure, MN, department of youth ministry. *Role of Camping in Youth Ministry*. March 13, 2003.
- Conference speaker: Christian Camping International Association National Conference, *Church, community, and communication: Helping the Church value the temporary community*. Keystone, CO. November 2003.
- Conference speaker: Christian Camping International Association National Conference, *We need each other: Developing a symbiotic relationship with the local church*. Keystone, CO. November 2003.
- 2002
- Conference speaker: Christian Camping International Association National Conference, *The Church Connection: The role of camp in meeting the mission of the Church*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. November 2002.
- Curriculum Review Board, The Cairn Series Professional Training DVDs for Christian Camp Leaders, 2002-2004.
- 2000
- Conference speaker: North American Professors of Christian Education National conference, *Vision for Holistic Christian Education in an Outdoor Ministry Setting*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. November 2000.
- Department 10-year Review Team: LaVida Outdoor Ministry Department, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, October 2000.

- 1997 Conference speaker: Christian Camping International, Wisconsin Section, *Program Progression for Long-term Discipleship*. Montello, Wisconsin. March, 1997.
- Conference speaker: Christian Camping International, Wisconsin Section, *Risk Management in Camp Ministry*, Montello, Wisconsin. March 1997.
- 1996 Conference speaker: Christian Camping International Association, National Conference, *Camping: Principles for Long-haul Ministry*. March 1996.
- 1994 Conference speaker: Christian Camping International Association, Wisconsin Section, *Foodservice and Programming*. Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. March 1994.
- 1991-present Occasional attendee at various conferences of Christian Camp and Conference Association, American Camping Association, Association for Experiential Education, Association of Youth Ministry Educators, and North American Association of Professors of Christian Education.

## RESEARCH/PUBLICATION

- Ribbe, R. (2017) (upcoming April/May 2017). Impact of summer employment on summer camp staff. *Insite: Journal of the Christian Camp and Conference Association*. (Professional Journal)
- Ribbe, R. (2016) (December 2016). Exploring the Impact of an Outdoor Orientation Program on Adaptation to College. *Journal of Experiential Education*. (Professional Journal)
- Ribbe, R. (2014) (September 2014). Taking an Honest Look: Why Assessment Matters and How to do it. *Insite: Journal of the Christian Camp and Conference Association*. (Professional Journal)
- Ribbe, R. (2014) (January 2014). Contributor—Celebrate the Good Times. A discussion on celebrations and rites of passage in Camp Ministry. *Insite: Journal of the Christian Camp and Conference Association*. (Professional Journal)
- Ribbe, R. (2013) (March 2013). Tradition versus Innovation. *Insite: Journal of the Christian Camp and Conference Association*.
- Ribbe, R. (2012) (March/April 2012). Equipping your Staff for Service. *Insite: Journal of the Christian Camp and Conference Association*. (Professional Journal)
- Ribbe, R. (2011) Dissertation: Understanding the Effects of Adventure-based Orientation Programs on Identity Formation and the Adaptation to College in Traditional Incoming College Students. Biola University.
- Ribbe, R. (2010) Christian Education Journal: Redefining Camp Ministry as Experiential Laboratory for Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development. *Christian Education Journal*. (April, 2010). Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, CA. (Peer Reviewed)
- Ribbe, R. (2008) *The critical principles for a transformational development process*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course Theological Integration, Biola University, Talbot School of Theology.

- Ribbe, R. (2007) *The Role of Temporary Systems in Learning and Growth*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course Character Formation and Personal Renewal, Biola University. Talbot School of Theology.
- Ribbe, R. (2007) *Critical Considerations for Faculty Development in the Changing World of Higher Education*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course Administration in Christian Higher Education, Biola University. Talbot School of Theology.
- Ribbe, R. (2007) *Faculty Satisfaction and the Role of Faculty Development at Wheaton College*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course Qualitative Research, Biola University. Talbot School of Theology.
- Ribbe, R. (2006) *Towards a Model of Leadership*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course Leadership of Non-profit Organizations, Biola University. Talbot School of Theology.
- Ribbe, R. (2005). *Exploring the Process of Vision formation and its execution throughout an organization*. Unpublished paper for doctoral course in Change, Power and Conflict Resolution, Biola University. Talbot School of Theology.
- Ribbe, R. (2002). [Book review of the book *Educating for Life: Reflections on Christian Teaching and Learning*. By Nicolas Wolterstorff] *Journal of Youth Ministry, Fall 02*.

#### **CHURCH/COMMUNITY/COMMITTEE SERVICE**

- 2012-present Men's Soccer Coach, Three Lakes High School, Three Lakes, WI.
- 2012 Global and Experiential Education Advisory Council, Wheaton College.
- 2011-2012 Senior Pastor Search Committee, Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church.
- 2011-2012 Co-chair of the First-year Student Transition Task Force, Wheaton College.
- 2010-present Deans and Directors Council, Student Development Division, Wheaton College.
- 2008-09 Vision Task Force, Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church.
- 2008 Ad hoc committee on Experiential Education and Global Engagement for Wheaton College. Attended four day Summer Institute on Experiential Education at Martha's Vineyard MA through Northeastern University with a team of 8 faculty/administrative colleagues from Wheaton College.
- 2005-present Board member and Town coordinator, Headwaters Youth Soccer Association.
- 2002-present Soccer Coach, Headwaters Youth Soccer Association. U8, U10, U14.
- 2005-2010 Adult and Men's Education Teacher, Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church.
- 2000-present Pulpit supply for Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church and St. Germain Evangelical Free Church. Approximately 2-4 times per year.
- 1997-2000 Church Chairman and Deacon Board member, Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church, Three Lakes, WI.



1997-1999            Linking 100 Project: a ministry seeking to integrate camp programs with urban ministries in Chicago area while developing future urban workers through leadership development of Wheaton students.

1993-1999            Christian Camping International, Wisconsin Section, Executive Committee. Secretary 1994-5.

1994-1995            Emmaus Ministries Board of Directors. A night ministry on the streets of Chicago.

1993                    Service Learning Committee, Wheaton College

1987-1988            Colson Scholarship Selection Committee, Institute for Prison Ministries

**AFFILIATIONS**

Christian Camp and Conference Association  
American Camping Association  
Society of Professors of Christian Education  
Association of Youth Ministry Educators  
Association of Experiential Education  
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education  
Christian Adventure Association