

Rev. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, D Min
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Health Communication Expected Fall 2028

University of Memphis

Dissertation Title: "Navigating Loss and Reclaiming Identity: A Health Communication Framework for Supporting African American Mothers After Child Loss to Chronic Illness and Homicide"

Advisor: Dr. Amanda Young

Doctor of Ministry

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH | 2012

Cohort: Developing New Faith Communities: Congregational Development

Project: The Two Shall Become One: A Womanist Model of Healing and Wholeness in the Life of Merged Congregations

Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health

University of Tennessee, Martin, TN | Expected 2024

Focus: Trauma, Grief, Loss, Thanatology, Personal and Professional Development, and Coaching

Master of Divinity

Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, KS | 2010

Focus: Pastoral Ministries and Congregational Health

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/Biblical Studies

American Baptist College, Nashville, TN | 1994

Associate of Science in Marketing

State Tech/Shelby State Community College, Memphis, TN | 1972

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Health Communication in Grief and Trauma: Exploring communication strategies that effectively support individuals experiencing disenfranchised grief, particularly African American mothers who have lost children to chronic illness and homicide.
- Identity Reconstruction in Bereavement: Investigating the role of identity theory in helping bereaved mothers reclaim their sense of self following the loss of a child, and how health communication can facilitate this process.

- Womanist Perspectives in Health Care: Applying a womanist lens to understand the unique grief experiences of African American women, and how culturally sensitive communication frameworks can improve healthcare outcomes.

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- Faculty Member, AME Church Tennessee Annual Conference, 2004–Present
- Developed and taught courses for seminarians, focusing on Congregational Health, Rural and Urban Church Ministries, and Spiritual Formation.
- Mentored students in pastoral leadership, providing guidance on personal and professional development, grief counseling, and trauma-informed care.
- Course Developer and Instructor, Women in Ministry Retreats, 2004–Present
- Designed and led annual retreats, including the session “Don’t Be Afraid, Just Believe”, focusing on leadership, faith, and personal empowerment for women in ministry.
- Provided individualized mentoring to retreat participants, helping them navigate challenges in ministry and personal growth.
- Workshop Presenter, Center for Loss and Transition, 2019
- Presented the workshop “Companioning the Mourner: Understanding Grief”, guiding professionals in grief counseling techniques.
- Mentored junior chaplains and social workers on integrating grief theory into their practice, with a focus on supporting families experiencing complex loss.
- Leadership and Learning Academy Instructor, AME Church, 2010–Present
- Led the academy’s course “Help for Our Wounded Selves: Conversations that Heal” training clergy on trauma-informed pastoral care and communication.
- Mentored new clergy on applying trauma theory in their congregational work and provided ongoing support for their leadership development.
- Preceptor for Chaplain Residents, Tennessee Valley Healthcare Systems, 2017–2019
- Supervised chaplaincy students during their clinical pastoral education, offering mentorship on palliative care, grief counseling, and trauma response.
- Provided feedback and guidance on case studies, helping residents develop their pastoral identity and communication skills in clinical settings.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Mothers of Conviction and Courage Award
- Awarded by Mothers for Justice & Equality | 2022
- Recognized for unwavering leadership and advocacy in addressing trauma and grief among African American mothers who have lost children to violence and illness.
- Washington and Moore Scholar
- United Theological Seminary | 2012

- Awarded for academic excellence and outstanding contributions to the development of new faith communities through a womanist theological lens.
- Leadership in Trauma-Informed Care Award
- Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) | 2019
- Honored for exceptional work in promoting trauma-informed care and pastoral counseling for veterans, individuals with PTSD, and families dealing with chronic illness.
- Women in Ministry Leadership Award
- African Methodist Episcopal Church, 13th Episcopal District | 2018
- Celebrated for groundbreaking work as the first female Dean of the Board of Examiners, and for pioneering leadership in supporting women in ministry across the district.
- Community Healing Advocate Award
- Tennessee Game Changers United 4 Justice and Equality | 2021
- Acknowledged for tireless efforts in promoting social justice, community healing, and spiritual care for marginalized communities in Tennessee.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. | 2023
Recognized for exemplifying the ideals of Finer Womanhood, including leadership, service, and integrity within the community. Honored for outstanding contributions to social justice, spiritual care, and the empowerment of women through ministry and advocacy.
- Scholarship-Center for Faith and Imagination Spiritual Direction

PUBLICATIONS

- "The Two Shall Become One: Womanist Model of Healing and Wholeness in the Life of Merged Congregations" Amazon Publishing, 2020
- "My Son's Death Taught Me How to Live"
Soulful Prayers: The Power of Intentional Communication with God, Vol. 2 by Cheryl Polote-Williamson, Purposely Created Publishing Group | 2020
- "You Have What It Takes to Lead: What's Stopping You!"
Get Success Publishing, 2016
- "You Don't Have to Bow"
In Not Without a Struggle, Revised by Vashti Murphy McKenzie | Pilgrim Press, 2011

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Spiritual Direction Certificate
- Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, Marriottsville, MD | 2023
- Grief Counseling
Center for Loss and Transition, Fort Collins, CO | 2020
- Spiritual Integration Psychotherapy Certification

Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, Atlanta, GA | 2019

- Clinical Pastoral Chaplaincy Education (6-Unit ACPE Residency)
Tennessee Valley Healthcare Systems, Murfreesboro, TN | 2019
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Manual Co-Edited by Janie Dowdy-Dandridge at the VA Hospital (2018)

GRANTS

Believe Incorporated Grant 2008

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2015) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2016) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2017) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2018) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2019) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2020) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2021) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2022) Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

Mothers Against Violence Conference (October 2024) Title: *Healing Begins with Me*, Boston University Boston, Massachusetts

13th Episcopal District Lay Weekend Presenter (January 2023), Title: "*A Shift in The Atmosphere with Unified Prayer and Empowered Service*"

13th Episcopal District Learning Academy (July 2023) Title: "Owning Who You Are"
University Tennessee at Martin (April 2024) Title: Mindfulness: A Primer for Mental Health Professionals

Tennessee State Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Leadership Conference (October 2024) Title: The Power of S. H. E. (Social Justice, Health Equity and Empowerment)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director

Tennessee Game Changers United 4 Justice and Equality, Shelbyville, TN | 2016–Present
Led initiatives focused on social justice, mental health, and community equity.

Volunteer Chaplain

Metro Nashville Police Department

Provide spiritual support for officers and victims, including crisis intervention and trauma response.

AFFILIATIONS

- Association of Clinical Pastoral Therapists, Member
- Tennessee Licensed Professional Counselors Association, Member
- Tennessee State Chaplain Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Member since 1992
- National Communication Association
- Southern States Communication Association
- Association of Clinical Pastoral Education
- American Counseling Association
- Tennessee Counseling Association
- American Mental Health Counseling Association
- Spiritual Direction International

SKILLS

- Trauma-informed care and counseling
- Grief and bereavement support
- Multicultural spiritual care
- Leadership development and training
- Conflict management and mediation

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

- Dominican Republic, February 2024, Purpose: Operative focus was on literacy and Education to opens doors to better job opportunities and improves the overall quality of life for individuals and their communities.
- Ocho Rios Jamaica, May 2010. Purpose: A Cultural Learning Experience to foster a deeper understanding of social issues like poverty, health, and education.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Obion County Health Commission
- Tennessee Gamechangers United for Justice and Equality
- Feet on the Street Community: Engaging Local Activism and Grassroots Organization for Change
- Girl Get Up Organization: Empowering Young Women for Change
- Girl Get Up Leadership Institute & Academy

LANGUAGES

English: Proficient

REFERENCES

Available upon request.