

FLAVIL R. YEAKLEY, JR.

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Residence:

120 Lambert Circle
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PRESENT POSITION:

Professor in the College of Bible and Religion, 1990-present (scheduled to retire in May 2011)
Director, Harding Center for Church Growth Studies, 1990-2010

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Director, Harding University, Office of Outcomes Assessment, 1993-2004
Researcher-in-Residence and Director of the Church Growth Institute at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, 1984-1990
Associate Professor of Communication and Chair of the Speech Communication Program at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1974-1984

EARLIER WORK IN THE MINISTRY:

Began preaching in 1950 and did full-time local church work for almost 25 years, including eight years of domestic church planting in U.S. mission field states. Left full-time church work in 1974 in order to have more time for church growth research, writing, seminars, and consulting. Later served as a deacon and as an elder.

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Speech Communication, University of Illinois, 1975
M.A. in Speech Communication, University of Houston, 1972
B.A. in Psychology, University of Houston, 1970

PERSONAL DATA:

Born January 23, 1934, in Wheeler, Texas

Married to Maydell (Jeffries) Yeakley since June 1, 1954

Three grown children—all graduated from Oklahoma Christian University:

Mark Yeakley, Involvement Minister, Northside Church of Christ, Wichita, Kansas—served as an elder in Ponca City, Oklahoma, where he worked in the Computer Division of a major oil company for 25 years and then worked full-time with the church as an Associate Minister before moving to Wichita.

Steven Yeakley, Minister of Evangelism and Involvement, Faith Village Church of Christ, Wichita Falls, Texas—M.A. and MRE from Abilene Christian University. President of the Christian Education Association.

Rebecca Vinzant, Fourth Grade Teacher in Prairie Grove, Arkansas—M.A. in Reading from Harding. National Board Certification achieved in 2010. Bible class teacher and active member of the Prairie Grove congregation.

All three of these grown children are highly involved church members. All eight of the grandchildren have been baptized.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

Distinguished Christian Service Award from Harding University, 2005.
Award for Excellence in Education presented by Sweet Publishing Company at the Abilene Christian University Lectureship in 1988
Listed in "Who's Who in Church Growth" in *Encyclopedia of Church Growth* (Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1986)
Isabel Briggs Myers Memorial Award for Research, 1983
W. B. West, Jr. Lecturer in the Advancement of Christian Scholarship series, Harding Graduate School of Religion, 1978

COURSES TAUGHT:

Harding University, 1990-present

Old Testament Survey	Restoration Movement History	Strategies for Evangelism
New Testament Survey	Psychological Testing in	Church Growth
Life of Christ	Marriage and Family Therapy	Leadership Strategies
John	Research Methods in	Seminar in Ministry
Acts	Marriage and Family Therapy	Research in Ministry
Corinthian Letters	Christian Counseling	Youth and Family Ministry
Prison Letters	The Christian Home	General Psychology
Hebrews	Religious Writing	Social Psychology
Biblical Preaching	Preaching from Different	Oral Communication
	Biblical Genres	

Abilene Christian University, 1984-1990

Church Growth Strategies	Leadership in Small Churches
Involvement Ministry	Ministering to Small Town/Rural Churches
Leadership in Churches without Elders	Using Small Groups in Ministry

University of Tulsa, 1974-1984

Business-Professional Speech	Organizational Communication
Communication Theory	Parliamentary Procedure
Conference Leadership	Persuasion
Debate	Political Campaign Communication
Family Communication	Public Speaking
Interpersonal Communication	Research in Communication
Listening	Seminar in Communication
Nonverbal Communication	Small Group Communication

DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR CHURCH GROWTH STUDIES

Doing church growth research, writing, and teaching; conducting seminars for churches on church growth, leadership, and related topics; providing a consulting service to congregations throughout the United States and Canada; conducting congregational assessments—over 100 of these in-depth studies conducted in recent years throughout the United States.

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A study funded by the Christian Higher Education Foundation focused on outcomes of Christian higher education. The study included: a cluster sample of 100 congregations that provided data on 5,000 young people who graduated from high school 1997-2006; surveys of over 2,000 students and more than 2,500 alumni at eleven Christian colleges and universities; and a study of Campus Ministries operated by Churches of Christ. This study provided data on retention rates, divorce rates, and leadership involvement.

Major nation-wide study of ministry—number of students preparing, ministry goals of these students, ministry needs of churches, levels of support and benefits.

Study of strengths and weaknesses of the discipling movement.

Comparisons of growing and declining congregations.

Comparisons active members and drop-outs.

Psychological Type research: Developed “Communication Style Similarity Scales;” Did the original design and reliability testing of the Form G, Self-Scorable version of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

Conducting the Student Evaluation of Instructor and Course each fall and spring semester.

Conducting Senior Exit Questionnaire studies each fall and spring semester.

Administering the *Academic Profile* to entering freshmen each fall and to graduating seniors each spring.

Developing and then administering Harding's Bible Knowledge Test to entering freshmen each fall and to graduating seniors each spring.

Conducting survey research on the spiritual development of Harding students.

Providing reports on the results of all these studies to faculty committees and administrators.

Furnishing supporting data to the writing team for the self study and the re-accreditation reviews by the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association, 1994 & 2004.

ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE

Asked by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to serve as a member of a visiting team for on-site accreditation review at Faulkner University and appointed as the “Lead Evaluator” of Faulkner University’s “Quality Enhancement Plan,” Fall 2009.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES AT HARDING UNIVERSITY

Serving as a deacon of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas

Survey research conducted for the College of Bible and Religion

President's Ministry Study Committee

University Assessment Committee

Liberal Arts Assessment Committee

Teacher Evaluation Committee

Distinguished Teacher Award Committee

SERVICE ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Faculty Senate, 1979-1983

Faculty Affairs Committee (Insurance sub-committee)

University Speakers Bureau

Instructor in the Management Development Center in the College of Business

Duties as Chair of the Speech Communication Program:

Total revision of the Speech Communication curriculum

Supervision of Speech Communication faculty and courses

Development of a common core of Communication courses for degree programs in Advertising/Public Relations, Journalism, Speech, and Telecommunications

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Memberships

Association for Psychological Type

American Society for Church Growth

Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies

Speech Communication Association

Religious Speech Communication Association

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Religious Research Association

Offices

President, American Society for Church Growth, 1992-1993; First Vice President, 1991-1992; Second Vice President, 1990-1991; Chair, Constitution Drafting Committee, 1984-1985.

President, Association for Psychological Type, 1989-1990; President-Elect, 1987-1989; Treasurer, 1983-1987.

Chair, Interpersonal/Group Communication Division, Religious Speech Communication Association, 1976-1982.

Editorial Boards

Church Growth Today, 1984-1992

Journal of Church Growth, 1990-1992

Journal of Communication and Religion, 1978-1990

Journal of Psychological Type, 1983-1990

World-Wide Church Growth, 1986-1988

Church Growth Magazine, 1990-2000

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Member of the faculty of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Qualifying Program conducted by the Association for Psychological Type, 1983-2002.

Seminar Director conducting qualifying training for counselors, ministers, and others interested in using the Prepare/Enrich Relationship Tests, 1998—present.

Volunteer Chaplain, White County Medical Center, Searcy, Arkansas, 1994-2000.

Consulting/Training work in interpersonal and organizational communication with clients in business, education, and government

Limited private counseling practice dealing with interpersonal and family communication problems, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1974-1984.

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Counseling/Testing work with the children and training work with the staff at Turley Children's Home, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1974-1982.

First Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Green Country Christian Academy, a private church-related school in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1976-1978.

President, Mental Health Association, Bloomington, Illinois, 1983.

Charter Member, Human Relations Council, Galveston County, Texas, 1969-1971

Member of the Executive Committee, Texas Alcohol-Narcotics Education, 1967-1971.

Chaplain for Churches of Christ, Southeastern Louisiana Mental Hospital, 1962-1964.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Discipling Dilemma (Nashville: Gospel Advocate, 1988).

Church Leadership and Organization (Nashville: Gospel Advocate, 1986).

Why Churches Grow (Gospel Advocate, 1986—3rd edition).

Booklets

A Report of Research Conducted for the Christian Higher Education Foundation, 2007.

Good News and Bad News: A Realistic Assessment of Churches of Christ in the United States, 2008.

Separating Fact from Fiction: A Realistic Assessment of Churches of Christ in the United States, 2004.

Priorities for Mission Work in the United States by Churches of Christ (Searcy: Harding Center for Church Growth Studies, 1994).

Communicating with All Types of People (Searcy: 1990).

Questions and Answers on Church Discipline (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma: Christian Communications, 1984).

In Defense of Church Discipline (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma: Christian Communications, 1984).

Interpersonal Communication: The Key to Effective Management (Mountain Pine, Arkansas: Weyerhaeuser, 1983).

Effective Speaking: Executive Speech Training Manual (Tulsa: Cities Service, 1980).

Factors Which Influence the Adjustment of Individuals in the Roles of House Parent, Foster Parent, and Adoptive Parent (Tulsa: Christian Child Care Conference, 1978).

Future Trends in Christian Child Care (Tulsa: Christian Child Care Conference, 1976).

An Essay on the "Tongues" Phenomenon (Lovington, New Mexico, 1983).

Chapters in Books Edited by Others

"Trends in Church Leadership," in Jim Sheerer and Charles L. Williams (editors) *Directions for the Road Ahead* (Chickasha, Oklahoma: Yeoman Press, 1998).

"Converting to Christ" and "Having Growing Congregations" in David Lipe (editor), *World Evangelism* (Florence, Alabama: International Bible College, 1988).

"A Profile of the New Convert: Patterns of Dissatisfaction," "A Profile of the New Convert: Change in Life Situation," and "Views of Evangelism" in Win Arn (editor), *Church Growth Handbook, Volume 2* (Pasadena, California: Church Growth Press, 1982).

"How To Speak Effectively," in Louisa Collett (editor) *Focus* (Tulsa: Cities Service, 1978).

"Effective Communication," in R. Jacob (editor) *Speakers Bureau Manual* (Tulsa: Getty, 1978).

Monographs

Dialogue: The Kind of Speech that Imparts a Blessing (Searcy, 2003).

Church Growth and the Bible School (Dallas: Association of Leaders in Christian Ministry, 1987).

Interpersonal Relations and Church Growth (Dallas: Association of Leaders in Christian Ministry, 1987).

Book Reviews

"A Review of *Natural Church Development*, by Christian Schwarz"—with John Ellas—in *Journal of Church Growth*, 1999.

"A Review of *Congregation* by Gary Dorsey" in *Restoration Quarterly*, 2000.

Journal Articles

"Psychological Pressure toward Conformity as a Defining Characteristic of Cults," in *Cultic Studies Journal*, Fall 1998).

"The Relation between True Type and Reported Type," with Allen L. Hammer, *Journal of Psychological Type* 13(1987): 52-55.

"Constitutional Issues in the Appeal of the Collinsville Church of Christ: Part 1, The Facts of the Case; Part 2, Religious Freedom Issues; Part 3, Freedom of Speech and other Issues," *Mission* June 1986:15-18; September 1986:17-21; November 1986:17-19.

"Use of the Communication Style Similarity Scales: A Cautionary Note," *Journal of Psychological Type* 10(1985):40.

"Implications of Communication Style Research for Psychological Type Theory," *Research in Psychological Type* 6(1983):1-20.

"Communication Style Preferences and Adjustments as an Approach for Studying Effects of Similarity in Psychological Type," *Research in Psychological Type* 5(1982):30-48).

"Communication Stances in Evangelism," *Religious Communication Today* 2(1979):38-41.

"Improving the Involvement Level in a Growing Congregation," *Religious Communication Today* 1(1978):27-28.

"On Retaining Converts," *Religious Communication Today* 1(1978):10-11.

Theses

"Persuasion in Religious Conversion" (Doctoral Dissertation, University of Illinois, 1975).

"Rhetorical Strategies Analyzed by Social Movement Theory as Applied to Conflict within the Restoration Movement" (M.A. Thesis, University of Houston, 1972).

Video Productions

"Church Growth in the 1990s" and "Leadership in Crisis" (Harding University, 1991).

"Church Growth Principles for Small Churches" and "Leadership in Small Churches" (Richardson, Texas: Waterview Church of Christ, Strengthening Mission Churches Ministry, 1986).

Over 100 Articles in such Church-Related Periodicals as:

<i>Christian Chronicle</i>	<i>Firm Foundation</i>	<i>Voice of Freedom</i>
<i>Christian Journal</i>	<i>Gospel Advocate</i>	<i>La Voz Eterna</i>
<i>Christian Worker</i>	<i>Power for Today</i>	<i>Church and Family</i>
<i>Church Growth Magazine</i>		

CONVENTION PAPERS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Believers Church Conference on "The Rule of Christ,"

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, 1992.

"Implications for Church Discipline in the Case of Guinn v. the Collinsville Church of Christ"

Christian Scholars Conference

Abilene Christian University, 1985, "Discipleship in Ephesians."

Harding University, 1998, "Implications of the 'Sect-to-Denomination' Theory."

Oklahoma Christian University, 2001, "Preaching to the Whole Church: Implications of Carl G. Jung's Theory of Psychological Types and Communication Styles."

American Society for Church Growth

"Strengths and Weaknesses of the Discipling Movement," 1998

Christian Education Conference

"Good News and Bad News" three lectures, Colorado Springs, 2009

"The Role of Religious Education in Church Growth," Corpus Christi, Texas, 2003

"Church Growth and the Bible School," San Antonio, Texas, 1980

Speech Communication Association/Religious Speech Communication Association

"Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion as Reasons for Reversing the Decision in Guinn v. the Collinsville Church of Christ," a debate with Daniel Ross Chandler, sponsored by SCA's Commission on Freedom of Speech, 1985.

"The Social Judgment-Involvement Approach as Applied to Conflict within the American Restoration Tradition," 1985.

"The Rhetoric of Religious Outreach," 1984.

"Rumor in the Religious Community," 1981.

"What Churches Could Teach Business and What Business Could Teach Churches," 1982.

"Rhetorical Implications of Empirical Research on Religious Conversion," 1981.

"The Church as a Therapeutic Community," 1981.

"Three Views of Communication and the Relation of these Views to Practice, Perception, and Results in Religious Communication," 1978.

"The Role of the Mass Media in Religious Communication," 1978.

Association for Psychological Type

- "Frontiers in Applications of Psychological Type to Religion," APT-VIII, 1989.
- "Social Distortions of Psychological Type," APT-Great Lakes, 1988.
- "Cults and Type," APT-Great Plains, 1988.
- "Pressure toward Unhealthy Conformity," APT-Great Plains, 1988.
- "Significant Contributions to Type Theory," APT-Canada, 1988.
- "How Cults Influence the Development of Psychological Type," APT-VII, 1987.
- "Religious Applications of Psychological Type: State of the Art," APT-Southwest, 1986.
- "Type Development," APT-VI, 1985.
- "Communication and Intuition," APT-Southeast, 1984.
- "Applications of Communication Style Research," APT-V, 1983.
- "Communication Styles and Psychological Type," APT-IV, 1981.
- "Construction of Communication Style Similarity Scales," APT-Southwest, 1981.

Lectureship/Conference Presentations at:

Abilene Christian University	Michigan Christian College
Freed-Hardeman University	Northeastern Christian Junior College
Harding University	Ohio Valley College
Harding Graduate School of Religion	Oklahoma Christian University
International Bible College	Pepperdine University
Magnolia Bible College	York College
Heritage Christian University	Rochester College
East Tennessee School of Preaching	

Presentations at area-wide workshops and training programs in 16 states.

Church growth consulting with over 100 congregations throughout the U.S.A.

Seminars on Church Growth, Church Leadership, and Related Topics for well over 200 congregations throughout the United States and Canada.