

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.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

Associate Dean, Formation & Vocation. 2016 – Present.

- Promote the professional formation and vocational development of students across degree programs, particularly in the masters' programs, through trainings, internships, apprenticeships, certificate programs, and personal discernment.
- Support and develop student leadership through various caucuses and organizations.
- Serve as the alumni liaison with university alumni office, developing regional networks for current student support and ongoing alumni relationships.

Associate Professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Vocation, 2016 – Present.

University Chaplain, Director of the Chapel & Religious Life, 2006 – 2017

- 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.

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 Council, 2004 - 2006.

Drew Theological School, Madison, New Jersey.

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

Provost Council, 2018 – Present. Sit on lead academic team with associate provosts and deans.

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

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

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:

Covenant United Methodist Church, Plainfield, New Jersey.
Interim Pastor, 2019 – 2021.

Union Village United Methodist Church, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.
Sacramental Elder, 2018 – 2019.

Conklin United Methodist Church, South River, New Jersey.
Sacramental Elder, 2017 – 2018.

Conklin United Methodist Church, South River, New Jersey.
Lead Pastor, 2015 – 2017.

Raritan Valley District, Greater New Jersey Conference,
Circuit Elder/Clergy Mentor, 2014 – 2015.

First United Methodist Church, Passaic, New Jersey.
Interim Pastor, July 2011 – 2013.

Bernardsville, United Methodist Church, Bernardsville, New Jersey.
Interim Pastor, January 2011 – July 2011.

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

Seminary Representative, Northeast Jurisdictional Committee on Ordination and Ministry. 2016 – Present.

Secretary, Northeast Jurisdictional Committee on Programs and Sessions, 2012 – 2016, Worship Chair for NEJ 2016 & 2021.

Clergy Delegate, United Methodist General Conference 2020 (alternate).
Jurisdictional delegate.

Clergy Delegate, United Methodist General Conference 2016 (alternate).
Jurisdictional delegate.

Clergy Delegate, United Methodist General Conference 2012.

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

Chair, GNJ Board of Church and Society, 2018 – Present.

Executive Board, Board of Ordained Ministry, Director-Resident in Ministry Program for Provisional Members, GNJAC, 2012 – 2019.

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

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.)

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 – 125 laypeople, clergy and musicians in attendance annually.
 Co-directed with Mark Miller.

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.

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’ 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, Required Entry Course, “Identity, Spirituality & Vocation.”
 Taught each fall semester.

Professor, Fall 2013, 2016, 2018, 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

Methodists for Full Inclusion of Greater New Jersey (MFI), 2016 – Present.

New Jersey Coalition of Religious Leaders, Steering Committee,
2018 – Present.

Interfaith organization formed by order of the governor follow anti-racism
uprisings of 1967. Actively involved in anti-racism, destructure of mass
incarceration system, immigrant rights legislation and activism.

National Shalom Committee, Drew University, Madison, NJ. 2008 – 2013.

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 – 2012

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 – 2016

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 – 2013.

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.

PERSONAL: Married, three children - 32 and 29 (twins)

References:

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar,
Resident Bishop, New England Annual Conference
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Cell: 732-233-1891

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan
President
Claremont School of Theology
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Harriet Olson
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