

Rev. Dr. Kara Markell

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Kirkland, WA 98034

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry 2019

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

Dissertation title: *Ecclesiology and Adaptive Change: A Study of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregations in the Northwest Region.*

Committee: Dr. Sharon Callahan, Rev. Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Michael Reid Trice (chair)

Master of Divinity 2010

Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University

Faculty Award for Preaching

Master of Music 2001

University of Missouri – Kansas City, Conservatory of Music

BS – Teaching, honors graduate 1994

Minnesota State University, Mankato

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director 2023-present

Seattle University Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement

Interim Pastor 2025-present

United Christian Church, Renton, WA

Spiritual Director/Workshop leader 2025

Seattle University Faculty and Staff Ignatian Silent Retreat

Congregational Pastor 2012-2023

Lake Washington Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Kirkland, WA

Spiritual Guide 2019-present

Evergreen Wild Church, Kirkland, WA

Congregational Assessor

2022-2023

Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation

Ecumenical and Liturgical Chaplain 2011-2017
Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle WA

Music Minister 2008-2011
Alliance United Methodist Church, Fort Worth TX

Ministry Intern 2004
Yakama Christian Mission/Just Living Farm, White Swan, WA

TEACHING & MENTORING

Seeking Religious Literacy 2023,
2024
CEIE and SU alumni cohort

Pastoral Mentor: Early Clergy Cohort 2021- 2023
Northern Lights Regional Christian Church

Director of Pastoral Formation, SU-STM
2017-2019
Disciples Seminary Foundation, Fullerton CA

Instructor: Theology and Practice of Stewardship 2012-2022
Northern Lights Regional Christian Church

Public School Educator, K-12 Music 1994-2012
Centralia School District, Centralia, WA
Franklin Pierce School District, Parkland, WA
Park Hill School District, Kansas City, MO
Lewiston Public Schools, Lewiston, ID
Mahnomen Public Schools, Mahnomen, MN

ADMINISTRATIVE

Regional Transformation Team 2019-present
Northern Lights Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Commission on Ministry, member and chair 2016-2022
Northern Lights Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Discernment Circle
2022-2023
Seattle University, Center for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Engagement

Turner Lectures Committee, member and chair

2011-2017

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

PRESENTATIONS

Rewilding Religious Leadership: Engaging the “Big Book of Revelation” for the Future, Academy of Religious Leadership Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. April 2024.

Built to Change: Adaptive Leadership in the Congregation, Workshop, Second Saturdays to Shine, Northern Lights Regional Christian Church. November 2021.

Sacred Time: Spiritual Invitations of the Celtic Wheel of the Year, Retreat, Gwinwood Retreat Center, Lacey, WA. October 2021.

Faith and the Climate Crisis Panel Discussion, Panelist, Fostering Interfaith Relationships on the Eastside, Kirkland, WA. April 2021.

Adaptive Change for Congregations, Workshop, Second Saturdays to Shine, Northern Lights Regional Christian Church. January 2021.

Christian Unity is Essential to Leadership Formation within the Church, Sounding on Christian Unity, Center for Religious Wisdom, Seattle University, Seattle WA. January 2020.

Liberty, Unity and Mission: Ecclesiology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Adaptive Change in the Congregation, Northwest Association for Theological Discussion, Corbet, OR. February 2020.

PUBLICATIONS

Markell, Kara. *Rewilding Religious Leadership: Engaging the “Big Book of Revelation” for the Future*. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, vol. 23, no. 2, Autumn 2024.

Markell, Kara. *The Church Is an Organism: Redefining the Body of Christ as a Living System*, *Christ and Cascadia*, September 26, 2024. <https://christandcascadia.com/2024/09/26/church-is-an-organism/>

Markell, Kara. Review of *The Gift of Administration: New Testament Foundations for the Vocation of Administrative Service*, by Donald Senior, CP. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, vol. 17, Fall 2018.

Markell, Kara. (2016, November), *Ecumenical Prayer Service for Election Eve/Day*, Council on Christian Unity, <https://www.disciplescuim.org/publications/ecumenical-prayer-service-for-election-eveday/>

GRANTS RECEIVED

Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, \$39,000	2019
Disciples Home Missions Clergy Continuing Education Grant, \$500	2019
Seattle University Graduate Student Association Study Grant, \$500	2018

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Northwest Association for Theological Discussion	2015-present
Academy of Religious Leadership	2017-present
Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Parish	2012-2023
Northwest/Northern Lights Regional Christian Church Board	2011-2022

COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light Board member and co-chair	2024-present
Juanita High School Performing Arts Boosters, Orchestra Representative	2023-24
Kirkland Interfaith Network	2012-2023
Norkirk Neighborhood Association	2012-2019
Lake Washington School District PTA	2012-present

REFERENCES

Available upon request