

**JOSEPH OWEN PHELPS**  
**1101 Cherokee Road**  
**Louisville, KY 40204**  
**(502) 451-3735**  
**jphelps@hbclouky.org**

**EMPLOYMENT:**

March 31, 1997      Pastor, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky  
(www.hbclouky.org)

1985 - 1997      Pastor, Church of the Savior, Austin, Texas

1979 - 1985      Associate Pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

**OTHER MINISTRY-RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

2005      Board Chair, Visions of Hope, a prisoner re-entry program.

2005      Board member, Baptist Center for Ethics, a national organization  
that provides ethics resources to congregations  
(www.ethicsdaily.com).

2005      Organizing member of RSVP team (Reducing Serious Violence  
Partnership), a City of Louisville police effort to confront and offer  
help to potential future violent offenders.

2005      Appointed to Freedom and Justice Commission of Baptist World  
Alliance.

2004      Founder, No Murders Metro, an interdenominational initiative to  
address violence in Metro Louisville.

2000 - 2004      Board Secretary, Jefferson Street Baptist Center.

1996      Clergy Organizer for Texas Faith Network, a grassroots  
organization formed to give a public voice to the many religious  
people not represented by the Religious Right, especially the  
Christian Coalition.

1996      Founder of "Prayers for Healing," a monthly ecumenical gathering  
at the site of a recent act of violence in the Austin area.

1995      Research Grant Recipient from The Louisville Institute for the Study  
of American Religion.

1995      Unofficial chaplain of Christopher House, AIDS hospital in Austin,  
TX.

1995-96      Moderator, Area V of American Baptist Churches of the South.

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- 1989 - 1992 Board member, Hill Country Community Ministries, an agency that provides food and clothing assistance to 800 needy families each month.
- 1983 - 1986 Founding President, Board of Directors, Capital Area Food Bank , an organization that distributes millions of pounds of food annually to social service agencies in Central Texas.

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- May 2005 Baptist Center for Ethics, Bible Studies on James 3.  
April 2005 *Courier Journal*, Public Forum, "Tale of Two Churches: A Microcosm"
- September 2004 *Western Recorder* (Kentucky Baptist paper) "Prepare for Election Fallout."
- February 2004 *Courier Journal*, Public Forum, "Why Did Jesus Die?"  
November 2002 *Western Recorder*, "War With Iraq: What Would Jesus Do?"  
1998 - 2002 columnist for LEO, a weekly Louisville newspaper.  
1998 More Light, Less Heat: How Dialogue Can Transform Conflict into Growth San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 191 pp.
- 1988 - 1997 Weekly Column, "Thinking Together," in *Hill Country News*, a suburban Austin newspaper.
- Summer 1996 *Windows* (Austin Seminary publication), "The Hope of Dialogue," page 9.
- Spring 1996 *Conciliation Quarterly*, "The Hope of Dialogue in our Christian Culture War", "When Dialogue is NOT our Hope" and "Some Contemporary Dialogue Models" pages 2-8.
- February 28, 1996 *Austin American-Statesman*, Public Forum, "Violence-free newscasts ignore sad reality."
- May/June 1995 *The Clergy Journal*, (five sermons), pages 116-121.  
December 7, 1993 *Austin American-Statesman*, *Public Forum*, "Anti-gay reading of Bible is flawed."
- May/June, 1993 *Pulpit Digest*, "Party Talk," page 96.  
March/April, 1993 *Christian Reader*, "Surprised By Care," page 57.  
Spring, 1993 *Leadership*, "The Back Page," page 138.  
May/June 1992 *Pulpit Digest*, "Dancing In Church," page 79.  
December 18, 1991 *Baptists Today*, "When Christ is King: A Sermon in Texas," page15.

#### **EDUCATION:**

- 1996 Doctor of Ministry, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas. Doctoral Project: "The Hope of Dialogue: Defusing the Christian Culture War."
- 1978 Master of Divinity, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1976 Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Missouri.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

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|-------------|---|
| 2004        | National Clergy Renewal Program Sabbatical Grant recipient.   |
| 1986 - 1989 | Continuing Education Week at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary                                 |
| 1984, 1986  | Summer Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey                             |
| 1983        | Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas |

**PERSONAL:**

Born: December 21, 1954, Erie, Pennsylvania.  
Ordained at Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton Ohio in 1978.  
Ordination recognized by American Baptist Churches in 1989-90.  
Married to Terri Elms Phelps in 1988. Terri is an environmental law attorney with the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District.  
Four children: Kara (born 1994), Bobby (1981), Carly (1991), and Steven (1993).