

# The Rev'd Maria Gwyn McDowell, M.Div., Ph.D.

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Maria Gwyn McDowell is a priest in The Episcopal Church, a teacher, and public theologian in love with the God who calls all to liberation and compassion. She is committed to working and playing alongside God in communities seeking to practice justice, mercy, and joy in our world.

## **COLLABORATIVE PARISH LEADERSHIP**

### **Collaborative Leadership: Loving Together**

- Leads while grounded in curiosity, transparency, and trust.
- Engages in liturgical planning and equipping parish ministries as rector and team member in large and small parishes.
- Applies community organizing techniques to neighborhood listening campaigns to encourage lay-based parish renewal.
- Facilitates group processes of community discernment for sanctuary modifications, congregational music, affordable housing advocacy and development, and caring for unhoused neighbors.

### **Clear Communication: Loving Transparently**

- Excellent preacher able to engage scripture and theology in a contemporary reflection for a spiritually grounded life of liberative faith.
- Strong written and oral communication skills in both religious and secular contexts.
- Able to write and speak in public forums: theological panels, city council, and public protests.
- High value on clearly articulated and transparent processes that invite engagement.
- Practiced at negotiating conflict between individuals and groups.

### **Pastoral Care: Loving each other**

- Provides individual and community pastoral care through listening and being present
- Develops care teams for community-based pastoral care - prioritized flexible eucharistic visiting
- Regularly engages in one-to-one conversations to discern what makes our hearts sing, and where we are called to heal and be healed.

### **Diverse Engagement: Loving Difference**

- Designs creative and traditional, culturally diverse, queer-friendly, and participatory liturgy appropriate for specific contexts, such as a historically African-American congregation that straddles Anglican, Afro-Caribbean, and Southern Black cultural traditions in a gentrifying (“whitifying”) neighborhood.
- Has extensive experience in non-Western liturgical contexts, is practiced at worshiping in multiple languages, and thrives on varied cultural and musical styles.
- Leads in the conviction that the future church must be transformed by non-dominant cultures, practices, and insights.

### **Ongoing Formation: Loving as Becoming**

- Collaboratively develops and implements adult education and formation for both large classes and small groups in parishes of a variety of sizes and using a wide-range of in-person and online-only technologies.
- Specific formation engagements include diocesan Confirm Not Conform for youth, and team-taught “Basics of the Faith” to adults.
- Develops focused seasonal prayer retreats.
- Facilitates, plans and coordinates meetings, weekend retreats, summer camps, and both local and international justice projects for youth and young adults. Examples include a justice project in Mexico and a ‘walkabout’ brown-bag lunch program in a busy urban setting..

## **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

Over twenty years of experience developing and teaching lay-accessible adult and youth education courses in parish and academic contexts using lecture, presentation, and small group discussion. Taught multiple sessions as a part of Rector’s Forums, Catechumenate classes, and weekly adult formation. Taught classes in the Academy for Formation and Mission. Topics include “Basics of the Faith,” the *Nicene Creed*; Christian Ethics, “Liberation Theology, Gender and the Magnificat”; “Praying our Visions: Story, Gender and Icons of the Theotokos”; “*Christian Ethics in the Anglican*

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**Liberative Tradition.**” Arranged and taught classes at the local parish and diocesan level for a regional confirmation program.

## DIOCESAN SERVICE

Dean of Metro-East Convocation (2022-); Liturgy & Music Working Group (2018-Present; Co-Convener 2022-); Disciplinary Board (2021-); Chaplain, Bishop Search Committee (2020); Co-Founder & Executive Board member of PNW UBE (2020-2021); Diocesan Vision Subcommittee (2019).

## ADMINISTRATIVE

### Personnel Management

Managed an internationally-distributed team engaged in direct client technical support. HR duties included developing positions, interviewing potential staff, and supervising performance. Moderated the resolution of concerns regarding policies and procedures.

### Project Leadership

Proposed and managed the development of technical tools and processes across company departments, including resource investment decisions. Initiated a liturgical services program in a Syrian-American parish to encourage inclusion of women in sacramental service.

### Fundraising

Successfully developed missional budgets; raised over half-million dollars for staffing and community engagement; developed positive relationships with local secular and religious granting organizations for ongoing grant opportunities.

## ACADEMIC WORK (Full CV online)

### Public Theology

Regular participant in the shared *Women in Theology* blog, invited contributor to *Public Orthodoxy*, and author of *DeiProfundis*.

### Recent Publications

Published invited articles in major journals of Christian Ethics; edited a volume on diverse stories of changing faith; contributed chapters to volumes on faith and sexuality. Regular presenter at academic societies.

## SELECTED WORK HISTORY

*Rector*, St. Philip the Deacon, Portland, OR, Dec 2018-Present; *Priest-in-Charge*, March 2018-Dec 2018. *Instructor*, Academy for Formation and Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon, 2018, 2021. *Project Pioneer for the Vice President, Support*, Acquia, Portland, OR, 2018-2020. *Ministry Field Education/Transitional Deacon*, St. Michael & All Angels, Portland, OR, Sep 2016-March 2018. *Ministry Field Education*, St. Paul, Oregon City, OR, 2016. *Manager, Remote Administration Team*, Acquia, Portland, OR, 2011-2018. *Instructional Design Resident*, Honors Program/Instructional Design and eTeaching Services, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, 2006-2007. *Independent Web Developer*, MariaGwyn Web Design, 2002-2011.

## ORDINATION

Priest, January 12, 2018, *St. Michael & All Angels*, Portland, OR.  
Deacon, June 10, 2017, *Trinity Episcopal Cathedral*, Portland, OR.

## EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Theological Ethics, *Boston College*, Chestnut Hill, MA, 2010.  
Master of Divinity, *Fuller Theological Seminary*, Pasadena, CA, 1999.  
Bachelors of Arts, Religion, *Pitzer College*, Claremont, CA, 1994.

## AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

### Professional Affiliations

Society of Christian Ethics  
American Academy of Religion  
Orthodox Theological Society of America

### Professional Service

Co-Editor, *Women in Theology*  
Editorial Board, *The St. Nina Quarterly*, 2007-2015  
Web Editor, *The St. Nina Quarterly*, 2004-2015

References available upon request