

THE REV. DR. JESS WINDERWEEDLE

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EDUCATION

- PhD** **Princeton Theological Seminary (2025)**
Practical Theology (Homiletics)
Dissertation: “Public In/decency: Toward a Queer Futurity in the Homiletical Formation of Mainline Preachers”
Committee: Kimberly Wagner, PhD (chair); Nancy Gross, PhD; Hanna Reichel, PhD
Additional Training: Certificate in Digital Pedagogy (August 2020)
- MDiv** **Princeton Theological Seminary (2014)**
- BMA** **Oklahoma Baptist University (2001)**
Major: Musical Arts; Minor: Religion; *cum laude*

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Princeton Theological Seminary**
Doctoral Fellowship (2020-2025)
Presidential Scholarship (2020-2025)
- Louisville Institute**
Dissertation Fellowship (2024-2025)
Postdoctoral Fellowship (2025-2027)

ECCLESIAL AFFILIATION

- The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey**
Ordained Elder in Full Connection (2023)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Teaching**
- Drew Theological School**
Assistant Teaching Professor of Preaching
Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow (2025-2027)
- Princeton Theological Seminary**
Graduate Instructor
Courses Taught: Queer/ing Approaches to the Task of Proclamation (Masters Level Course, Spring 2025)
- Teaching Fellow**
Courses Co-Taught: Introduction to Preaching with Dr. Kimberly Wagner (Fall 2023)

Lectures: The Dangers of Antisemitism in Preaching; Social Location, Marginalization and Preaching; Embodiment in the Preaching Event; Attending to the Congregation

Teaching Assistant

Courses Assisted: Introductory Biblical Hebrew with Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley (Academic Year 2013-2014); Introduction to Speech Communication (I & II) with Dr. Nancy Gross (AY 2020-21); Introduction to Preaching with Dr. Sally Brown (Fall 2021); Laboratory for Sustainable Models of Ministry with Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean (Spring 2022); Introduction to Preaching with Dr. Kimberly Wagner (Fall 2022; Spring 2023); Theological Imagination: Preaching and Trauma with Dr. Kimberly Wagner (Spring 2024)

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Doctor of Ministry Faculty Instructor (DMin in Queer and Trans Studies)

Course: Queer/ing Approaches to the Task of Christian Proclamation (Spring 2026)

Ministry Leadership

Kingston United Methodist Church

Kingston, NJ

Lead Pastor

January 2016 – June 2020

Feed Truck Ministries, Inc. (DBA “The Feed Truck”)

Kingston, NJ

Founder/Executive Director

April 2014 – November 2019

GRANT WRITING + MANAGEMENT

Expanding the Pulpit

Program Coordinator | Presbytery of Philadelphia (January 2024-Present)

Awarded by the Lilly Foundation, Compelling Preaching Initiative (\$1.25 million)

Leadership Academy Preaching Institute

Primary Grant Writer | United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

Awarded by the Lilly Foundation, Compelling Preaching Initiative (\$1.25 million)

Missional Entrepreneurship Cohort Program

Grant Writer/Manager | Feed Truck Ministries, Inc.

Awarded by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC (\$121,650)

Start-Up Funding Grants for Campus Ministry: Feed Truck Ministries, Inc.

Grant Writer/Manager | Kingston United Methodist Church

Awarded by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, UMC of Greater New Jersey (\$125,000) and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC (\$50,000)

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP ROLES

Preaching Faculty Search Committee | Princeton Theological Seminary

Student Representative (September 2023—Present)

Koinonia Fellowship (PhD Student Government) | Princeton Theological Seminary

Co-Moderator/Representative to the Faculty (January 2021–December 2022)

The Way Forward Commission | The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

Episcopal Appointee (2019)

Methodists for Full Inclusion | LGBTQ+ Advocacy Caucus, The UMC of Greater New Jersey

Co-Convener (2019–present)

The Wesley Foundation at Princeton University | United Methodist Campus Ministry

Board Member (2018–present)

SELECTED PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

New York, NY

June 29, 2025 | [“Rainbows and Unicorns”](#)

Asbury First United Methodist Church

Rochester, NY

January 28, 2024 | [“Questioning Authority”](#)

Asbury First United Methodist Church

Rochester, NY

October 15, 2023 | [“Worth Fighting For”](#)

Nassau Presbyterian Church

Princeton, NJ

August 27, 2023 | [“Black and Blue and Me and You”](#)

Princeton Theological Seminary Chapel

Princeton, NJ

April 22, 2022 | [“A Queer Divine Dissatisfaction”](#)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting

Plenary Session, “Preaching Builds Bridges with the LGBTQIA+ Community”

Invited Panelist

Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting

Presenter, Performance Studies Workgroup

Paper Title: “A Burning Queer Incandescence: The Prophetic Impact of Queer Presence in the Mainline Pulpit” (December 2023)

Princeton Theological Seminary

Center for Women, Gender, and Theology

Invited Panelist, “Breaking the Stained-Glass Ceiling: Navigating Early Career Jobs for Women & Non-Binary People” (October 2023)

Special Annual Conference Session

Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Invited Presenter, “Words that Harm, Words that Heal” (October 2019)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Homiletics (2021–Present)

American Academy of Religion (2023-Present)

AWARDS

Princeton Theological Seminary

The Kenyon J. Wildrick Award for Excellence in Homiletics (2014)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, UMC

Francis Asbury Award in Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry (2015)