

CURRICULUM VITAE

TANYA LINN BENNETT

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EDUCATION

- Ph. D. The Graduate Division of Religion,
Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, 2011.
Discipline: Sociology of Religion
Dissertation Title:
Gen M Christian Women Speak of Friendship:
A Phenomenological Study of Women's Friendship
for a New Generation
- M. Phil. The Caspersen School at Drew University, 2005.
Madison, New Jersey
Sociology of Religion
Concentration: Women's Narrative Voice
& Construction of Knowledge
- M. Div. Drew Theological School, 2000.
Madison, New Jersey
Summa Cum Laude
- Awards: May, 1999 Patricia Wickham Prize for academic excellence
and creativity in feminist/womanist scholarship.
May, 2000 Alfred P. Waller Award for excellence in the practice
of Christian ministry
May, 2000 The Henry Lambdin Prize for excellence in
pastoral leadership
- Bachelor of Arts Allegheny College, 1984
Meadville, Pennsylvania
Area of Concentration: Writing & Communications
Cum Laude
- Diploma Chatham High School, 1980
Chatham, New Jersey

DENOMINATIONAL STATUS

Ordained elder in full connection, full member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC) of the United Methodist Church. Commissioned in 2003, full membership in 2006.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

Associate Dean for Formation & Vocation

August 2016 – Present.

Associate Professor in the Practice of Public Theology & Vocation

- Responsible for spiritual formation, field education (apprenticeships and internships), vocational discernment and professional development for all masters level students matriculated in the Theological School at Drew University.
- This role is a re-visioned and newly-focused position at Drew Theological School, and oversees the work of the chapel, as well as working closely with student affairs, civic engagement and experiential learning across the university.

University Chaplain, Director of the Chapel & Religious Life, 2006 – August 2016.

Re-established the office of the University Chaplain which had been vacant for six years, and integrated it into the community life of the campus through student life office affiliation and interreligious emphasis. This office approaches the following goals as a one-person office with student staff and seminary intern support.

- Seek to promote the spiritual well-being of the Drew community by offering opportunities for inter-religious learning, fellowship and worship; supporting ethical development and decision-making; nurturing spiritual growth through individual guidance and group activities; offering opportunities in leadership; and creating healthy social alternatives.
- Offer clergy presence and spiritual leadership at university ceremonies, rituals, memorials, celebrations, campus-wide events, and respond promptly and appropriately in moments of campus, community and societal crisis.
- Convene the Religious Life Council comprised of the student leadership and advisors of either campus organizations representing various religious traditions to develop interfaith programming, and to resource and strengthen the particularities of each tradition. Lead three major multifaith campus-wide events including Baccalaureate. Work with student leaders and group advisors to develop events observing high holy day observances within world religious traditions.
- Direct and oversee the activities, prayer gatherings and interfaith gatherings of the Drew Multifaith Prayer Center.
- Offer Christian interdenominational worship services four times weekly, addressing the diversity of the college and theological school student body, faculty and staff through the use of international languages and a variety of musical, liturgical, and preaching styles.
- Advise the Spirituality Theme House, an interfaith living/learning environment designed to develop compassion and understanding through interfaith dialogue.
- Collaborate with other campus life and student affairs directors to develop co-curricular learning opportunities and fellowship events.
- Encourage the development of informed practicing pastors by offer chapel as a practicum class so that students may develop worship leadership skills, liturgical dexterity and practical experience.

Associate Professor in the Practice of Ministry, 2013 – 2016.

- Teaching responsibilities in the areas of Sociology of Religion, Educational Ministries, Liturgical Studies and Urban Ministry.

Director of the Chapel & Religious Life, 2004 - 2006.

Special Events & Chapel Coordinator, July 2002 – 2004.

Chapel Coordinator, July 2001 – 2002.

Admissions Recruiter, January 1998 – September 2000. Focused on young adult students.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Deans' Council, 2013 - Present. Elected to this advisory board to the deans of the theological school.

University Senate. 2010 – 2014. Chair of this university-wide advisory board to higher administration. Representation includes president, vice presidents, deans, staff and faculty from each division.

Partnership for Religious Education in Prisons (PREP),
Theological School committee
directing this inside/out learning program for theological students and inmates in New Jersey prisons. June 2015 – Present.

Diversity Committee member. 2006 – Present.

Promote campus-wide appreciation for diversity of student body, faculty and staff through training, community events and educational opportunities. Directed higher education diversity conference, November, 2009.

Disability Concerns Committee, 2010.

Committee to assess accessibility and support for students, faculty and staff.

DENOMINATIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Circuit Elder, Raritan Valley District, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference,
July 2015 – Present.

Conklin United Methodist Church, South River, New Jersey. Teaching model church ministry, mentoring two seminary interns. July 2015 – Present.

Bernardsville, United Methodist Church, Bernardsville, New Jersey.

Interim Pastor, January 2011 – July 2011.

First United Methodist Church, Passaic, New Jersey.

Interim Pastor, July 2011 – 2013.

Chatham United Methodist Church, Chatham, NJ

Associate Pastor for Youth & Worship, July 2003 – 2006.

Pastoral Associate, September 2001 – July 2003.

Covenant United Methodist Church, Plainfield, NJ

Co-Pastor on intercultural ministry team, July 1999 - July 2001.

DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Secretary, Northeast Jurisdictional (NEJ) Committee on Programs and Sessions,
2012 – 2016, Worship Chair for NEJ 2016.

Clergy Delegate, United Methodist General Conference 2012.

Northeast Jurisdiction Clergywomen's Convocation planning committee,
worship team convener, January, 2010 – March, 2011.

Executive Board, Board of Ordained Ministry, Director-Resident in Ministry Program for Provisional Members, GNJAC, 2012 – Present.
Executive Board, Board of Ordained Ministry, Coordinator of the Resident in Ministry Program for provisional clergy, GNJAC, 2006 – 2012.
Sessions Member, Worship Director, GNJAC , 2007 - Present.
District Youth Director, Gateway North District, GNJAC, 2006 – 2008.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- Lead Writer, United Methodist Women General Assembly 2018, five plenary sessions and worship. 8000+ expected attendance.
- Lead Writer, United Methodist Women Mission U 2018, three plenary/training sessions and three worship settings. 1000+ expected attendance.
- Director of Worship, Northeast Jurisdictional Conference 2016, Lancaster PA. Organized worship and music team to lead four worship settings over the conference session, including a service of repentance with the Commission on Native American Ministry of the NEJ.
- Director of Worship, General Commission of Religion & Race, Global Convocation, March, 2016. Worked with intercultural worship team and Bishop Minerva Carcano to develop three worship settings for this gathering.
- Chair, Dean's Installation, Drew Theological School, October 2014. Planned and coordinated all details related to the installation of Drew Theological School's 15th dean, Javier Viera.
- Co-Director, Summer Music Institute, Drew University, Summer 2007 – Present. Worship leader, plenary speaker and workshop designer for intensive two-day institute offering dual tracks in sacred music and liturgical studies designed for practicing worship leaders. 100 – 150 laypeople, clergy and musicians in attendance annually.
Co-directed with Mark Miller.
- 2007 – Caught Up in the Spirit: Hearing and Responding
(Jimmy Abingdon, Keynote Speaker)
- 2008 – The Welcome Table (John Bell, Keynote Speaker)
- 2009 - Draw the Circle Wide: Empowering, Encouraging, and Energizing Worship Leaders (Cynthia Wilson, Keynote Speaker)
- 2010 - Hands to Heaven: Playing, Praying, Preaching for a New Generation
(Drew Dyson, Keynote Preacher)
- 2011 - Amazing Abundance: Playing and Singing the World Round
(Michael Hawn, Keynote Speaker)
- 2012 - You're Invited to a Praise Party: The Partnership of Pastor and Musician
(Mark Miller and Tanya Bennett, Keynote Speakers)
- 2013 - Lift EVERY Voice: Centering Young People in Worship and Song
(Mark Miller and Tanya Bennett, Keynote Speakers)
- 2014 – The Heartbeat of God—Rhythms in Worship & Music
(Lydia Munõz and Tanya Bennett, Keynote Speakers)
- 2015 – T.R.A.N.S Crossing Borders—Designing Worship to Reach the

Marginalized.
 (Mark Miller and Tanya Bennett, Keynote Speakers)
 2016—Gather at the Table, Dinner Church. (Rev. Emily Scott, Keynote Speaker;
 Mark Miller and Tanya Bennett, worship leaders)
 2017--#BlackLivesMatter: Disruptive Worship for Social Change.
 Mark Miller and Tanya Bennett, worship leaders)

Reconciling Ministry Network Convocation, Worship Director, August, 2011.
 Developed and directed three major worship events over three-day
 conference. 600 participants in attendance.

“Love Your Neighbor,” Worship Director, General Conference 2012.
 Directed worship for eight social justice organizations involved with
 the Love Your Neighbor campaign. James Cone, Preacher.

“Prepare” Campus Ministry training, 2011 Design team member. Worked with
 GBHEM campus ministry division to develop this training event.
 Designed worship for this three-day session.

United Methodist General Conference 2008 Worship Team member.
 Coordinated musicians and worship leaders throughout two-week global
 conference. (5 – 8,000 participants in attendance, 22 worship services.)

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, Worship Leader, 2007 – Present.
 Develop and direct worship for three-day annual conference event.
 1400 lay and clergy in attendance.

Bishop’s Farewell Celebration, June, 2013. Worship celebration of Bishop
 Devadhar’s service in GNJAC. 600 in attendance.

Bishop’s Installation, September, 2013. Welcome celebration and official
 installation of Bishop John Schol to GNJAC. 750 in attendance.

National Shalom Summit, Worship Director, 2009 and 2011 Global Summit.
 Developed and directed three worship experiences during these
 conventions. 300 participants in attendance.

Open Communion Lutheran/United Methodist Celebration, GNJAC,
 October, 2010. Developed liturgy and directed worship.
 700 participants in attendance.

RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Drew University: The Theological School
 Professor, Fall, 2018, “Pastoral Formation 1”
 Professor, Spring 2018, PREP: “Search for the Good Community”
 Professor, Spring 2018, “Pastoral Formation 2,” Hybrid delivery.
 Professor, Spring 2017, “Their Eyes Were Watching God: Intersections of
 Gender, Religion & Race in Women’s Literature.” Taught at the Edna
 Mahon Women’s Correctional Facility with inside and outside students in
 attendance. (PREP course)
 Professor, Spring 2016, “Search for the Good Community,” community
 mapping and organizing for mobilizing community resources

Professor, Spring 2015, "Church in the Millennial Age," exploring parish ministry in an evolving cultural environment.

Professor, Spring 2014, "Ministries in Non-Parish Settings," an exploration of ministries beyond the local church.

Professor, Fall 2013, Partnership in Religious Education course (taught at Edna Mahon Women's Correctional Institution with six inside/inmate students and eight seminary students)
 "Their Eyes Were Watching God: The Intersections of Race, Class and Gender in Women's Fiction"

Professor, Spring 2013, "Religion & Social Process," Required Core Sociology of Religion course.

Lecturer, Spring 2012. "Gen M & Church: A New Generation, A New Way of Being Church."

Instructor, Webinar Series, Fall, 2010, "Youth Ministry & Gen M"

Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2009, "Emerging Worship"

Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2008, "Religion and the Social Process"

Adjunct Instructor, Summer 2008, "Emerging Worship"

Instructor, 2008 – Present, "Chapel Practicum"

Adjunct Instructor, Summer 2007, "Emerging Worship"

Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2006, "Emerging Worship"

Adjunct Instructor, Fall, 2006, "Religion and the Social Process"

Teaching Assistant, 1999 - 2005.

Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2002, "Introduction to Educational Ministries," Required Educational Ministries Course.

BOARD POSITIONS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

National Council of Churches, Theological Dialogue and Matters of Faith
 And Order Convening Table, 2013 – Present.
 Elected as a UMC representative to this ecumenical organization.

National Shalom Committee, Drew University, Madison, NJ. 2008 – Present.
 Member of national board overseeing United Methodist Shalom Initiative housed at Drew University.

Nine Strong Women, Newark, NJ. 2008 – Present.
 Advisor and co-organizer with former women gang members to counsel and mentor female high school students at risk of street violence and gang involvement. Working to develop strategic plan to become a Shalom site.

Newark Interfaith Coalition for Hope & Peace, Newark, NJ. 2007 – Present.
 Strategize with interfaith leaders from the greater Newark area to support grassroots organizers and community leaders to promote peace and transform a culture of gang violence.

Protestant Community Centers, Inc. Newark, NJ. 2006 – Present.
 Board member of the longest running faith-based non-profit in Newark providing support services to children, youth and families.

Harlem Jirani Ensemble, Harlem, NY. 2010 – Present.
 Member of the founding board of the sister children's choir of Jirani Korean Ensemble.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Freelance Fundraising and Public Relations for Non-Profit Organizations.
September 1984 - 2000.

Selected Clients:

Family Service of Morris County, Morristown, NJ.

Public Relations and Marketing Specialist, August 1997
-1999.

Morristown Memorial Health Foundation, Morristown,
NJ.

Interim Director of Special Events, October 1996 - May
1997.

Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morristown, NJ.

Interim Community & Media Relations Manager,
August 1995 - June 1996.

Award: New Jersey Health Care (NJHC) Award for Outstanding Publicity.

SAGE Eldercare Services, Summit, New Jersey.

Public Relations Manager, September 1993 - April 1994.

Interfaith Hospitality Networks for Homeless Families (IHN), Summit,

N J. Communications Director, February 1991 - August 1991.

Weichert Realtors, Inc., Financial Divisions, Morris Plains, NJ.

Marketing Manager, March 1987 - February 1991.

Lowe Marschalk Advertising, New York, NY.

Assistant Corporate Communications Director, July 1984 - March 1987.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

The Esther Edwards Award, General Board of Higher Education & Ministry,

United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, October 2005.

President's Initiative Grant, Drew University, June, 2006.