
JOHN H. SPURLING

1850 Mercer Parkway East, Farmers Branch, TX 75234
20335 Sorrento Lane, Porter Ranch, CA 91326
817.475.5753 johnspurling4@gmail.com

Professional Objective

I am a seasoned senior executive pastor, professor, university president, provost, and consultant who desires to serve a dynamic seminary that is searching for a highly qualified leader who is passionate about networking with pastors, building strategic partnerships, equipping servant leaders, and developing innovative, transformative learning environments. I am wired as a leader with a mentor's heart and an educator's mind who thrives on providing excellence in the classroom, in research, in collegial collaboration, and in supporting the seminary leadership.



Education

1997 Doctor of Ministry – Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
(Pastoral & Organizational Leadership Studies)

1987 Master of Divinity - AGTS, Springfield, MO
(Graduated with academic honors)

1985 M.A. Program in Strategic Leadership - Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA

1984 B.A. in Biblical Studies - Evangel University, Springfield, MO
(Graduated magna cum laude)

Leadership Experience

Founder/CEO, TransformU Leadership Services, (August 2017 – Present)
Farmers Branch, TX; Porter Ranch, CA

A multi-faceted consultation, executive coaching, training, and resourcing company designed to walk alongside senior leaders in church settings. Utilizing 30 years of leadership experience, **TransformU Leadership Services** provides proven strategic planning and organizational development success to guide leaders and organizations through critical growth challenges. With expertise in developing innovative learning platforms, equipping, design planning, problem-solving, collaborative communication skills, and pastoral leadership development, **TransformU** provides important support for church leaders. Critical in this process is aligning every aspect of the church organization around producing measurable movement toward fulfilling a clear organizational mission and achievable outcomes in fulfilling the Great Commandment/Great Commission Mandates.

Primary services offered include:

- Achieving Organizational Alignment and “Systems” Thinking
- Executive Coaching (group and individual)
- Strategic Planning and Pastoral Leadership Development
- Developing Impactful Ministry Strategies and Execution
- Building Dynamic Ministry Teams, and Training Volunteer Leaders
- Weekend Preaching and Teaching

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Executive Director/Professor of Strategic Leadership & Innovation (July 2018 – June 2020) **Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL**

Until June of 2020, I served as the Executive Director for Strategic Leadership & Innovation at Southeastern University. My position functioned within the Graduate, Unrestricted Education department. When the full impact of COVID-19 was being felt across university campuses nationwide, SEU, due to their extremely vulnerable financial position, immediately released over 70 staff and faculty. As someone who was relatively new at SEU, I was part of their cost saving staff reduction efforts.

- SEU is one of the largest and fastest growing Christian universities in the country with over 10,000 students enrolled.
- Responsible for developing a new Regional Executive Master's Program in Ministry Leadership. These executive level cohorts launched in several locations around the country and, with over 80 new graduate students; doubled the ministerial leadership program enrollment in two years.
- Mentored and consulted several ministry students in their local church leadership challenges.
- Taught several graduate level courses in Missional Pastoral Leadership, Communication, Spiritual Formation/Equipping, and other practical leadership topics (on ground and online).
- Developed multiple strategically aligned, innovative, educational projects to advance quality leader development within various church and non-profit organizations.
- Focused on extending the resources and assets of the university to church staffs, primarily through non-degree, certificate, micro-credential, and other co-curricular opportunities.

Associate Senior Pastor (January 2005 to June 2017) **Gateway Church, Southlake, TX**

- Served as a member of the 'Senior Leadership Team' and participated in all significant aspects of guiding the church from an average weekend attendance of 1,800 to over 32,500.
- Functioned in a senior leadership role encompassing a full-time staff of 850+ people, with an annual operating budget of over \$142 million dollars.
- Provided extensive contributions to national and international leadership training projects and extensive coaching to leaders from over 20 denominations.
- Developed all equipping and spiritual formation ministries on 7 campuses in DFW Metroplex.
- Created, wrote curriculum, and taught our comprehensive multi-campus spiritual formation and volunteer service pathway (Gateway Adventure) with over 12,200 church participants.
- Designed and led effective staff leadership development training.
- Developed a dynamic, multi-campus spiritual formation/equipping ministry for the church membership with over 200 distinct courses offered annually within six specific growth tracks.
- Engaged in frequent preaching opportunities at Gateway and various relating churches.
- Developed and wrote resources for new believers' ministry "Fresh Start" on all campuses.

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President and Professor of Pastoral Leadership (March 2014 to July 2017)

The King's University, Van Nuys, CA and Southlake, TX

Primary duties included: As chief executive officer, I worked with the Board of Trustees to confirm the strategic vision for the university, communicate the vision to all internal and external constituencies, and secured needed resources to accomplish all strategic goals. As the administrative leader of the university, I exercised general authority over, and supervised the operations of, all departments, members of the faculty, administrative officers, other employees, and student body. I also provided extensive monthly and semi-annual reports to the Board of Trustees on all operations, academic development, accreditation, student-centered engagement, and pertinent matters consistent with the mission, vision, and direction of the university.

Accomplishments included:

- Successfully moved main campus operations from Southern California to Texas.
- Built significant relationships with senior pastors and churches from across America, plus local and state officials, community leaders, key business executives, current and prospective donors.
- Effectively identified, hired, and lead a healthy staff of over 100 employees.
- Increased overall university enrollment by 64% with a total of 867 ministry-training students.
- Added eight new ministry degree programs for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Implemented an advanced Distance Education learning platform for all online students.
- Redesigned and relaunched effective online learning platform that was recognized as a “Top 15 Online Education Program” for private Christian universities.
- Directed annual budget of over \$27 million that was financially sound, exercised high competency, was fiscally responsible across all departments and functioned “in the black”.
- Lead and supported our multi-campus system with nine adult ministry training locations in four states, plus one international location in Hong Kong.
- Served as the senior leadership liaison between the university and Gateway Church.

Provost/Chief Operating Officer and Professor of Pastoral Leadership (2012 to 2014)

The King's University, Van Nuys, CA and Southlake, TX

Primary Duties Included: As both Provost and COO, I was responsible for all day-to-day administrative decision-making for the university. I exercised authority over all staffing, financial, academic, and facility decisions on nine campuses nationally and one international campus (Hong Kong). I was also responsible for consistent reporting to the non-resident President and Board of Trustees. As chief academic officer I was responsible for all matters pertaining to proper academic accreditation reporting, student success, and the overall quality of the educational experience.

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Additional Leadership Positions:

Senior Pastor (2002 – 2004)

First Assembly, Colleyville, TX

Chair of Practical Theology Dept. / Professor of Leadership & Church Health (1997 – 2002)

AGTS, Springfield, MO

- Chaired Practical Theology department and increased department credit hours sold by 110%
- Provided significant contributions in establishing the Doctor of Ministry degree program.
- Served as member of the newly formed Doctor of Ministry staff.
- Taught dozens of graduate classes and eleven doctoral classes while at the seminary.
- Designed and achieved ATS approval for new Master of Christian Ministries degree.
- Successfully participated in achieving 10-year ATS accreditation reaffirmation.

Founding Partner, Leadership Development Resources, LLC (1998 – 2003)

- Co-founded a successful resource and consulting business that served several hundred churches in the United States and thousands of churches worldwide.
- Created denomination-wide discipleship and equipping resource call “We Build People”, that was also translated into 27 languages.

Senior Pastor, (1994 – 1997)

Harvest Chapel, Yorkville, IL

Sr. Associate Pastor, (1991 – 1994)

First Assembly, Bakersfield, CA

“Selected” List of Courses Taught

Undergraduate

- Theological Foundations for Ministry: I, II, III
- Life of Jesus: His World and Words
- Teaching to Transform Lives (on ground and online)
- Spirit-Empowered Leadership
- Building Team Ministry
- Pastoral Ministry
- The Blessed Church

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Graduate

- Strategic Missional Leadership (on ground and online)
- Spiritual Formation of the Minister
- Homiletics: Methods of Biblical Preaching/Teaching
- Contemporary Practical Theology
- Renewing the Established Church
- Equipping People for Life (on ground and online)
- Life of Jesus in Historical Context
- Effective Leadership
- Contemporary Preaching

Doctoral

- Leading Christian Organizations
- Strategic Leadership
- Renewing the Spiritual Leader
- Managing Conflict Effectively
- Vision-Centered Leadership and Management
- Multi-Generational Ministry
- Leading Through Stages of Growth (on ground and online)

Resource Publications

Selected Articles

“Beyond COVID-19: Relaunch and Reconnect”, *In Trust Magazine*, Summer 2020.

“Resolution or Restitution”, *Gateway Life Magazine*, January 2015.

“Why Christian Higher Education Matters: The Battle for the Soul of this Generation”. *Charisma’s Best Magazine*, Fall 2014.

“Generosity is a Heart Issue”, *Ministry Today Magazine*, January 25, 2011.

Selected Published Teaching Resources

“*Feed Yourself: Jesus, His World and Words*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Crimson Cord*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Bible in One Word*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*The Journey: Gateway Adventure*”. Create Publishing, Southlake, Texas.

“*Leadership Skills for Team Ministry*”. Leadership Development Resources, GPH, Springfield, MO.

“*We Build People: Making Disciples*”. Leadership Development Resources. GPH, Springfield, MO.

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Student/Athlete Career

Evangel University

- Lettered in Football (4 Years).
- President's Award winner (Given to student athlete with highest GPA).

Personality Profiles

StrengthsFinder 2.0 Top 5 Signature Themes:

- Learner, Achiever, Strategic, Relator, Belief

Sample Preaching/Teaching Video Excerpts

NOTE: To view a small collection of teaching and speaking samples please visit my 'vimeo' page at: <https://vimeo.com/user69566978>

References

Pastor Robert Morris

Founding Senior Pastor
Gateway Church
Chancellor, The King's University
(please contact Mike Brisky
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Dr. Byron Klaus

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