

## 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