

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.

University Chaplain, 2019 – Present.

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 and campus engagement opportunities.
- Serve as theological school 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.

- Teaching responsibilities in the areas of identity development, leadership formation, and vocational discernment, sociology of religion, and community organizing and ministerial entrepreneurship.

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.

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 as staff representative prior to deans' office appointment.

Curriculum Steering Committee, 2019 - Present

International Student Concerns Committee, 2021 – Present.

Theo Alumni Council Steering Committee (director), 2019 – Present.

Drew Theo Admissions Committee, MDiv and MATM applicants.

2018 – Present.

PREP Steering Committee, 2020 – Present.

Latinx Recruitment Planning Team, 2022 – Present.

Enrollment and Campus Life Committee, 2019 – Present.
Drew Staff Association (DSA) Board Member, 2020 – Present.
University Compensation Monitoring Committee, 2020 – Present.
Title IX Theo School Rep, 2018 – Present.
University Wellness Committee Member
Diversity Committee member. 2006 – 2018.
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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Drew University: The Theological School
Professor, Required course “Leadership Seminar,” professional development course accompanying the required M.Div. internship.
Professor, Required Rooted Course, “Identity, Spirituality & Vocation.”
Taught each fall semester. 2019 – Present.
Professor, “Justice Ministry Education,” problem-based learning community organizing course. Spring semester, 2018 – Present.
Professor, “Their Eyes Were Watching God: The Intersections of Race, Class and Gender in Women’s Fiction,” January term, 2020.
Professor, Fall 2013, 2016, 2018, Partnership in Religious Education course (taught at Edna Mahon Women’s Correctional Institution)
“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.”
Four part series offered through Drew Theological School’s office of lifelong learning.
Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2009, “Emerging Worship.”
Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2008, “Religion and the Social Process.”
Adjunct Instructor, Summer 2008, “Emerging Worship.”
Instructor, 2008 – 2016, “Chapel Practicum.”
Adjunct Instructor, Summer 2007, “Emerging Worship.”
Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2006, “Emerging Worship.”
Adjunct Instructor, Fall, 2006, “Religion and the Social Process.”
Adjunct Instructor, Summer, 2002, “Introduction to Educational Ministries,” Required Educational Ministries Course.

Teaching Assistant, 1999 - 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Abingdon Preaching Annual 2020,” Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019, editor and contributor.
- “Abingdon Preaching Annual 2021,” Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2020, editor and contributor.
- “Empower,” John Senior and Matthew Floding, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020, reviewer.
- “Excellence in Supervision,” Raleigh, NC: Duke University Press, 2019, contributor.
- “Divine Echoes,” Mark Gregory Karris, ed., www.Quoir.com, 2018, contributor.
- “Use Words We Understand: Communion in a Millennial Age,” Worship Arts Magazine, Fall, 2015.

DENOMINATIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

- Dover First United Methodist Church, Dover, New Jersey. 2022 – Present.
- Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown, New Jersey.
Interim Co-Lead Pastor, 2021 – 2022.
- 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

- Chair, GNJ Board of Church and Society, 2018 – Present.
- Seminary Representative, Northeast Jurisdictional Committee on Ordination and Ministry. 2016 – Present.
- Secretary, Northeast Jurisdictional Committee on Programs and Sessions, 2012 – 2016, committee member 2012 – present.
- 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.
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 - 2017.
District Youth Director, Gateway North District, GNJAC, 2006 – 2008.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Worship Director, Northeast Jurisdictional Conference,
United Methodist Church, 2016 and 2022.
United Methodist Women General Assembly & Mission U, May 2018.
Lead writer for worship and curriculum. 5000 lay and clergywomen
in attendance.
Co-Director, Summer Music Institute, Drew University,
Summer 2006 – 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.
“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.
Reconciling Ministry Network Convocation, Worship Director, August, 2011.
Developed and directed three major worship events over three-day
conference. 600 participants in attendance.
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 – 2017.
Develop and direct worship for three-day annual conference event.
1400 lay and clergy in attendance.
“Holy Ground,” Drew University, 2007 – 2009. Sunday evening worship
gathering for college students and young seminarians.
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.

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, destructuring of mass incarceration system, immigrant rights legislation and advocacy.

National Council of Churches, UMC Ecumenical Representative,
Table of Faith & Order, 2014. – Present.

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 (currently
Family

Promise), 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

Russell Berrie Foundation Trustees to Brandeis University (Drew Theological School as designee) for the Chaplain Innovation Lab project, "Caring for Interfaith Caregivers: Resilience and Support for Spiritual Care Providers in New Jersey." June, 2021.

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: Partnered, three grown children, three wonderful significant others/spouses, one amazing grandson.

References:

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar,
Resident Bishop, New England Annual Conference
bishop@neumc.org
Cell: 732-233-1891

Rev. Dr. Javier Viera
President
Garrett Theological Seminary
Chicago, ILL
Cell: 917-855-4641

Harriet Olson
General Secretary
Women's Division, United Methodist Church
HOlson@unitedmethodistwomen.org

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