

CYNTHIA GANO LINDNER

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY STUDIES
CLINICAL FACULTY FOR PREACHING AND PASTORAL CARE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL
1025 East 58th Street ~ Chicago, IL 60637
Phone: (773) 702-8280 ~ Fax: (773) 702-8223
clindner@uchicago.edu

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2005-present Director of Ministry Studies and Clinical Faculty for Preaching
and Pastoral Care
The University of Chicago,
The Divinity School, Chicago, IL.

I develop curriculum, recruit, teach and provide supervision and mentoring, and help secure employment in the school's selective, multi-religious MDiv program, preparing students for religious leadership in a variety of denominations and contexts.

2002-2005 Director of Ministry Studies and Senior Lecturer
The University of Chicago,
The Divinity School, Chicago, IL

This is the title I was given when first hired at the Divinity School, the current one, above, reflects two of my areas of teaching and research: preaching and worship, and pastoral care and counseling. I also teach courses in community leadership, an integration seminar for first year students, and a thesis seminar course for third-years.

2005-present Staff Therapist
Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago

I see a small caseload of 12-15 clients—individuals, couples, pastors and congregational leaders, on a weekly basis in the Center's Loop offices. Occasionally I consult with entire congregations.

1987-2002 Pastor
First Christian Church, Albany OR.

I was called as co-pastor to this congregation of nearly 400 persons, and became senior pastor upon my colleague's retirement. Duties included the entire breadth of pastoral work, including leading worship at two distinct services each Sunday morning, teaching weekday classes, providing pastoral care to members of the church and the community, and participating actively in the institutional life of Albany and in the ecumenical community of churches. This downtown congregation housed a preschool and mental health drop-in center, hosted a weekly community meal, and was known for its strong commitment to community hospitality and healing, and for its ministries to children and youth. Many community leaders were active members of the church.

2000-2002 Staff Therapist
Pastoral Counseling Center, Corvallis, OR.

After attaining my masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, I saw clients in this group practice (on my day off from the church in Albany).

1990-1992 Spiritual Care Coordinator
Evergreen Hospice, Albany OR.
I connected hospice patients to their church communities, and provided spiritual care for patients, families, and the doctors and nurses of this county-wide home hospice program, all while serving the Albany congregation.

1987-88 Lecturer, Religion Department, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
This was my first teaching experience—I was invited to teach courses here by Marcus Borg, well-known Jesus Seminar author and New Testament scholar, who was on the faculty of Oregon State at the time.

1983-1987 Associate Pastor
First Congregational Church, Corvallis OR.
My first full-time call after Divinity School, I was responsible for ministries of education and pastoral care for all ages. I recruited and trained volunteers, created curriculum for children, youth, adults, and families, led youth groups for middle and high school youth, and served on the campus ministry board at Oregon State University.

1979-1983 Minister of Education
University Church, Chicago, IL
I began here as a field education intern in 1979 and was called as the congregation’s minister of education/interim associate when the fulltime associate left in 1981.

1978-1979 Assistant Minister
Northside Christian Church
This was my first year at the Divinity School; I chose to work part time in this small congregation to stay connected to pastoral practice, and to develop a new youth program for this urban church.

EDUCATION

D.Min. 1999 University of Chicago, The Divinity School, Chicago, IL
M.A. (MFT), 1999 Northwest Christian College, Eugene, OR.
M.A(Divinity), 1980 University of Chicago, The Divinity School, Chicago, IL
B.A., 1978 St. Olaf College, Northfield MN.

DISSERTATION

“Images of Adolescence: Religio-Ethical Perspectives on Youth Ministry”

CLINICAL TRAINING AND LICENSURE

2004-present, LPC license, State of Illinois
2000-2002 Staff Therapist, Pastoral Counseling Center, Corvallis, OR.
1998-1999 Intern, Salem Pastoral Counseling Center, Salem OR
1980 Clinical Pastoral Education, Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s, Chicago IL.

1979 Clinical Pastoral Education, University of Chicago Hospital, Chicago, IL.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

Principal Investigator for “Border Crossings in Theological Education,” three-year grant of 500,000.00 from the Lilly Endowment to create collaborations between Divinity School faculty and students, and local congregations and their pastors.

Principal Investigator for “Chicago Commons Project,” five year, \$475,000.00 grant for the creation of an early-career pastoral leadership development program for young Chicago-area clergy. In March, 2019 the school was awarded a 250,000.00 sustainability grant to continue the program through 2025.

Principal Investigator for Lilly “Pathways to Tomorrow” planning grant: \$50,000.00 grant for MDiv program evaluation, research, and planning.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023 Disciples Divinity House Distinguished Alumna Award

2022 Disciples Divinity House Faculty Fellow

1983 Divinity School John T. Rhind Award for Outstanding Promise in Ministry

1980 Disciples Divinity House Scholarship for Outstanding Promise in Ministry

1978 B.A. *summa cum laude*, valedictorian, St. Olaf College

1977 Phi Beta Kappa

1974 National Merit Scholar

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

Task Force for the Commission on Ordained Ministry, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Ordained Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1982-present

American Academy of Religion, 2002-present

American Association of Pastoral Counselors, 2002-present

International Association for Spiritual Care, 2016-present

Board of Trustees, Disciples Divinity House, Chicago, IL, 2001-present

Board of Directors, Montgomery Place and the Church Home, 2013-2018

Board of Directors, Brent House Episcopal Campus Ministry, University of Chicago, 2004-2009

Executive Committee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 2004-2008

General Board, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1999-2009

Administrative Committee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1999-2003

Alumni Council, Disciples Divinity House, Chicago IL, 1997-2000

Board of Directors, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Portland, OR. 1987-1990

Board of Directors, United Way of Linn County, Albany OR. 1990-1994

Board of Directors, FISH Emergency Food and Shelter, Albany, OR. 1987-1993

Board of Directors, FEMA of Linn County, Albany OR., 1995-2001

Board of Directors, Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, Corvallis OR. 1984-1987

Board of Directors, Westminster House Campus Ministry, Oregon State University, 1984-1987

Northwest Association for Theological Discussion, 1986-2002

PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES

Books

Varieties of Gifts: Multiplicity and the Well-Lived Pastoral Life, Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.

Book Chapter

“Christian Education—Teaching the Faith Story,” a chapter in Interpreting Disciples: Practical Theology and the Disciples of Christ, TCU Press, 1987.

Articles

“The Power at Work Within Us: Reflections on Pastoral Leadership” Disciples World, December 2003.

“Claiming Power to Speak Truth: Religious Leadership in Times of Terror” Criterion 43:2 (2004): 32-34.

“Ministry in the 21st Century, Or—The View from Last Sunday Morning” Criterion 45:1 (2006): 2-5.

“What Language Shall We Borrow? Recovering the Practice of Prayer” Disciples World, December 2006.

“Sanctuary or Spectacle?” Sightings, September 4-8, 2006. (reprinted in Criterion, “Celebrating Sightings”, winter 2008, 35-36.

“Living by the Word: Heirs of the Resurrection/ Luke 24:36-48” Christian Century, April 2009.

“Preaching the Lesson” Reflections on the Lectionary for Ordinary Time, Lectionary Homiletics, August, 2010.

“Preaching the Lesson” Reflections on the Lectionary for Epiphany, Lectionary Homiletics, January 2012.

“Multiplicity: the power of multiple-mindedness makes room for others,” The Holden Village Voice, Fall 2017.

“Where the Millennials Are,” Sightings, January, 2018

“The Art of Prayer Meets the Prayer of Art,” Sightings, October, 2018

“What’s in a (Religious) Name?” Sightings, January, 2019

“Manaakitanga and the Power of Silence,” Sightings, March, 2019.

“Summer Storm Watch,” Sightings, July 2019.

“Religion at the Margins,” Sightings, December 2019.

“Sighting (and citing) Chaplains,” Sightings, February 2020

“Religion in the time of Coronavirus,” Sightings, March 2020

“Pandemic Preaching,” Sightings, April 2020

“A Theology of Pastoral Multiplicity,” Dialog, A Journal of Theology, Summer 2020.

“Unexpected Openings and the Essence of Religious Practice,” Sightings, June 18, 2020

“A Normalized Sense of Hopelessness,” Sightings, July 23, 2020

“The Meanings that Make Us: The Limits of Creative Agency in Ritual,” Sightings, Sept.24, 2020

“The Precariousness of Care,” Sightings, October 22, 2020

“Longing for a Real Thanksgiving,” Sightings, November 26, 2020

“The Blessed Return of Going through the Motions: President Biden’s Inauguration and the Rituals of Normalcy,” Sightings, Feb. 4, 2021

“Will There be Life on Earth? An Earth Day Reflection on Trusting our Eyes,” Sightings, April 22, 2021

“Think Again: Religion in the Wake of the Pandemic,” Sightings, June 2021.

“Beginning Again...and Again...and Again,” Sightings, September 2021.

“Weary (and wary) of Decisions, Opinions, and Polemics? Religious Wisdom would Like a Word,” *Sightings*, July 1, 2022

Published Sermons

“Blessed Usefulness,” Criterion 42:1 (2003): 14-17.

“Write the Vision,” Criterion 43:3 (2004): 24-27, 30.

(Note: As I preached weekly for 15 years, there are some 500 sermons that were published only locally)

Reviews

L. Witham, Who Shall Lead Them? The Future of Ministry in America (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005) in The Journal of Religion, 2006.

H. Paul Santmire, Ritualizing Nature: Renewing Christian Liturgy in Times of Crisis (Fortress Press, 2008) in The Journal of Religion, 2010.

Rae Jean Proeschold and Jason Byassee, *Faithful and Fractured: Responding to the Clergy Health Crisis*, in The Christian Century, September 5, 2018.

Alon Goshen Gottstein, ed. *The Future of Religious Leadership: World Religions in Conversation*, in Reading Religion, online newsletter of the American Academy of Religion, January 6, 2019.

Carol Gilligan and Naomi Snider, *Why Does Patriarchy Persist?* and Carol Gilligan and David A.J. Richards, *Darkness Now: Patriarchy’s Resurgence and Feminist Resistance*. The Christian Century (Sept. 11 2019).

“What Christian Nationalism is, and what to do about it,” Book review of *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism: Why People are Drawn in and What to Do About It*, by Pamela Cooper-White. Christian Century, November 7, 2022.

Lectures, Short Courses and Workshops

“The Art of Preaching and the Practice of Pastoral Care,” sermon, lecture, and workshop presented at the Rice-Siefke Preaching Institute at Northwest Christian College, 1999.

“When Bananas are Not Enough: Human Unfulfillment, Desire, and the Divine ,” Panel Presentation for “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” Annual Ministry Conference at the Divinity School, University of Chicago, April 8, 2005.

“Prayer, Prophecy, and Pastoral Prophylaxis”, for Annual Religious Leaders’ Prayer Breakfast, Montgomery Place, Chicago, IL. October 25, 2006.

“Using our Words: the Language of Religious Leadership,” for Elders’ Retreat and Training, First Christian Church, Chicago Heights, IL., January 20, 2007.

“Multiplicity and the Well-Lived Pastoral Life,” workshops and lectures on the topic of my 2016 book, *Varieties of Gifts*, presented for groups of clergy in Seattle, WA, Washington DC, Indianapolis IN, and in many locations around the Chicagoland area, 2016-present

“Monotheism and Multiplicity,” a week-long course for adult learners at Holden Village, a retreat center in the Cascade range in Washington. (repeated twice, summer 2018.

Addressed a doctoral seminar on Multi-religious Theological Education, Vanderbilt Divinity School, November 2018.

Prepared a workshop on “The Multi-religious Imperative in Theological Education,” and lectured as part of a panel presentation developed by some of our own students, at the Parliament of the World’ Religions in Toronto, November, 2018.

Served on the steering committee and lectured at an interdisciplinary, multi-religious conference on Religion and Medicine that was a joint effort between The Divinity School, BSD, and SSA, March 2019.

“Education by and Towards an Imperative: Multi-religious preparation for religious leadership.” A lecture for MDiv alumni presented as part of Disciples Divinity House’s 125th Anniversary celebration, May 2019

Presented our model of multi-religious MDiv education at a workshop for the Interfaith/Interreligious program area at the American Academy of Religion meeting in San Diego, CA, November, 2019.

Delivered the Davis Workshop on Ministry at Ministers’ Week, Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth TX., February 2022.

Lectured in the MDiv Capstone course, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, March 2022.

Workshop on Multiplicity and Leadership for United Church of Christ clergy group, September 2022.

Lectured in the MDiv Capstone course, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, February 2023.