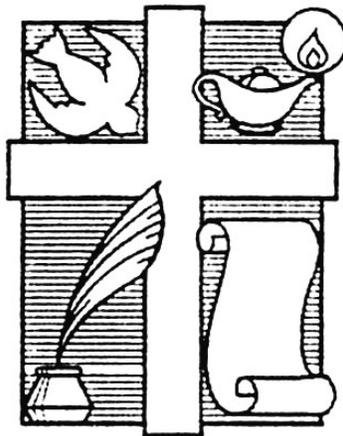


**28th Annual
Texas Christian Writers' Conference**

Sponsored by

Inspirational Writers Alive!



Saturday, August 7, 2021

**7:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Type/Fee (*please check one*):

- _____ Full Day – Member: \$80
- _____ Full Day – Member (age 55+): \$70
- _____ Full Day – Member couple: \$125
- _____ Full Day – Non-member: \$90
- _____ Full Day – Non-member (age 55+): \$80
- _____ Full Day – Non-member couple: \$135
- _____ Half Day – Morning (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Half Day – Afternoon (12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Lunch Only* (12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.): \$10

* Individuals wanting to attend only the half day – morning session or only the awards ceremony may purchase lunch.

- Full day registration includes keynote address, four workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Half day morning registration includes keynote address, two workshops, continental breakfast, and snacks.
- Half day afternoon registration includes two workshops, lunch, and snacks.
- Full day and half day registrations also come with author chats, faculty books at the conference rate, and a chance to win door prizes such as Amazon gift cards, books, and free editing and writing coaching sessions.

Please make your check or money order payable to “TCWC Martha Rogers”. Cash or checks will also be accepted at the door. In addition to the fees listed above for full day and half day registrations, an additional \$10 will be charged for walk-ins on the day of the conference. Registration fees are not refundable after July 25. Please mail your completed registration form and payment to Martha Rogers at 6038 Greenmont, Houston, Texas 77092.

2021 Texas Christian Writers' Conference
Saturday, August 7, 2020
Houston's First Baptist Church—7401 Katy Freeway

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:45 –8:30 a.m.** **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30–8:45 a.m.** **Welcome and Announcements:** Martha Rogers
Devotion
- 8:45–9:00 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open (Room 262)***
- 9:00–10:00 a.m.** **Workshop I (Rooms: A – 257, B – 258, C – 263)**
A. Janice Thompson: *Playwriting 101*
B. Jennifer Slattery: *Creating Page-Turning Fiction*
C. Eva Marie Everson: *A Look at Your Novel, Scene by Scene*
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open (Room 262)***
- 10:15–11:15 a.m.** **Workshop II (Rooms: A – 257, B – 258, C – 263)**
A. Melanie Stiles: *Self-Publishing 101*
B. Sherri Stewart: *So, You've Finished Writing Your Book. Now What?*
C. Eva Marie Everson: *Understanding Deep Point of View*
- 11:20 a.m.–12 p.m.** **Keynote Address**
Jennifer Slattery: *Living Out Your Call*
- 12:00–1:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:00–1:30 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open (Room 262)***
- 1:30–2:30 p.m.** **Workshop III (Rooms: A – 257, B – 258, C – 263)**
A. Janice Thompson: *Devotions on the Go*
B. Sherri Stewart: *Ten Things That Will Make Your Editor Very Happy*
C. Martha Rogers: *Using The Five Senses to Enhance Your Writing*
- 2:30–2:45 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open (Room 262)***
- 2:45–3:45 p.m.** **Workshop IV (Rooms: A – 257, B – 258, C – 263)**
A. Janice Thompson: *C.O.N.F.L.I.C.T.*
B. Jennifer Slattery: *Creating Characters That Grab Your Reader*
C. Eva Marie Everson: *Those All Important First Pages*
- 3:55–4:15 p.m.** **Closing Remarks/Announcements/Door Prizes/Evaluations**

* *The bookstore closes at 2:45 p.m.*

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Workshop I	9:00—10:00 a.m.
<p>A Janice Thompson: <i>Playwriting 101</i> Write the play of your dreams using this simple plotting method. Add zing, zip, and pizzazz to your characters, your plotline, and your setting. Give your audience members the time of their lives.</p>	
<p>B Jennifer Slattery: <i>Creating Page-Turning Fiction</i> In this workshop, Jennifer Slattery discusses the components to great, satisfying, and page-turning fiction. These include high stakes, a sense of urgency, sensitivity to the emotions of the reader (balancing emotive sections with comic relief), a strong and consistent moral premise (not to be confused with spiritual theme), and consistent and believable plots and subplots that work together.</p>	
<p>C Eva Marie Everson: <i>A Look at Your Novel, Scene by Scene</i> A key to writing successful novels is taking the time to break them down scene by scene. What questions should a novelist ask of the work? The plot? The characters? Or themselves? Be prepared by bringing in a scene of your own work in progress for this hands-on workshop.</p>	

Workshop II	10:15—11:15 a.m.
<p>A Melanie Stiles: <i>Self-Publishing 101</i> Should you self-publish? After this workshop with Melanie Stiles, you will be able to answer the question. Melanie will discuss the pros and cons of self-publishing. She will also address a variety of tools to help you through the process. You will receive a checklist that outlines each step necessary to begin your self-publishing journey.</p>	
<p>B Sherri Stewart: <i>So, You've Finished Writing Your Book. Now What?</i> Once the writer has written "The End" on the last page of the book, the work now begins to prepare the rough draft for the editor. Notice that did not say publisher. This hands-on workshop led by Sherri Stewart will focus on fiction conventions such as point of view and show versus tell. Sherri will also discuss choosing a beta reader team.</p>	
<p>C Eva Marie Everson: <i>Understanding Deep Point of View</i> Understanding deep point of view (POV) begins with understanding the five (or is it six?) senses. In this favorite workshop, Eva Marie Everson uses hands-on methods to teach conferees to 1) understand deep POV, 2) bring the senses into their work in order to draw readers into the story, and 3) how a simple sentence can become a powerful scene. Bring a pad and pen or your laptop for this hands-on workshop.</p>	

Keynote Address**11:20 a.m.—12:00 p.m.****Jennifer Slattery: *Living Out Your Call***

Throughout Scripture we see this truth: the greater the call, the longer the journey, and the more intense the training. Setbacks are not dead ends; they are training. God lovingly, faithfully, and persistently molds and grows us so that we can carry well the dream He planted in our hearts. Our role is simply to obey, trusting Him to lead us precisely where we need to go when we get there. Resting in this knowledge helps facilitate exponential growth and allows us to find joy in the journey.

Workshop III**1:30—2:30 p.m.****A Janice Thompson: *Devotions on the Go***

Turn everyday experiences—good and bad—into sellable devotions for the Christian market.

B Sherri Stewart: *Ten Things That Will Make Your Editor Very Happy*

Remember how it felt to get your report card in the mail? That is what having your book edited feels like. You, the author, can put a smile on your editor's face simply by correcting ten common mistakes ahead of time. In addition to revealing these mistakes and how to correct them, Sherri Stewart will discuss different types of editing in this hands-on workshop.

C Martha Rogers: *Using the Five Senses to Enhance Your Writing*

The senses of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch are what make our stories come alive and put the reader into the story. This workshop will cover how to use the senses to give your reader a true feeling of what is happening with your characters. Whether writing mystery and suspense or romance, use your senses to flesh out and enrich your stories.

Workshop IV**2:45—3:45 p.m.****A Janice Thompson: *C.O.N.F.L.I.C.T.***

Up the tension, up the conflict, up the sales! Readers love it when you keep them turning the pages. In this practical class, you will learn how to add conflict in a way that is guaranteed to keep your readers hanging on.

B Jennifer Slattery: *Creating Characters That Grab Your Reader*

Some characters entertain us; others take hold and do not let go. A well-crafted character grabs the reader at their deepest heart level, causing them to see themselves in the character's struggles and victories. In this workshop, Jennifer Slattery discusses abstract and concrete goals, inner lies, black moments, and character arcs. Writers will learn how to take their readers from merely enjoying their stories to living them.

C Eva Marie Everson: *Those All Important First Pages*

Why are first pages so important? What is story and how does it differ from plot? What is voice ... tone ... theme? These questions and others will be explored and answered in this one-hour workshop given by bestselling, multiple award-winning author Eva Marie Everson. Everson looks at what agents, editors, and potential readers see right off the bat and why these must be among the best pages you, the author, write.

FACULTY BIOS



Eva Marie Everson is a multiple award-winning and bestselling author of both fiction and nonfiction. She is the president of Word Weavers International, the director of Florida Christian Writers Conference, and the managing editor for Firefly Southern Fiction. She is a seminary grad who is a wife, mother, and grandmother. Eva Marie and her husband make their home in Central Florida where they are owned by one persnickety cat (is there another kind?).

evamarieeversonauthor.com



Martha Rogers is a multi-published author and writes a weekly devotional for ACFW. Since her first novel published in 2010, she has written and published over fifty other novels and novellas and spoken at numerous writing workshops and meetings. Martha is a member of ACFW, ACFW WOTS chapter in Houston, and Inspirational Writers Alive! Martha and her husband, Rex, live in Houston, Texas, where they are active members of Houston's First Baptist Church. They are the parents of three sons, and they have twelve grandchildren (including spouses) and five great-grandchildren.

marthawrogers.com



Jennifer Slattery is a multi-published author and the founder of Wholly Loved Ministries, a parachurch women's ministry that partners with churches in diverse locations to facilitate conferences for women. In this capacity, she coaches and grows speakers, books events, and routinely interacts with ministry leaders from diverse denominations. She and her team facilitate numerous conferences per year at various hosting churches. She podcasts for Salem Web Communications and is a paid contributor and feature blogger for Crosswalk. She also has experience as a freelance publicist and former acquisitions editor.

jenniferslatterylivesoutloud.com



Sherri Stewart is a freelance fiction copy editor. She has authored five novels and a dozen novellas. Her former careers as principal, French and English teacher, flight attendant, and immigration attorney have provided many storylines for her books. She loves words and is studying three languages—French, Welsh, and Dutch. Sherri’s passion is traveling to the settings of her books—Israel, the Netherlands, Paris, and closer spots around the US, such as Rhode Island and Route 66. A recent widow, she lives in the Orlando area with her strong-willed dog, Lilith, and her son, Joshua, who can fix anything.

stewartwriting.com



Melanie Stiles is an award-winning author and Life Coach who has accumulated hundreds of bylines in various publications. Her freelance material has been published in *The Writer Magazine* and *NINK*. She is also the author of several books written specifically for writers. Melanie believes we are better together!

melaniestiles.com



Award-winning author **Janice Thompson** got her start in the industry writing screenplays and musical comedies for the stage. Janice has published over 140 books for the Christian market, crossing genre lines to write cozy mysteries, historicals, romances, nonfiction books, devotionals, children’s books, and more. She particularly enjoys writing light-hearted, comedic tales because she likes making readers laugh. Janice is passionate about her faith and does all she can to share the joy of the Lord with others, which is why she especially loves writing. Her tagline, “Love, Laughter, and Happily Ever Afters!” sums up her take on life. When she is not busy writing or playing with her nine grandchildren, Janice can be found in the kitchen, baking specialty cakes and cookies for friends and loved ones. No matter what she is cooking up—books, cakes, cookies, or mischief—she does her best to keep the Lord at the center of it all.

janiceathompson.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Christian interdenominational writers' club, Inspirational Writers Alive! (IWA!) helps aspiring and published authors advance their writing skills and find effective markets for their work. Maxine E. Holder founded IWA! in March 1990. IWA! members meet monthly to learn from speakers, participate in critique sessions and read-arounds, and network with other writers. IWA! sponsors the annual Texas Christian Writers' Conference (TCWC).

IWA! CHAPTERS

IWA! consists of chapters that meet in different locations. If you are interested in joining an existing IWA! chapter, please contact the president listed below. To find out more about starting an IWA! chapter in your area, you may request an information packet at the TCWC or reach out to Martha Rogers at marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net.

- **Amarillo**—Karl Smith (karlwk@suddenlink.net, 806-336-5164)
- **Central Houston**—Martha Rogers (marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net, 713-686-7209)
- **Northwest Houston**—Martha Roddy (magnolia7787@gmail.com, 281-859-4208)

WHAT TO BRING TO THE TCWC

- Notebook and paper for taking notes
- Light wrap or sweater as classrooms may be chilly
- Money or checkbook if you want to purchase books in the bookstore (payment by cash or check only)
- Questions to ask the faculty during author chats throughout the day

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TCWC

- Registration, special dietary needs, etc.
 - Martha Rogers – marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net
 - Melanie Stiles – melstiles@aol.com
 - Michelle Marie Hernandez – bella@michellemariehernandez.com

DIRECTIONS

- **Eastbound on I-10:** Exit at Post Oak/Silber. Continue on the feeder to the church. Turn right and follow the street around to the south parking lot across from First Baptist Academy. Enter the church through the Fitness and Recreation Center and follow the signs to the Fellowship Center.
- **Westbound on I-10 East:** Exit at Antoine. Turn left under the freeway and follow the feeder to the church as above.
- **From Loop 610 or 290:** Take I-10 West. Exit at Antoine. Follow the directions listed above.