

## **SJWT CANDIDATE BOOK LIST as of Feb 18 2021**

**Bishop Michael Curry. Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times.**

He talks about love in really hard situations, particularly politics and times of despair. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/605848/love-is-the-way-by-bishop-michael-curry-with-sara-grace/>

**Diana Butler Bass. Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks.**

San Francisco: HarperOne, 2018. If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks.

**Diana Beresford-Kroeger. To Speak for the Trees: My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest.** Toronto: Random House, 2019.

A beautiful account of her life from a childhood as an orphan in Ireland to her career as a world-recognized botanist, medical biochemist and author in Ottawa. She advocates on behalf of an ambitious "bioplan," encouraging ordinary people to develop a new relationship with nature and to join together to restore the global forest.

**Virginia Ramey Mollencott. Omnigender: A Trans-Religious Approach.** Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2001.

A professor of English literature, she became a ground-breaking thinker and writer of some 12 books about gender, feminism, the bible and the church. Her extraordinary career is being celebrated at the moment after she died last year at 88.

**Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg. Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus can transform your Faith.** Michigan: Zondervan, 2018.

This is one of a series of three books about the Jewish culture in which Jesus lived and how it informs the scriptural accounts of his life that we read in the gospels. There are study notes and three very interesting appendices about feast days, prayers, and how a seder is conducted.

**Barbara Brown Taylor. Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others.**

HarperCollins paperback. It describes her experiences teaching a religious knowledge class at a mid-western college for several years once she gave up being an Anglican church minister. She took her students on field trips to a synagogue, masjid, temple, etc. She experienced "holy envy" for those aspects of the spirituality of other faiths that she wished we had more of in our Christianity.

**Rachel Held Evans. Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church**

Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals--church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it. Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest. A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church.

**Bob Goff. Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People**

What happens when we stop avoiding difficult people and simply love everyone? In his wildly entertaining and inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling phenomenon *Love Does*, Bob Goff takes readers on a life-altering journey into the secret of living without fear, care, constraint, or worry. The path toward the outsized, unfettered, liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits. Driven by Bob's trademark hilarious and insightful storytelling, *Everybody, Always* reveals the lessons Bob learned – often the hard way – about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restriction. From finding the right friends to discovering the upside of failure, *Everybody, Always* points the way to embodying love by doing the unexpected, the intimidating, the seemingly impossible. Whether losing his shoes while skydiving solo or befriending a Ugandan witch doctor, Bob steps into life with a no-limits embrace of others that is as infectious as it is extraordinarily ordinary. *Everybody, Always* reveals how we can do the same.

**Bob Goff: Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World**

Can a simple concept shift your entire world? Bob certainly thinks so. When it comes to loving your neighbors, instead of focusing on having the “right answers” or checking the “right boxes,” what if you decide to simply do love? To shamelessly show love and grace to those around you--what would that look like? Not the kind of love that stops at thoughts and feelings, Bob's love takes action. Bob believes *Love Does*.

It might look like spending 16 days in the Pacific Ocean with five guys and a crate of canned meat. It might look like taking your kids on a world tour to eat ice cream with heads of state. It might look like taking a road trip with a stressed-out college student--even though you just got married a few days before.

When *Love Does*, life gets interesting. Light and fun, unique and profound, the lessons drawn from Bob's life and attitude in this collection of stories just might inspire you to be secretly incredible, too.

**Yvette Manassis Corporon** **Something Beautiful Happened: A Story of Survival and Courage in the Face of Evil**

Seventy years after her grandmother helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek island during World War II, a woman sets out to track down their descendants—and discovers a new way to understand tragedy, forgiveness, and the power of kindness in “an engrossing peek into a little-known chapter of World War II, and one family’s harrowing tale of finding the lost pieces of its own history” (Karen Abbott, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Liar Temptress Solider Spy*).

Yvette Manassis Corporon grew up listening to her grandmother’s stories about how the people of the small Greek island Erikousa hid a Jewish family—a tailor named Savvas and his daughters—from the Nazis during World War II. Nearly 2,000 Jews from that area died in the concentration camps, but even though everyone on Erikousa knew Savvas and his family were hiding on the island, no one ever gave them up, and the family survived the war.

Years later, Yvette couldn’t get the story of the Jewish tailor out of her head. She decided to track down the man’s descendants—and eventually found them in Israel. Their tearful reunion was proof to her that evil doesn’t always win. But just days after she made the connection, her cousin’s child was gunned down in a parking lot in Kansas, a victim of a Neo-Nazi out to inflict as much harm as he could. Despite her best hopes, she was forced to confront the fact that seventy years after the Nazis were defeated, remainders of their hateful legacy still linger today.

As Yvette and her family wrestled with the tragedy in their own lives, the lessons she learned from the survivors of the Holocaust helped her confront and make sense of the present. In beautiful interweaving storylines, the past and present come together in a nuanced, heartfelt “story of compassion and collective resistance” with “undeniable emotional power” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

**Emily P. Freeman.** **The Next Right Thing: A Simple, Soulful Practice for Making Life Decisions**

Nothing gets our attention like an unmade decision: *Should I accept the new position? Which schooling choice is best for my kids? How can I support my aging parents?* When we have a decision to make and the answer isn’t clear, what we want more than anything is peace, clarity, and a nudge in the right direction.

If you have trouble making decisions, because of either chronic hesitation you’ve always lived with or a more recent onset of decision fatigue, Emily P. Freeman offers a fresh way of practicing familiar but often forgotten advice: simply do the next right thing. With this simple, soulful practice, it is possible to clear the decision-making chaos, quiet the fear of choosing wrong, and find the courage to finally decide without regret or second-guessing.

Whether you’re in the midst of a major life transition or are weary of the low-grade anxiety that daily life can bring, Emily helps create space for your soul to breathe so you can live life with God at a gentle pace and discern your next right thing in love.

**Anthony Doerr.** **All the Light We Cannot See.** Pulitzer Prize winning novel in 2015. An imaginative and intricate novel inspired by the horrors of World War II and written in short, elegant chapters that explore human nature and the contradictory power of technology. Set in

northern France, it is a wonderful and inspirational novel of two people in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Bishop Andrew has these two suggestions:

**“The Patient Ferment of the Early Church”** by Alan Kreider. If you are looking for another good suggestion, the Archbishop of Canterbury has an annual tradition of recommending a book for Lent. In 2021, he is promoting **“Living His Story: Revealing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways”** by Hannah Steele.

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