

DOUG WALTERS

MY JOURNEY THROUGH CAMP & CONFERENCE MINISTRY

MY JOURNEY

For more than two decades, Camp and Conference Ministry has played a large role in shaping who I am. I began my journey at age 9, as a camper at Camp Johnsonburg in northern New Jersey. There, I was encouraged to discover and explore the gifts God had given me. As a camp counselor and a retreat volunteer, as well as in various leadership roles at Johnsonburg, I was given the opportunity to apply those gifts to make a difference for those that came after me. It was there, as a Counselor-In-Training, I first felt God calling me to outdoor ministry.

In 1998, I took a leap of faith, veering away from my chosen career path in broadcasting and video production. I ventured into camp ministry full-time as the program director of a Presbyterian camp in Maryland. Since taking that first step, I have served in leadership roles at three Presbyterian camp and conference centers and at the largest Presbyterian Church in Arkansas.

MY ABILITIES, GIFTS & TALENTS

- Visioning & Strategic Planning
- Budgeting & Funds Development
- Public Speaking & Creative Thinking
- Marketing & Promotions
- Music Leadership – Acoustic Guitar
- Retreat & Summer Program Curriculum Design
- Conference and Event Planning & Management
- Challenge Course & Teambuilding Facilitation
- Graphic Design & Video Production
- Social Media & Website Development
- Juggling, Magic & Clowning
- Staff & Volunteer Recruitment & Training

MY PERSONAL MISSION

I am passionate about “camp.” I have seen, heard, felt and experienced firsthand the powerful impact that retreats, conferences, summer camps, and camp counselors can have on the lives of children, adults and families. For me, camp ministry and my role in it boils down to this:

*To be a servant-leader
who makes a difference in the lives of others
(especially children and young adults),
who uses creativity, energy and contagious enthusiasm,
inspiring others to explore their gifts,
uncover their hidden talents,
and grow closer to Christ.*

CONTACT

DOUG@DOUGDATES.COM
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PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Interim Director of Youth Ministry, August 2011 – Present

Plan and lead fellowship gatherings, special events, mission-focused activities and bible studies for middle school and high school youth groups at 1,800-member church. Serve on Youth Ministry as staff resource.

FERNCLIFF CAMP | PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS

Program Director, 2007 – 2008

Responsible for implementing special events, retreats and summer programs at 1,200-acre facility. Developed and directed safe, spiritually enriching, faith-building programs for 600 campers each summer. Oversaw \$95,000 program, staffing and promotions budget. Served as program resource to Presbytery Youth Council and Presbytery Committee for Older Adult Ministry. Recruited, trained and supervised 30 U.S. and international college-age staff seasonally. Managed web-based event registration system and website. Designed brochures, posters and other marketing materials. Developed and coordinated programs with non-profit partners including Arkansas Respiratory Foundation (Youth suffering from severe asthma), UAMS AIM HI (Youth with hearing impairments), the Vera Lloyd Home for At Risk Youth, the Arkansas Health Center for the Mentally Retarded (Adults) and the Little Rock Public School District.

DOGWOOD ACRES | PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

Director / Presbytery Associate for Outdoor Ministry, 2001 – 2007

Responsible for management of all aspects of 500-acre year-round retreat center and summer camp, including oversight of \$140,000 operating budget and implementation of various successful funds development initiatives. Oversaw construction of 75,000 gallon swimming pool, major renovation of existing Dining Hall, construction of Challenge Course, and numerous facility improvements. Developed and directed programs for 300 campers each summer. Guided Presbytery committees and Youth Council members in designing and implementing retreats and special events for youth and adults. Recruited, trained and supervised 15 U.S. and international college-age staff seasonally and 2 full-time staff. Through presentations, newsletters, sermons, workshops and speaking engagements, shared with church congregations the impact of ministry at Dogwood Acres.

CHESAPEAKE CENTER | SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Program Director, 1998 – 2001

Developed and directed ACA-accredited programs for 450 campers each summer at 115-acre facility. Managed \$80,000 program and promotions budget. Recruited, trained and supervised 30 U.S. and international college-age staff and volunteers seasonally. Coordinated cooperative programs with non-profit partners including the American Cancer Society and the Epilepsy Foundation of the Chesapeake Region. Produced promotional and Capital Fund campaign videos.

JOHNSONBURG PRESBYTERIAN CENTER | JOHNSONBURG, NJ

Interim Program Director, Spring 1998

Assisted Executive Director with planning and execution of youth retreats and summer camp open house. Developed retreat topics and curricula with keynote speakers and created small-group discussion guides. Coordinated weekend events and supervised program staff. Produced Capital Fund campaign video.

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DOUG WALTERS

EDUCATION, AFFILIATIONS & OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION

ITHACA COLLEGE | ITHACA, NY

Bachelor of Science - Communications TV/Radio/Video Production - 1996

Minor - Outdoor Recreation Cornell University Outdoor Education - 1996

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | PRINCETON, NJ

Continuing Education - Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry - 1999, 2000

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION | ATLANTA, GA

Continuing Education - Basic Camp Directors' Course - 2003

ASSOCIATION FOR CHALLENGE COURSE TECHNOLOGY | PORTLAND, OR

Continuing Education - Using Christian Themes in Challenge Course Activities - 2003

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | LITTLE ROCK, AR

Graduate Studies - Educational Learning Systems Technologies - 2008

AFFILIATIONS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMP & CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

Active member since 1998. Served two terms as a PCCCA Board Member. Most recently, responsible for developing marketing materials and coordinating publicity for the 2011 and 2012 Annual Conferences.

AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

Professional Member, 1999 - 2008

AMERICAN RED CROSS

15 years as certified Lifeguard. Former CPR / First Aid Instructor

NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION

Certified Pool / Spa Operator

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

PINNACLE SIGNS AND GRAPHICS | LITTLE ROCK, AR

Graphic Designer, 2009 - 2011

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY | PRINCETON, NJ

Educational Media Services Media Specialist, 1997 - 1998

FOX NEWS CHANNEL | NEW YORK CITY, NY

Political Unit Production Assistant, 1996 - 1997

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