

Joe is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, where he has served in local churches throughout Ohio since 2011. Joe has a Master of Divinity Degree from United Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Allyssa Graves, were the founders of Central City Church and Little Bottoms Free Store. Currently he leads his church in a strategic partnership with the City's Columbus Violence Reduction, providing support to participants. He now serves as the President of the Ohio Writers Association, a local nonprofit that supports emerging and professional writers, where he led the process in getting their nonprofit status and forming their first board of directors. As a freelance writer, he's had fiction published in a handful of books and online magazines. As a social entrepreneur, he has experience in fundraising, strategic planning, and marketing for small, grassroots nonprofit organizations.

Experience Highlights

2023-Present

Cityview Church

LEAD PASTOR, Full time

- Lead the strategic merger of Central City Church with St. Luke's on 5th
- Oversee a team of 8 part-time staff
- Strategic planning, networking, and vision.
- Preach weekly at two services.

2022-Present

Ohio Writers Association

PRESIDENT, Volunteer

- Set vision and direction for organization in partnership with Steering Committee
- Oversee monthly peer critique workshops for writers.
- Oversee and serve as editor for annual anthology.
- Designed Ohio Writers' Associations new logo and branding. Designed and launched new website: www.ohiowriters.org

2017-2022

Central City Church & Little Bottoms Free Store

FOUNDER, Full time

- Launched faith and community development organization.
- Manage grants, staff, communication strategies, and volunteers.
- Set budget, ensure financial processes are accurate, and execute day-to-day operations
- Launched Little Bottoms Free Store, a ministry to families in need of diapers, baby clothes, and supplies.

2007-2017

United Methodist Church

PASTOR, Full Time at two congregations during this time.

- Participated in the following concentrations of ministry: regular preaching, missions, connections, and overall church leadership.

2009-2011

The Ridge Project

PROGRAM FACILITATOR

- Offered the Rites of Passage Curriculum in area schools and juvenile detention centers, and mentored at-risk youth.
- Taught the Keeping FAITH (Families and Inmates Together in Harmony) program in Ohio Prisons for incarcerated fathers.

DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS

- While still acting as a Program Facilitator, I was promoted to this Director's position within the first year of employment.

- Created and oversaw the production of graphic arts and design associated with video, web, social networking, print, and products.
- Oversaw a Defiance College graphic art intern.
- Assisted the leadership team in vision, marketing and branding.

Education

- Obtained a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary (3.93 GPA).
- Graduated Cum Lauda from Taylor University Fort Wayne (TUFW 2003-2007) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies.
- Graduated Hicksville High School with honors in 2003.

Skills & Accomplishments

- Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church in June 2023.
- Experience speaking to a variety of demographics and ages.
- A wide range of leadership experience in nonprofit, social agencies, and community groups.
- Extensive knowledge of computers and most computer programs, including but not limited to: Microsoft Office; Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Premier, etc), and many web-based applications, including Squarespace, Wix, WordPress, Mailchimp, Mailerlite, etc.
- In 2021, I have served as the editor for Ohio Writers' Associations anthology Metamorphosis (releasing later this year). Last year, I served as the Science Fiction Editor for The Worlds Within.
- Offer consulting and coaching in grassroots organizing, fundraising, and marketing.