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Len Wilson (Short Bio)

Len Wilson has championed creativity and more effective communication in faith and church life since 1991. In service to this calling, he has worked on five local church staffs, written ten books, spoken at hundreds of events, founded two media micropublishing firms, and acquired leadership books at a major publishing house. Len was an early pioneer of visual storytelling in worship. Along the way, he interned at CBS Television City in Los Angeles, played sax in a band with jazz great Denis DiBlasio in Philadelphia, and, for a few seconds, appeared in a Spielberg movie. He is currently Creative Director at Peachtree in Atlanta, one of the largest Presbyterian congregations in the country.

Len Wilson (Long Bio)

Len Wilson has championed creativity and more effective communication in faith and church life since 1991. In service to this calling, he has worked on five local church staffs, written ten books, spoken at hundreds of events, founded two media micropublishing firms, and acquired leadership books at a major publishing house.

Len wrote his life mission statement, *to use oral, written and visual communication with equal effectiveness in sharing Jesus Christ and advancing God's kingdom*, as an undergraduate student while pondering the ineffective and dishonoring ways the church communicates the gospel. This mission has guided his career since.

As a fresh seminary graduate, Len joined the staff of a large local United Methodist congregation called Ginghamburg Church, in Tipp City, Ohio. As the church's first creative media director, Len served with a team of cohorts in pioneering the use of worship screens as a means of storytelling in worship and church life.

Beginning with this internationally-recognized experience, Len wrote nine books on creativity and ministry, including *The Wired Church: Making Media Ministry* (Abingdon, 1999) and, with Jason Moore, *Taking Flight with Creativity: Worship Design Teams That Work* (Abingdon, 2009). He has led and taught at over 200 conferences, seminars and workshops on the North American continent.

In 2002, Len co-founded a micropublishing firm with friend and colleague Jason Moore, dedicated to helping churches communicate the gospel creatively and artistically in worship. This company, Midnight Oil



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Productions, became a forerunner in a movement to champion art and storytelling in modern worship settings through the use of projection screens and digital technology.

While managing Midnight Oil, Len continued to live out his passion to serve in the local church in a variety of roles and settings: as a local church consultant, a worship volunteer with a church plant, and as a part-time Creative Director at Trietsch Memorial UMC in Flower Mound, Texas.

In 2011, Len sold his share of Midnight Oil and moved with his family to Nashville, Tennessee, to join the publishing world and acquire church leadership books for Abingdon Press, the primary imprint of the United Methodist Publishing House. While his intent was to enter publishing as a new means to fulfill his life calling, God had other plans, and after a surprisingly short 18 months, Len accepted a call to return to full-time church work as the Creative Director of Peachtree, one of the largest Presbyterian congregations in America.

At Peachtree Len leads teams of creatives and communicators in building a storytelling culture, including a worship environment that uses creativity and effective communication to tell the story of Jesus Christ.

Also in 2012, Len shifted his writing emphasis from Church Leadership to what publishers call Christian Life, or Christian-themed books for the mass market. His first such book, *Think Like a Five Year Old: Reclaim Your Wonder and Create Great Things*, publishes in June, 2015.

Len holds a M.A. in Religious Communication, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH 1995; a B.A. in Communication, McMurry University, Abilene, TX 1992 (summa cum laude); and did Master's course study at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 1992-1993.

Len is proud husband to Shar and father to four beautiful kids: Kaylyn (13), Christian (11), Joslyn (9) and Austin (6).