

curriculum vitae

Creative. Competent. Concerned.

candi dugas, d.min. candidate

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Overview & Education

SUMMARY: Actively seeking to journey with a community in need of a highly creative, competent and concerned team member able to help achieve their goals, realize their vision, and inspire (re)imagination for holistic well-being.

AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

- Creative & Progressive Thought
- Vision Implementation
- Inspirational & Challenging Messages
- Compassionate Care
- Consensus & Network Building
- Strategic Planning
- Group Facilitation & Program Planning
- Community Connected
- Diversity & Ethical Sensitivity
- Denominational/Interfaith Dexterity
- Communication & Interpersonal Adeptness
- Authentic Advocacy

EDUCATION

D. Min., Christian Spirituality, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, *expected graduation in 2012.*

M. Div., Homiletics and Worship, minor in Biblical Studies (Hebrew Bible), *with honors*, The Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, 2000.

B.S., Public Relations, minor in Communication Studies, *with honors*, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 1991.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

- *Who Told You That You Were Naked?: Creating Space for Black Women to Reclaim their Goodness as Sexual and Spiritual Beings*, a final research project conducted in partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, 2011-12.
- "How Vital and Relevant is the Christian Church Today?", a practicum project being conducted in partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, 2010-11
- *Bootlicked to Balanced: Healing the Mind, Freeing the Spirit* – Xlibris Press, 2009
- "Taste and See the God of Your Ancestors: Drama in the African-American Church," The Journal of The Interdenominational Theological Center, Fall 1999/Spring 2000

RECENT WORK HISTORY

2007-Present	candi dugas, llc, Atlanta, GA Writing, Advocacy, Network convening, Project Management/Administrative consulting <i>President</i>
2005-2008	THE CENTER for WORKING FAMILIES, INC., Atlanta, GA Helping hard-working families and their children build economic success in Atlanta's NPU-V community <i>Founding Vice-President, Operations</i>
2000 – 2005	BEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Atlanta, GA Spreading a message of experiencing life with a passionate commitment to Christ, Cause, & Community <i>Administrative/Arts/Communications Director</i>

ASSOCIATIONS

- United Church of Christ, Member in Discernment & CPR Certified Church Developer, *present*
- Working Title Playwrights, Affiliate, *present*
- United Way of Metro Atlanta Volunteer Involvement Program, *present*
- Atlanta Urban League Volunteer, *present*
- Society for Human Resource Management, (2006-2008)

INSTRUCTION/FACILITATION HISTORY

Ministry with 2nd Generation Asian Americans

Co-instructor with Rodger Nishioka

Columbia Theological Seminary

Spring 2012

“Exploring Spirituality in Asian American Churches”

Surveying the challenges facing Asian American congregations with 1.5 and 2nd generations in the context of the roles its ministers will play as church leaders.

Introduction to/Exploration of the Hebrew Bible

!mpact Church, Atlanta, GA

Fall 2011

“Myth-busting Faith: Digging Deeper & Peeling Back the Layers of the Hebrew Bible (OT)”

Using the issues and topics of greatest interest to the students and facilitators, help craft and introduction to/exploration of diverse ways to approach and read scripture generally, the Hebrew Bible specifically. Co-facilitator.

Women’s Retreat 2010

Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, GA

October 2010

“Me & U and U & Me: Enjoying Healthier Relationships”

With the desire to remove the drama from their relationships, retreatants focused first on their own wholeness before considering the people with whom they’re in relationship and the relationships’ dynamics.

Women’s Retreat 2009

Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, GA

September 2009

“A Time to Renew & Refresh”

Toward the goal of self-recommitment, attendees reflected and discussed the following topics with an undercurrent of the rest/relaxation theme: spiritual gifts, spiritual warfare, physical fitness, and financial fitness.

Worship Vision Area Retreat

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

February 2005

“Service & Commitment”

Inspired and challenged staff and volunteer leaders of worship, music, arts, and communications ministries to renew a solid commitment of service to God and their respective ministries. Used multi-media presentation and significant group participation.

Drama Think-Tank

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

Fall 2004

“A Writer’s Workshop”

Guided group of volunteer writers through instruction and exercises on how to write effective and entertaining scripts for skits, plays, and other uses within church ministries.

Youth Hope-Builders Academy

The Interdenominational Theological Center-Funded by the Lily Endowment, Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Atlanta, GA

Summer 2003

Provided arts (literary, dance, crafts) instruction and worship planning/execution for a group of 28 youth at a month-long, theologically based summer residential program.

Introduction to Christian Meditation

Ben Hill Training Institute (BHTI), Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

2002 – 2004

Introduced students to the biblical foundations and practice of meditation as a viable Christian discipline. Researched and wrote course materials. Incorporated the use of music and other arts (*i.e., movement, crafts*).

Praise and Worship Conference

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

February 2002

“Drama Ministry in Your Church”

Encouraged attendees to develop biblically and theologically sound drama ministries. Included practical advice to plan, direct, and spiritually guide casts and crews.

Thomas/Shockley Academy

North Georgia Annual Conference, Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Atlanta, GA

Spring 2002

“Planning and Executing a Vital Worship Service”

Advised teenaged youth contemplating ordained ministry as a vocation how to plan and execute vital worship services.

Women Seminarians of The Interdenominational Theological Center

The Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA

Spring 2000

“The Seven Realities of God”

From the book *Experiencing God*, Henry T. Blackaby and Claude V. King, encouraged women seeking full-time ministry to develop more intimate relationships with God.

Can You Soar? Program

Providence Learning Center, Providence Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Summer 1999

Female facilitator for innovative after-school program for “at-risk” youth and their parents. Through this program, behaviorally challenged youth were given a last chance to improve prior to incarceration. Facilitated sessions on general life-skills, anger management, human sexuality, and decision-making.

Fine Arts Festival

Ben Hill Fine Arts Academy, Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

1997 – 1999

Directed, coordinated teachers, and taught classes for the summer festival. This festival operated as the prototype for the development of a Christian-based arts academy.

Sunday Scholars

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

1997 – 1998

Formerly known as Sunday School, incorporated creative methods (*i.e., drama*) to teach fourth graders Christian principles.

Christian Spiritual Growth Academy

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

1997 – 1998

Led students through lessons on how to live a life led by the Holy Spirit. Texts included *How to Be Led by the Spirit of God*, Kenneth Hagin and *Laws of the Learner*, Bruce Wilkerson.

MANAGEMENT HISTORY

President

candi dugas, llc, Atlanta, GA

2007 – Present

- Facilitate groups and create/distribute publications that inform and empower people to live holistically healthy lives.
- Convene networks of people and organizations to further the mission of candi dugas, llc.
- Consult with small- to mid-sized businesses regarding management issues.

Selected achievements include Christian Post Best-Seller for Bootlicked to Balanced: Healing the Mind, Freeing the Spirit (*self-published*) and emergence as a valued consultant to SMBs and solopreneurs.

Vice President-Operations

The Center for Working Families, Inc., Atlanta, GA

2005 – 2008

- Founding member of senior staff.
- Collaborated with agency stakeholders and vendors to design and implement the full scope of activities related to agency operations including strategic planning, financial management (*multi-million dollar budget*), evaluation, and sustainability.
- Managed staff of up to 10 people, employees and contractors.

Major achievements include \$ 1.2M office space renovation (*10,000 sf*), accounting system migration, deft handling of HR issues, and creation of marketing collaborative.

Administrative / Arts / Communications Director

Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA

2000 – 2005

With increased responsibility:

- Directed several initiatives (*communications, dance, drama, and overall department*).
- Trained and coordinated assistant pastor's support team of 12 volunteers.
- Managed staff of up to 30 people, employees and volunteers.

Major responsibilities included worship programming design/implementation, long-range planning, ministry visioning, managing administrative duties (*\$.5M budget*), and writing/publishing weekly/monthly bulletins, newsletters, and other publications.

Branch Administrator

Fujitsu Business Communication Systems, Atlanta, GA

1993 – 1997

- Directed overall administrative functions of field office.
- Oversaw accounts payable and vendor contracts.
- Planned/executed branch events and facilitated HR issues.
- Managed secretarial staff of up to 2 people.

Highlighted achievements: Proposed creation, wrote, edited, and published branch newsletter along with improving greatly the quality of administrative support for branch and sales management.

Sales Manager

Rich's Department Store

1991 – 1992

- Managed \$1M children's clothing business, including managing inventory and merchandising.
- Supervised 10-15 full- and part-time employees.

Highlighted achievement: Most improved inventory.

ARTISTIC HISTORY

Productions

Maria Theotokos: Mary, Mother of God

Ben Hill United Methodist Church; Atlanta, GA

Advent seasons, 1998-2001

Wrote, directed, and executively produced this festival music drama, complete with contemporary language, original music, and dance. By telling the story of Jesus' birth through the life of his mother, "Maria" seeks to inspire people, especially the unchurched and the "under-churched." The goal is for attendees to become all that God created them to be by birthing the promise(s) inside of them. With Mary's life, we experience that even the most wonderful promise from God can begin with obstacles, including ostracism from family and friends. *Poets: Anthony Cook and Jordan Crawford. Music: Nathaniel Williams, Johnetta Johnson Page, and Colette Coward. Choreography: Colette Coward. Producer: Ben Hill UMC. Director: Candi Dugas.*

The Setup

Ben Hill United Methodist Church; Atlanta, GA

Lenten seasons, 1998-1999

Wrote, directed and co-produced this uniquely experiential festival music drama, complete with contemporary language, original music, and dance. "The Setup," a composite piece drawn from the Synoptic Gospels, explores the days in Jesus' life prior to and immediately after the Triumphal Entry. Worshipers (the audience) experience this drama by walking from scene to scene as set up in various rooms. *Co-producer: Ben Hill UMC. Director: Candi Dugas.*

"Serenade to Sisters II"

Imperial Theater; Augusta, GA

December 1995 to January 1996

Editing script from 1994 to include a compassionate scene between a minister and an AIDS victim. Worked with Dawnn Lewis ("Hangin' with Mr. Cooper" and "A Different World") *Producer: Georgia Women Preventing AIDS and Roy Communications. Director: Andrea Frye.*

"Serenade to Sisters"

Sisters Chapel, Spelman College; Atlanta, GA

August 1994 to November 1994

Co-authored a four-scene skit depicting themes: "Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself;" "You Can Get a New Man, But You Can't Get a New Life;" "No Glove, No Love." "Serenade" was an annual celebration by the Georgia Women Preventing AIDS. Through various forms of art, including drama, GWPA educated black women about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. *Co-author: Valetta Anderson. Producer: GWPA and Roy Communications. Director: Andrea Frye.*

University of Florida Productions

J.W. Reitz Union Ballroom and University Auditorium; Gainesville, FL

Black History Months 1988-1991

Wrote, directed, and co-produced four plays for the Black Student Union's annual Black History Month celebration. Plays included *Souls Aflame; Double Lives, Double Lies; Questions; and My Side of the Story: The Black Man Goes on Trial.* *Co-author for Questions: Kevin Crawford. Co-producer: Black Student Union and UF Student Government.*

Staged Readings

Questions

Hilberry Studio Theatre, Wayne State University; Detroit, MI

1995

Performed as a part of Plowshares Theatre's New Voices Festival. "Questions" delves into the life of Valerie, an African-American college junior who learns she is HIV positive amidst plans for her wedding and accepting honors as Collegian of the Year. As those closest to her deal with her disease, she reflects on her past and contemplates suicide. *Producer: Plowshares Theatre. Dramaturg: Debbie Patrick. Director: Marvin Wardlow.*

"It Only Takes One Night"

Open Campus High School; Atlanta, GA

1995

With Pat Dugas, English/Speech Teacher, consulted with two (2) quarters of speech students to develop a ten-minute play. The students conceived, wrote, and performed the play as well as designed and built the set for the evening performance. (Sponsored by an AT&T mini-grant to promote healthy activities among young people.) *Producer: AT&T and DeKalb County School System. Dramaturg/Director: Candi Dugas.*

My Side of the Story: The Black Man Goes on Trial

American College for the Applied Arts; Atlanta, GA

1994 – 1995

To celebrate Black History Month, worked with the students in adapting the one-act script for their needs for two performances. Through four African-American male defendants, the students explored several social "crimes." Charges included: impersonating the good will of a minister, not carrying one's own weight as an American man, and trivializing the plight and stress of the African-American woman. The audience served as the jury, judging guilt or innocence and imposing sentences. *Producer: American College for the Applied Arts.*

Dramaturg: Valetta Anderson. Director: Theresa O'Shea.

Skits (sampling, 1999 – 2005)

"Remembering Big Mama" – Commissioned by the "Kickin' It with Pastor Mack" Bible Study/Talk Show, this skit/dramatic reading reflects on the contemporary absence of vital contributions from African-American matriarchs. *5-10 minutes.*

"Harvest Time" – Written for a children's worship service to be performed during the fall season, an enactment of God's principle of sowing and reaping. *15-20 minutes.*

"The Inheritance of Faith and Hope" – Commissioned by the United Methodist Women of Ben Hill United Methodist Church, this abstract depiction portrays the affects of women keeping silent about their pain. Incorporating music and movement, it is based on the book, *Hope in the Holler*, by A. Elaine Brown Crawford. *20-30 minutes.*

"Scenes of Revelation" – Dramatization, with movement and contemporary dialogue, of the first three chapters of the book of Revelation. *10-15 minutes.*

"This Is How We Do It" – Dramatization of a worship ministry's preparation throughout the week for vital worship on Sunday. Performed for Ben Hill's hosting of a Strengthening the Black Church Conference. *20-30 minutes.*

"I Am the Greatest, Aren't I" – Contemporary re-enactment of the Last Supper, including a literal communion and foot-washing service of the congregation and cast. *30-40 minutes.*

"What Shall I Give" – An abstract presentation for single church members to consider their responsibility of stewardship. *8-10 minutes.*

“*Witnessing from the Cloud*” – Contemporary dramatization blending stewardship and Black History lessons. 5-7 minutes.

“*On the Playground*” – Dramatization exploring the realization and utilization of spiritual gifts in children and their environment. 8-10 minutes.

Works in Development/Progress

Desire's Kiss

Developed from an original full-length stageplay based on my D.Min. project research and the *Song of Songs*, this screenplay celebrates the sexuality of women and explores relationship dynamics between mothers/daughters and heterosexual lovers. Stageplay excerpts were part of the project's presentation (*that included audience discussion*) in early November 2011, Atlanta, GA.

no ordinary sunday

Addressing the relevancy and vitality of the Christian church today in the lives of regular folks, the characters of this stageplay also encounter revelations and face decisions regarding serious family issues.

Honorable Mention - The Ethel Woolson Lab 2010, Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA.

abandoned

Stageplay exploring how childhood abandonment affects one's ability to love without fear and the role of spiritual leadership in the healing process.

To Be Loved

Using contemporary setting, language, and music this screenplay is based on the story of Mary Magdalene and the pure love she discovered as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Interest-Free

Stageplay based on the novel *Due Season*, which explores the ties that link Americans of African and European descent in the early 1950s.

Transition

Depicting the unique relationships between sisters and their mother, this stageplay occurs as the mother enters the last phase of her life.

RECENT WORKSHOPS

- Scriptwriters' Workshop-Endings, PushPush Theater, *February-March 2012*
- Deborah Kampmeier Filmmaking Residency, PushPush Theater, *February 2012*
- Kick-Ass Playwriting-Craft, presented by Working Title Playwrights, Pamela Turner, facilitator, *June 2010*
- New Work Development Intensive with Celise Kalke, Alliance Theatre, offered by Working Title Playwrights, *May 2010*