

Alexa Smith
428 Oxford Place
Louisville, KY 40207
502-544-3761

Summary

A journalist with interpretive skills whose stories draw readers in with strong images, pithy writing and expert analysis. Her stories often have put complex issues into context to deepen public understanding. She has traveled widely and won awards for reporting on human rights around the globe. Has specialized in stories about theology, religion and social problems.

Employment:

2006-present *U.S. Coordinator, Joining Hands Initiative of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Hunger Program, Louisville, KY.*

Part of a team devising long-term strategies to fight hunger. Coordinated the work of 10 U.S. networks working in nine countries using the community-organizing model. Developed effective plans and set specific goals; coordinated communications with many diverse networks in foreign locations and cultures. Worked with other journalists reporting on hunger and human-rights issues for *Vanity Fair*, *60 Minutes* and *The New York Times*.

1993-2006 *News Associate, Presbyterian Church (USA) News Service, Louisville, KY.*

Coordinated coverage of international news, especially religion and politics, in Central America, the Middle East and parts of Africa. Maintained extensive contacts with church leaders, ecumenical bodies and relief agencies. Covered theological conflicts, notably those relating to sexuality and Scripture. Appeared as program speaker in churches, schools and conferences on global conflicts. Helped move the news service from meeting coverage to priority stories.

1989-1993 *Staff Reporter, The Presbyterian Outlook, Richmond, VA.*

Covered major issues related to the reunion of the northern and southern Presbyterian churches and debates about the roles gays and lesbians should be permitted to serve in the church. Helped steer the publication away from standard meeting coverage alone.

1989-1991 *Acquisitions editor, Westminster/John-Knox Press, Louisville, KY.*

Procured books and developed book projects about pastoral care, preaching and counseling. Worked on books about religious issues.

1980-1985 *Editor/Writer, The Times-West Virginian, Fairmont, WV.*

Organized and edited an award-winning newspaper section addressing contemporary problems and social issues. Worked as a beat reporter covering city-county government, police and the courts.

Education:

- 1978** Associate of Arts in Journalism, Potomac State College of West Virginia University, Keyser, WV.
- 1980** Bachelor of Science in Journalism, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.
- 1989** Master of Divinity, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY.
- 1993** Doctor of Ministry, Marriage and Family Therapy, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY.
- 1999** Spanish Language Immersion Course, San Jose, Costa Rica.

Honors and Activities:

Serve on the communications team of Pal Craftaid, a new fair-trade organization that markets handcrafts by Palestinian artisans, 2009-present.

Served on the Board of Partners for Just Trade, a St. Louis-based fair-trade organization that promotes the work of Peruvian artisans, 2006-2010.

Recognized yearly for excellence in reporting by the Associated Church Press, especially in feature writing, international coverage and in-depth reporting.

Published freelance stories in several national progressive Christian magazines.

Served as adjunct preaching professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for 13 years, teaching students to write clear, cogent sermons.

Received a human-rights award from the Presbyterian Church of Colombia for stories about death threats received by Presbyterian clergy in Barranquilla.

Won Alumna Award for Student Demonstrating Outstanding Promise for Ministry, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1989.

Presidential Scholarship, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1985.