

# REV. DR. JESS WINDERWEEDLE

36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940 | Drew Theological School, Seminary Hall #19  
(405)640-4029 | jwinderweedle@drew.edu

## 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 (chair); Nancy Lammers Gross; Hanna Reichel  
Additional Training: Certificate in Digital Pedagogy (August 2020)
- MDiv**            **Princeton Theological Seminary (2014)**
- BMA**            **Oklahoma Baptist University (2001)**  
Major: Musical Arts (Percussion); 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)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### *Teaching*

- Drew Theological School (Fall 2025—Present)**  
**Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow**  
**Assistant Teaching Professor of Preaching (2025-2027)**  
Courses Taught: Queer/ing Approaches to the Task of Christian Proclamation (Summer 2026-Masters and DMin course); Introduction to the Practice of Preaching (Fall 2025; Spring 2026); Preaching Bootcamp: Dynamic Connection Between Pulpit and Pew (Fall 2025)
- Princeton Theological Seminary (Fall 2020—Spring 2025)**  
**Graduate Instructor**  
Courses Taught: Queer/ing Approaches to the Task of Christian Proclamation (Spring 2025)

### **Teaching Fellow**

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

### ***Administrative Leadership***

#### **Office of Vocation and Formation | Drew Theological School**

Interim Director of Vocational Placement (January 2026—Present)

#### **Office of Field Education | Princeton Theological Seminary**

Office Assistant (November 2019—August 2024)

### ***Ministry Leadership***

#### **Kingston United Methodist Church, Kingston, NJ**

Lead Pastor (January 2016—June 2020)

#### **Feed Truck Ministries, Inc., Kingston, NJ**

Founder/Executive Director (April 2014—November 2019)

### **ECCLESIAL AFFILIATION**

---

#### **The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey**

Ordained Elder in Full Connection (May 2023)

### **GRANT WRITING + MANAGEMENT**

---

#### **Expanding the Pulpit | Presbytery of Philadelphia**

Program Coordinator (January 2024-Present)

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

#### **Leadership Academy Preaching Institute | United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey**

Primary Grant Writer (2023)

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

#### **Missional Entrepreneurship Cohort Program | Feed Truck Ministries, Inc.**

Grant Writer/Manager (2018)

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 (2014)

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 + VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP ROLES**

---

### **Curriculum Steering Committee | Drew Theological School**

Member (2025-Present)

### **Doctor of Ministry Steering Committee | Drew Theological School**

Member (2025—Present)

### **Doctor of Ministry Faculty Mentor | Drew Theological School**

(2025-Present)

### **Board of Ordained Ministry | The United Methodist Churches of Greater New Jersey**

Board Member; Worship Co-Coordinator; Member, Full Inclusion Subcommittee (2025—Present)

### **Preaching Faculty Search Committee | Princeton Theological Seminary**

Student Representative (September 2023—April 2024)

### **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 Churches of Greater New Jersey**

Episcopal Appointee (2019)

### **Methodists for Full Inclusion | The United Methodist Churches of Greater New Jersey**

Co-Convener (2019—present)

## **SELECTED PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS**

---

### **Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church**

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

New York, NY

### **Asbury First United Methodist Church**

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

Rochester, NY

### **Asbury First United Methodist Church**

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

Rochester, NY

### **Nassau Presbyterian Church**

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

Princeton, NJ

### **Princeton Theological Seminary Chapel**

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

Princeton, NJ

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS + PUBLICATIONS

---

### ***Presentations + Workshops***

#### **The Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching 2026 | Princeton Theological Seminary**

Workshop Facilitator, “More Than a Label: Queer/ing Strategies for Preachers of All Identities”

Workshop Facilitator, “Preaching as a Team Sport: Feedback Loops and Collaborative Practices”

#### **Presbytery of Philadelphia Preaching Symposium 2025**

Workshop Facilitator, “Learning from Mainline Protestant LGBTQIA+ Preachers”

#### **Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting 2025**

Presenter, History of Preaching Workgroup

Paper Title: “Raised by Resistance: Learning from Openly Queer Working Preachers in Mainline Protestant Traditions”

#### **Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting 2024**

Invited Plenary Panelist “Preaching Builds Bridges with the LGBTQIA+ Community”

#### **Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting 2023**

Presenter, Performance Studies Workgroup

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

#### **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)

#### **Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Special Annual Conference Session**

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

### ***Book Reviews***

Kristina Lizardy Hajbi, *Unraveling Religious Leadership: Power, Authority, and Decoloniality* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2024), in *Homiletic* 50, no. 2 (November 2025): 97-98.

## 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, United Methodist Church**

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