

**Rebecca Laird**

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## **Education, Professional Development and Honors**

### **Doctor of Ministry**

Drew University, Madison, NJ, 2008

### **Master of Arts**

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA 1990

### **Bachelor of Arts,**

Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA, 1982

### **Certifications and Professional Education**

“New to Online Teaching—The essentials”, The Sloan Consortium, 2013

PC(USA) passed ordination exams, Presbytery of Elizabeth, NJ, 2004

Prepare/Enrich, Life Innovations, Clergy training in marital counseling, 2003

Spirituality, Values and Religion Reporting Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, Summer program, 2001

Course of Ministerial Study Metro New York District Church of the Nazarene, 1990

Spiritual Direction, nine-month certificate program, Mercy Center, 1991

### **Ordination**

Elder, Church of the Nazarene. Southern California District, ordained 1995.

Recognized as a Corresponding Member of the Presbytery of Elizabeth of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in November 2002-08 as a Corresponding Member, 2002-2008

### **Professional Memberships**

American Academy of Religion

Spiritual Directors International

Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference

Wesleyan Theological Society

Association of Practical Theology

San Diego Spiritual Directors Association

Advisory Board, Volunteer Boards and Organizations (since arrival at PLNU)

Advisory Board, Center for Christian Spirituality, University of San Diego

### **Honors and Grants**

Summer Wesley Scholars Program, Asbury Seminary, 2015

PLNU Wesleyan Center, Summer Scholars Grant, 2011, 2014, 2016

Distinguished Alumna Award, PLNU, 2008

Award of Merit, Religion Communicator's Council, 2001

Stoody-West Fellowship for Religion Journalism, 2000

Wesleyan/Holiness Clergy Woman Representative, Women Clergy Study Consultation, Hartford Seminary, 1996

The Alumnus of Point Loma College Award, 1991

Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, 1982

## ***Teaching Experience***

### **Point Loma Nazarene University 2011-present**

Professor of Christian Ministry and Practice, tenure-track, 2011-present

Interim Dean, School of Theology and Christian Ministry, 2015-16

Committee service: Chair, Faculty Council (2016-17), Educational Effectiveness (2015-16), New Faculty Mentor (2014-15) Faculty Status Committee (2012-13), Community Classroom Academic Advisory Committee (2013-present)

### **Drew University, The Theological School 2008-2011**

Director of Ministerial Formation

Founding Director for Certificate in Spiritual Formation, a five-course, non-degree program

Doctor of Ministry Program in Worship, Spirituality and Preaching

Committee assignment: Student Formation Committee

#### **Courses designed and taught:**

Christian Education of Children (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Christian Formation (Master of Arts in Ministry) \*

Contemporary Ministry (Masters of Arts in Ministry)\*

Faith Formation in the Congregation (Masters of Arts in Ministry)\*

Leadership and Administration (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Life of Holiness (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Liturgy: Word, Form and Function (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Intro to Christian Education (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Intro to Ministry (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Pastoral Care and Counseling (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Pastoral Formation (Master of Divinity)

Spiritual Autobiography (Master of Divinity/Doctor of Ministry)

Spiritual Disciplines for Personal, Parish and Ecological Renewal (Master of Divinity/Doctor of Ministry)

Spiritual Direction/Companionship (Master of Divinity/Doctor of Ministry)

Theological Writing (Master of Divinity)

Women and Christianity (Bachelor of Arts)\*

Women in the Holiness Movement (Doctor of Ministry)

\*denotes course taught at PLNU

## ***Church and Agency Work History***

### **Central Presbyterian Church, Summit New Jersey 2003-2008**

#### Associate Pastor for Spiritual Development

Served as one of three clergy providing worship, sacramental leadership and pastoral care for a historic, 1100 member congregation. Responsible for the spiritual development vision, adult education, retreats, women's ministry, men's ministry, small groups, curriculum selection and implementation of programs for all ages. Provides oversight for the church's preschool with twenty staff which served 240 children annually. Supervised Princeton Theological Seminary, Drew Theological School and Calvin College interns. Staff liaison to the Bolivia Mission Team and local mission outreach.

Acting Head of Staff March-September 2005

Successfully oversaw the 35 church staff and operations during an interim senior pastor search process.

#### **Fellowship in Prayer, Princeton, NJ 1996-2003**

Editor, Sacred Journey: The Journal of Fellowship in Prayer

Oversaw all aspects of bimonthly interfaith spirituality journal. Responsible for selecting content and photos, managing production staff and seminary interns, conducting feature interviews, writing editorials, and implementing internet and print promotional efforts. Conducted feature interviews with Henri Nouwen, Lloyd John Ogilvie, Randall Balmer, Frederick Buechner, Rachel Remen, Cardinal Idris Cassidy from the Vatican, Rabbi Leon Klienicke of Brni Brith, Harvey Cox, and many others. Conference co-coordinator, "Companions on the Sacred Journey," The 50th Anniversary Conference for Fellowship in Prayer. June 16-18, 2000 at Princeton University. Planned workshops, prayer circles, Taize prayer service and produced the multi-faith closing ceremony in historic Richardson Auditorium.

#### **Laird Christensen Associates 1990-1996**

Served as a developmental book project editor for Abingdon Press, HarperSanFrancisco, Guideposts Books, Crossings Book Club, Point Loma Press, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Zondervan, Willow Creek Association, The Evangelical Covenant Church and other publishing and non-profit clients.

#### **The Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene, New York, NY 1995-1996**

Organizational audit and staff training

The Lamb's Church, NY, NY. Interviewed staff, visited programs in progress, reviewed staff position descriptions and policies before recommending a team-oriented approach to sustaining current ministries and enhancing resource development. Developed and implemented a discipleship program for homeless men in The Pathway to Wholeness program.

#### **World Vision, U.S. Field Operations, Federal Way, WA 1992-1996**

Urban community development and program consultant

Coordinated personnel search, initial program research, and network building in New York City during 1995. Provided administrative oversight to Vision to Reality, a training program in community development for a coalition of churches in Oakland, CA, 1992-1996.

#### **Harper One, San Francisco, CA 1983-1989**

Associate Editor

Responsible for acquisition, editing, and oversight of religious trade books and religious education curriculum for the Protestant market. Edited books by Sue Monk Kidd, Marie Fortune, Justo Gonzalez and Carmen Renee Berry among dozens of others.

## Golden Gate Community Church of the Nazarene 1982-1989

Office Manager and Ministry Staff Member 1982

Managed office operations, Christian education, small group training, worship planning, visiting groups, donor relations, facility use and financial records. Served as first point of contact for homeless clients.

Volunteer staff, overseeing interns and member of church board 1983-1989

### **Selected Publications**

#### **Books**

*Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*, Henri Nouwen with Michael Christensen and Rebecca Laird, Harper One, 2013.

*Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*. Henri Nouwen with Michael Christensen and Rebecca Laird, Harper One, 2010.

*Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*. Henri Nouwen with Michael Christensen and Rebecca Laird, Harper One, 2006.

*The Heart of Henri Nouwen: His Words of Blessing*, Co-editor with Michael Christensen. Crossroad Books, 2003.

*No Hiding Place: Empowerment and Recovery for our Communities*, co-authored with Rev. Cecil Williams) HarperCollins, 1992.

*Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: The First Generation*. Beacon Hill Press, 1992.

*Robinson Rabbit, What Do You Hear?* Augsburg, 1990.

*Portraits of People in Places not Like Home*. Beacon Hill Press, 1982.

#### **Book Chapters**

"Inclusion or Exclusion: Facing the Challenges of Women's Voices in the Christian Community" in *Facing Challenges: Feminism in Christian Higher Education and Other Places*, Allyson Jule and Bettina Tate Pedersen, eds., Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015.

"The Priesthood of All Believers: A Theology of the Laity", in *Essential Church: A Wesleyan Paradigm*. Diane LeClerc and Mark Maddix, eds., Beacon Hill Press, 2014.

"As if We Lived in a Liberated World": The Prophetic Vision of Dorothee Soelle", in *Nurturing the Prophetic Imagination*, Jamie Gates and Mark Mann, eds., Wipf and Stock, 2012.

"Primary Feathers" chapter in *Results May Vary*, Point Loma Press, 2012.

#### **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

"Olive May Winchester" A 'Hidden' Holiness Scholar, 1879-1947', *Wesley and Methodist Studies*, in peer review.

#### **Curriculum**

"Gender Roles and Liberation in God," module for the Course of Studies for Ordination, Church of the Nazarene, 2013.

*Unfailing Love: Growing Closer to Jesus Christ*, video series and participant's guide for Sisters: Bible Studies for Women Series, Abingdon Press, 2004.

Study Guide for *The Sunday After Tuesday: Sermons preached after September 11th*: Abingdon, 2002.

“Stewards of the Good News of Community: Personal Communities,” Lessons for Steward, Living as Disciples in Everyday Life, a denominational curriculum for adult study. United Methodist Publishing House, 2000.

Study Guide for *Reflections on Forgiveness and Spiritual Growth* edited by Andrew Weaver and Monica Furlong, Abingdon, 2000.

Talking to Your Children: Conversations for Life, Abingdon, 1999.

*The Will of God: A Workbook*, Abingdon, 1995.

Leader’s Guide for *Letters to Marc About Jesus* by Henri Nouwen, HarperCollins, 1991.

Leader’s Guide for *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd, HarperCollins, 1991

### **Other Publication**

Author of more than 75 magazine articles appearing in *Christianity Today*, *Sojourners*, *Weavings*, *Asbury Online*, and *Holiness Today*, for which I was a regular columnist for 10 years; 4 books of daily devotionals, 6 additional chapters in multi-authored works, 12 adult education curriculum series, and editor of more than 60 books for the religious trade. (Full publications list available.) Book reviews have appeared in *Sacred Journey: The Journal of Fellowship in Prayer*, *EEWC Update*, and *New Horizons*.

### **Lectures and Conference Papers** (selected)

Moderator, Practical Theology Section, Wesleyan Theological Society Meeting, San Diego, CA, Mar 2016

“Mary Bosanquet Fletcher’s Communal Catechism”, presented as a work in progress at the Summer Wesley Scholars Seminar, Asbury Seminary, Lexington, KY, June 20, 2015

“‘Dividing what Cannot Be Destroyed’: Susanna Wesley’s ‘Remarks’ on the Public Failures of Friendship Between Mr. Whitefield and Her Sons,” The International Tercentenary Conference on George Whitefield, Pembroke College in Oxford, June 26, 2014

“What Shall We Tell the Children about the ‘Great’ and Not-So Great Atonement? Susanna Annesley Wesley and Rita Nakashima Brock in Conversation,” Wesleyan Theological Society, March 7, 2014

“Rev. Dr. Olive Winchester: A Gentlewoman and a Scholar, A Biographical Look on the 100th Anniversary of her Ordination to the Ministry” Women in Ministry conference, University of Glasgow, May 12, 2012

Moderator, “Soul Work: A Conversation on Spiritual Practices,” Tipple-Vosburg lectures, Drew Theological School, October. 2010

As if We Lived in a Liberated World: The Prophetic Imagination of Dorothee Soelle” presentation at the Prophetic Imagination Conference, Point Loma Nazarene, University, March 2010

Congregational Spiritual Formation, Skylands District, United Methodist Church, Parsippany, NJ March 2010

The Moral Imagination of Mildred Bangs Wynkoop, Point Loma Nazarene University Chapel, Sept. 2005

Spiritual Renewal Week speaker, Eastern Nazarene College, October 2004

Gather Up the Crumbs: God's Provision of Daily Guidance, Princeton University Chapel, August 2000

"Prayer and Human Wholeness," Workshop, Companions on the Sacred Journey Conference, Princeton University, June 2000

"Practice Makes Perfect: The Holiness of Everyday Acts," Featured Speaker, Wesley Conference 2000, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID Feb. 2000

"The Holiness Tradition," "The Ways of Prayer", "The Family as Spiritual Teacher", Daily presenter, Bible Hour, Ecumenical Campmeeting, Ocean Grove Campmeeting Association, Ocean Grove, NJ 1996, 1997, 1998

"The Sacred Journey," ACTS Women's Group, Marble Collegiate Church, NY, NY, 1998

Fall Revival. Edison, NJ Church of the Nazarene, 1996

"The Character of Ministry in the Twenty-First Century," Compassionate Ministries Conference, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID, 1996

"How are Clergy Women Faring? A Look at the Profession Today." Plenary presenter, Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Conference, Indianapolis, IN, 1996

Respondent, Holy Living in a Post-Christian World, Riley Lectures, Wesley Center, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID, 1995

Women in Ministry Workshops: Northwest Nazarene College, 1996, 1991 and Point Loma Nazarene University, 1990

**Conferences Attended** (list since arrival at PLNU)

American Academy of Religion, 2011, 2014

Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference, 2011, 2013, 2015

Wesleyan Theological Society, 2014, 2016

**Volunteer Service** (since arrival at PLNU)

World Hope Corp Mission Team to Uganda July 2015

Co-led with Dr. Caroline Njuki, "The Women's Conference", Togolo, Uganda, July 2015

Make-A-Wish, San Diego, Wish Grantor 2013-present

**Guest Preacher, Teacher, Retreat Leader** (since arrival at PLNU)

Mission Hills United Methodist Church, San Diego, Sept. 2016

Azusa Pacific University Chapel, Nov. 2015

Pentecostal Holiness Church, Togolo, Uganda, June 2015

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, San Diego, CA, Dec. 2014

Genesis Church of the Nazarene, San Diego, CA Sept, 2014

Epworth United Methodist Church, Berkeley, CA Oct 2013,

San Diego First Church of the Nazarene, Oct, 2014, Dec, 2014, March, May 2015, May 2016

San Francisco Chinese Church of the Nazarene June 2013

Mission Valley Church of the Nazarene May 2012, Aug 2016

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church, November 2011