



Dr. Lisa Caraway Oliver, EdD

Educator • Chaplain • Speaker

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Profile

Adult educator, chaplain, speaker, and program developer with expertise in grief, bereavement, advance care planning, end-of-life education, and the psychosocial impact of trauma, serious illness, and loss. Experienced in Level I adult and pediatric trauma centers, Dr. Oliver designs and delivers evidence-informed educational programs that help individuals, families, healthcare professionals, and communities navigate life's most significant transitions.

Core Expertise

- Grief, Bereavement & Loss
- Advance Care Planning & End-of-Life Education
- Hospice & Palliative Care Education
- Adult Learning & Instructional Design
- Clinical Chaplaincy & Family Support
- Trauma-Informed Education

Educational Expertise

- Doctorate in Adult Education with advanced clinical chaplain formation
- Trauma-informed educational engagement across healthcare, legal, faith-based, and community settings
- Design and facilitation of grief and end-of-life education programs
- Adult-learning-informed instructional design and curriculum development
- Facilitator of community conversations on death, dying, grief, and life transitions
- Translation of clinical and trauma concepts for non-clinical audiences

Professional Experience

Life-Transitions Consultant & Educator – Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC

Provide grief-focused consultations, death-and-dying education, and trauma-informed client interviewing for individuals, families, and organizations. Draft interpretive summaries integrating behavioral science, chaplaincy insights, attachment theory, and trauma responses. Support attorneys with case analysis involving death, bereavement, and emotional impact.

Clinical Chaplain Resident Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Level I Pediatric Trauma Hospital)

Provide spiritual care, crisis intervention, and family-systems support during life-threatening injury, critical illness, or traumatic death. Work with the interdisciplinary team to integrate spiritual assessment and anticipatory-grief perspectives into comprehensive family support. Completed graduate-level clinical chaplain formation in a Level I pediatric trauma hospital providing spiritual care during pediatric trauma, critical illness, medical complexity, and end-of-life situations.

Clinical Chaplain Intern Grady Healthcare (Level I Adult Trauma Hospital)

Provided bedside support, acute grief intervention, and spiritual care during high-intensity medical and trauma situations.

Education & Program Development

Designed and facilitated educational programs for healthcare organizations, universities, libraries, faith communities, and community organizations throughout Georgia and Florida, and presented internationally in Rwanda.

- **Independent Educator & Facilitator:** Hospice Foundation of America and The Pennsylvania State University *"Let's Talk"* program.
 - Facilitated educational programs on advance care planning, for a community audience
- **Community Educator:** Fulton, Gwinnett, and Fayette County Library Systems
 - Presented public educational seminars and community conversation programs, including Death Cafés, Grief Cafés, and the Life Transitions Education Series.
- **Co-Leader:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church Life-Transitions Education Ministry
 - Designed and facilitated educational initiatives addressing advance directives, hospice, palliative care, grief, and end-of-life planning.
- **Guest Lecturer:** Florida State University — *Death & Dying: Not Only for People, Pets & Plants*

Selected Educational Programs

- Community Conversations
 - Death Café
 - Grief Café
- Educational Series
 - Advance Directives I
 - Advance Directives II
 - Hospice vs. Palliative Care
 - Funeral Planning
- Grief Programs and Presentations
 - Walking the Mourner's Path
 - Understanding Grief
 - Grief Awareness Matters

Education & Professional Formation

Doctor of Education (EdD), Adult Education

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Dissertation: *How Do Caregivers Learn? Exploring the Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals*

Research Foci: Death and dying; Emotion work; Informal learning

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) – Graduate-Level Clinical Chaplain Formation

- **Level II-B** – Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Arthur M. Blank Hospital
- **Level II-A** – Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Arthur M. Blank Hospital
- **Level I** – Grady Health System, Atlanta, Georgia

Publications

Books

Oliver, L. C. (2022). *Final Wishes: A Workbook for Planning a Funeral* (2nd ed.). Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. ISBN-13: 978-0578366746 (ISBN-10: 0578366746)

Peer-Reviewed articles

Watkins, K. E., Ellinger, A. D., Suh, B., Brenes-Dawsey, J. C., & Oliver, L. C. (2022). *Further evolving the critical incident technique (CIT) by applying different contemporary approaches for analyzing qualitative data in CIT studies. European Journal of Training and Development*, 46(7-8), 709-726. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EJTD-07-2021-0107>.