

Rebecca J. Laird
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EDUCATION

Drew University, Doctor of Ministry

Project Thesis: "Sacred Space, Sacred Stories: An Appreciative Congregational History on the Centennial of the Sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, New Jersey 1908-2008"
GPA 4.055, 2008

Pacific School of Religion, M.A. Religion

Thesis: "Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene: The First Generation," 1990

Point Loma Nazarene University. B.A. Literature/Speech Communications

Graduated *magna cum laude*, 1982

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Princeton Theological Seminary

Coursework for successful completion of PC(USA) ordination exams required as a Corresponding Member of the Presbytery of Elizabeth, NJ. 2003-04

Prepare/Enrich, Life Innovations,

Clergy training in marital counseling, 2003

Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University

Specialization Semester in Spirituality, Values and Religion Reporting, 2001

Iona College

15 credit hours of graduate level journalism courses, 2001-01

Metro New York District Church of the Nazarene,

Course of Study, 1995

Mercy Center

Certificate in Spiritual Direction. 1991

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Point Loma Nazarene University

Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Practice, 2011-present

Drew University Theological School,

Director of Ministerial Formation, 2008-11

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

D.Min Adjunct, Instructor, 2000-present

Nazarene Bible College Extension

Instructor, 1994

Courses taught

Life of Holiness (Bachelor of Arts)

Intro to Christian Education (Bachelor of Arts)

Leadership and Administration (Bachelor of Arts)

Contemporary Ministry (Masters of Arts in Ministry)
Faith Formation in the Congregation (Masters of Arts in Ministry)
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 in the Holiness Movement (Doctor of Ministry)
World Literature (Bible College)

MINISTRY AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Central Presbyterian Church, Summit New Jersey

Associate Pastor for Spiritual Development

One of three clergy providing worship and sacramental leadership and pastoral care for a historic, 1100 member congregation. Responsible along for the spiritual development vision, adult education, retreats, women's ministry, men's ministry, small groups, and curriculum selection and implementation of programs for all ages. Provided oversight for the church's preschool with twenty staff and 240 children. Supervised Princeton Theological Seminary, Drew Theological School and Calvin College interns working in spiritual development and youth ministry. Staff liaison to the Bolivia Mission Team and local mission outreach. 2003-2008.

Acting Head of Staff

Successfully oversaw the 35 church staff and operations during an interim senior pastor search process. March 2005-September 2005.

Fellowship in Prayer, Princeton, NJ

Editor, *Sacred Journey*: The Journal of Fellowship in Prayer

Responsible for selecting content and photos, overseeing production staff and seminary interns, conducting feature interviews, writing editorials, and implementing internet and print promotional efforts for this bimonthly, interfaith spirituality journal. 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 B'nai B'rith, Harvey Cox, and others. Conference co-coordinator, "Companions on the Sacred Journey," The 50th Anniversary Conference for Fellowship in Prayer. June 16-18, 2000 at Princeton University, 1996-2002.

The Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene, New York, NY

Organizational audit and staff training

The Lamb's Church, NY, NY. Interviewed staff, visited programs in progress, reviewed staff position descriptions and policies and outlined approaches for sustaining current ministries and enhancing resource development. Developed and implemented a discipleship program for homeless men in The Pathway to Wholeness program., 1995-1996

World Vision, U.S. Field Operations, Federal Way, WA

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

Laird/Christensen Associates

Developmental Editor

Served as a book project editor for Abingdon Press, HarperSanFrancisco, Guideposts Books, Crossings Book Club, Point Loma Press, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Zondervan, Willow Creek Association and other publishing clients 1990-2003

HarperOne, A Division of Harper Collins Publishers, San Francisco

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. 1983-1989

Golden Gate Community Church of the Nazarene

Office Manager and Ministry Staff Member

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. 1982-83

Volunteer staff 1983-1990

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, LECTURES, RETREATS

Forthcoming

Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life. Co-written with Henri Nouwen and Michael Christensen from Nouwen's archival holdings, Harper One, forthcoming, 2103.

"As if We Lived in a Liberated World": The Prophetic Vision of Dorothee Soelle," chapter in *Nurturing the Prophetic Imagination*, Eerdmans, 2012.

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

Published Books

Spiritual Formation: The Movements of the Spirit. Co-written with Henri Nouwen and Michael Christensen from Nouwen's archival writings, HarperOne, 2010.

Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith. Co-written with Henri Nouwen and Michael Christensen from Nouwen's archival writings, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

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

The Heart of Henri Nouwen: His Words of Blessing, (Editor with Michael Christensen) Crossroad Books, 2003.

Answered Prayers, Guideposts Books, 2000.

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

Curriculum

"Feminism and Liberation Theology," required seminar for Ministerial Studies program, Church of the Nazarene, forthcoming 2013.

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, FaithHome Parent Guide, 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

Also the author of more than 75 magazine articles appearing in *Christianity Today*, *Sojourners*, *Weavings*, *Asbury Online*, and *Holiness Today*, (regular columnist for 10 years) Book reviews have appeared in *Sacred Journey: The Journal of Fellowship in Prayer*, *EEWC Update*, and *New Horizons*. Full publications list available.

Selected Lectures

"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, 2010

As if We Lived in a Liberated World: The Prophetic Imagination of Dorothee Soelle, paper presented at 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

"The Scholarly Journey of The Reverend Doctor Olive Winchester," Heritage Day Lecture: Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, 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

Retreats (partial list)

Spiritual Formation

Women's Retreat, University Place Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, WA

Spiritual Self-Care

Stephen Ministers and Deacons, Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, NJ

Understanding the Will of God

Retreat for Community Presbyterian Church, Orlando, FL

Living from the Center

Women's Epiphany Retreat, Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kirkridge, NJ
Presbyterian Women of Newton Presbytery, Stony Point, NY

Spiritual Friendship

Retreat for Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, NJ

Spiritual Renewal day for Marble Collegiate Church, NY, NY

Forgiveness 101

Retreat for Christ Church, (UCC) Summit, NJ

Henri Nouwen and Thomas Merton, Two Models of the Contemplative Life

Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Bangor, PA

Prayer and Human Wholeness

Retreat, United Church of Christ, Dudley, MA

The Symbols of Lent

Day Retreat, United Methodist Church, Morristown, NJ

Contemplative Prayer and Self-Knowledge

Gen X Retreat, The Lamb's Church of the Nazarene, New York, NY

Praying with Others

Deacon's Retreat Christ Church, Summit, NJ

Living the Spiritual Life

Week-long Revival, Christ United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI

Growing in Faith: The Ways of Prayer
Leadership Retreat, Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown, NJ

The Spiritual Act of Forgiveness
Women's Retreat, Church of the Nazarene, Baltimore, MD

Living a Life of Purpose
Champlain Valley Women's Ministry Retreat, Church of the Nazarene, Plattsburg, NY

Family Life as Spiritual Discipline
Family Life Retreat, Church of the Nazarene, Valley Stream, NY

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts
Young Adult Retreat, United Methodist Church, Morristown, NJ

The Ways of Personal Prayer
Canada/Pacific District Nazarene, Vancouver, BC
Metro New York District Nazarene Women's Retreat, Red Bank, NY

Listening to the Voice of God
Women's Retreat, Church of the Nazarene, Wollaston, MA
Presbyterian Women's Retreat, Trenton, NJ
Mission Church of the Nazarene, San Diego, CA

ORDINATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Church of the Nazarene. Metro New York District Church of the Nazarene. 1995-present.
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

American Academy of Religion

Spiritual Directors International

Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS,

Distinguished Alumni Award, Point Loma Nazarene College, 2006.
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