

# Lisa Caraway Oliver, EdD

## Life Transitions Coach | Chaplain

I educate individuals on life transitions and their residual effects: grief, mourning, and bereavement. Through this education, individuals are empowered to make informed decisions concerning advanced care plans and are guided toward comprehending their feelings, emotions, and actions that occur because of a loss. My passion for this work emanates from a desire to mitigate potential generational dysfunction that occurs when families postpone discussions on these inevitable topics.



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Dr. Lisa Talks About...



Atlanta, Georgia

### EDUCATION

#### EdD, Adult Education

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Research Foci: Death and Dying, Emotion Work, Informal Learning

Dissertation title: *How do Caregivers Learn, Exploring the Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals*. Advisor: Karen C. Watkins, Ph.D.

#### MS, Instructional Technology

Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

#### BS, Electrical Engineering

Howard University, Washington, District of Columbia

### CERTIFICATION

#### Clinical Pastoral Education - Level 1 Chaplain

Grady Health System - Atlanta, Georgia

Fall 2022 Cohort

#### Chaplain Resident

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) - Atlanta, Georgia

June 2025 – Anticipated Completion: April 2026

## **BOARD SERVICE**

### Georgians for End of Life Options (GALEO)

GAELO is a state-wide organization focused on expanding end-of-life options for all Georgians. I am a board member as well as the leader of the Advanced Care Planning Task Force, whose goal is to educate all Georgians on the need for advanced care planning.

### Professional Advisory Group (PAG) Grady Center for Spiritual Care and Education (GCSCE)

This group plays a crucial role in supporting the Center's Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program by providing honest and constructive evaluative feedback to the program's faculty and administration.

## **EDUCATOR EXPERIENCE**

### Presenter – Fayette County Public Library

Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Choices | Death Cafes | Grief Cafes

April 2023 - Present

The purpose of presentation was to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions about their future healthcare, ensuring their wishes are respected, and providing peace of mind for both themselves and their loved ones. Death Café and Grief Cafes are both highly interactive discussions to increase awareness of death and to name and address our grief.

### Facilitator – Death Cafes | Fulton County Library System | Fulton County, Georgia

November 2017 - 2020

Using highly interactive conversation, I facilitated a monthly discussion on the topic of death. Following the model established by Death Café founder, the late Jon Underwood, a death café's purpose is to increase awareness of death with the hope that people will begin to make the most out of their (finite) lives.

### Presenter - Fulton County Library System | Fulton County, Georgia

November 2017 – 2022

I presented a monthly Life Transition Series designed to educate participants on end-of- life issues and opportunities while encouraging them to take concrete steps that lessen the burden surrounding end-of-life decisions required of their loved ones or themselves.

### Presenter – Gwinnett County Public Library - Five Forks Branch | Lawrenceville, Georgia

October 2019 – February 2022

I facilitated Death Cafes and a seminar on Advanced Care Planning at this location.

Facilitator, Walking the Mourner's Path | St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta Georgia  
Annually

*Walking the Mourner's Path* is a small group, Christ-centered, 8-week grief workshop.

Once the initial task of assessing participant readiness for the workshop is completed, each week I guide participants through different concepts of the grief, mourning, and bereavement process. Effective listening is utilized to determine how to both (1) facilitate the discussion further and (2) modify the course homework to effectively minister to the individual and collective needs of the group without the possibility of overwhelming them. Shared experiences among the participants as well as the use of narratives, allowed both Transformational and Experiential learning to occur, shepherding the participants forward in their healing. The workshop received high reviews from participants.

Co-Facilitator – Life Transitions Education Ministry | St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta Georgia

January 2019 - Present

To make the topic of death as comfortable to discuss as the topic of birth, this Ministry is designed to educate and prepare church members to be proactive regarding end-of-life care. As the facilitator, I design, develop, facilitate, and evaluate quarterly workshops for effectiveness on the topics of Advanced Care Planning, Funeral Planning, and Preparing for a Good End of Life.

Seminar Facilitator, Georgia Yellow Dot Program | National Church Residences, Atlanta, Georgia.  
July 2020 – September 2020

The Yellow Dot program is a partnership between the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention after a medical emergency. I facilitate both educational seminars on the value of advance care planning and activity-based seminars to assist residents with the completion of their Yellow Dot form and Advanced Directives.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Oliver, L.C. (2022). FINAL WISHES: Funeral Planning Workbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC ISBN: 978-0578366746

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>.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Oliver, Lisa (2016). The Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals. Oral presentation at the 38th Annual Conference of the Association of Death Education and Counseling, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Advanced Care Planning | Funeral Planning Fulton County Library – Kirkwood Branch*  
October 2024
- *Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Choices*  
Wesley Walker Senior Center @ Emory University  
August 2024
- *Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Choices*  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), University of Georgia  
September 2024  
*Your Funeral. Let's Plan It!* Fayette County Library June 2024
- *Advanced Care Planning and End of Life Choices* Harmony  
Grove United Methodist Church, Lilburn, GA  
April 2024
- *WELLBEING INSPIRES WELLDOING*. A Panel Discussion on Grief. Kigali Shared Office  
| Queen Nyabinghi. Kigali, Rwanda, Africa.  
April 2021.
- *Life, Love, and Legacy with Dione Traci Duckett*. A radio interview about Death Cafes.  
April 2021.
- *Black Parents Aging Podcast*. A radio interview about advanced care planning and death  
cafes.  
March 2021.
- *Grief: A Presentation and Facilitated Discussion*. Federal Defender Services of  
Eastern TN.  
October 2020.
- *Living Well and the Importance of Advance Care Planning*. Chaplains and Residents of  
the Atlanta Region of the National Church Residences, Atlanta, GA.  
July – August 2020.
- *Life Transitions: Peace and Possibilities*. National Caregivers' Workshop. Alpha  
Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Tau Pi Omega Chapter. Lithonia, GA.  
November 2019.
- *Why We Should Talk About Death and Dying*. End of Life Seminar: Getting Your  
Affairs in Order. New Horizon Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA.  
August 2019.

- *Understanding Dementia: Death and Dying.* Faith Village Connections, Fairburn, GA.  
March 2019.*Death and Dying: Peace and Possibilities 1 & 2*  
Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA.  
January/February 2019.
- *What?! Why Would I Want to Attend a Seminar on DEATH?!*  
Wesley Woods of Atlanta | Wesley Woods Towers, Atlanta, GA.  
January 2019.