

Rebecca Laird
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Professional Profile

Called to adult spiritual formation and theological education for ministry.

Holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Worship, Spirituality and Preaching

Holds a Master of Arts in Religion

Holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Speech Communication

Trained in online educational technologies

A skilled minister, preacher, teacher and administrator

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, 2001

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

Spiritual Direction, 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

Association of Practical Theology

Honors and Grants

PLNU Wesleyan Center, Summer Scholars Grant, 2011 and 2014

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

Key Qualifications

Skilled educator with wide experience teaching undergraduates, graduates and adult learners.

Expert in planning, designing and leading programs of spiritual formation with ecumenical understanding.

Manages people well and understands organizational operations.

Experienced in theological education, non-profit management and local church relations.

Writes and speaks professionally.

Proficient in educational technology systems and social media.

Teaching Experience

Point Loma Nazarene University 2011-present

Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Practice, tenure-track

Graduate courses taught: Christian Formation (hybrid course, Master of Arts in Ministry program)

Committee assignments: Faculty Status Committee

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

Adjunct Instructor, 2000-present

Committee assignment: Student Formation Committee

Courses designed and taught:

Christian Education of Children (Bachelor of Arts)

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)

Ministry and Non-Profit Experience

Central Presbyterian Church, Summit New Jersey 2003-2008

Associate Pastor for Spiritual Development

Served as one of three clergy providing worship and 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 intergenerational programs. Provided 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.

Sacred Journey: The Journal of Fellowship in Prayer

Editor

Oversaw all aspects of bimonthly interfaith spirituality journal. Responsible for content, overseeing production staff conducting feature interviews, writing editorials, and implementing internet and print promotional efforts.

Conducted feature interviews with Henri Nouwen, Frederick Buechner, Rachel Remen, Cardinal Idris Cassidy from the Vatican, Rabbi Leon Klienicke of Bnai Brith, Imam Chelbi, 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. Planned workshops, prayer circles, Taize prayer service and produced the multi-faith closing ceremony in historic Richardson Auditorium.

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.

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

Publishing Experience

Laird/Christensen Associates 1990-2003

Developmental Editor

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

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.

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

“People of the Mission” in *Essential Church: A Wesleyan Paradigm*. Beacon Hill Press, forthcoming, 2014.

“As If We Lived in a Liberated World”: The Prophetic Vision of Dorothee Soelle,” in *Nurturing the Prophetic Imagination*, Eerdmans, 2012.

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

Curriculum

“Feminism and Liberation Theology,” required seminar for Ministerial Studies program, Church of the Nazarene, forthcoming 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*.

Selected Lectures and Conference Papers

“Dividing What Cannot be Destroyed”: Susanna Wesley’s ‘Remarks’ on the Public Failures of Friendship between Mr. Whitefield and Her Sons.” George Whitefield at 300 Conference, Pembroke College, 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 Conference, Nampa, ID. March 8, 2014

“The Communal Catechism of Mary Bosanquet Fletcher”: PLNU Scholarship Day, August 2013.

“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” 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

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 Retreat, 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