



*The Rev. Dr.*  
**Howard W. Whitaker**

Consulting Clinical Clergy, Beekeeper & Bookseller  
Principal: Hamrick Whitaker & Associates

[www.howardwhitaker.net](http://www.howardwhitaker.net)

[hwhitaker@howardwhitaker.net](mailto:hwhitaker@howardwhitaker.net)

c/t (423) 400-6304



**P**ost pandemic, I am retired, feral, Episcopal clergy. I still occasionally travel for short-term deployment. I have been a priest in clinical practice for 35 years—predominately in psychiatric services. I have worked in office, hospital, and parish settings—and occasionally on inland waterways [Tennessee Valley] for Seaman's Church Institute. I am looking at my fourth generation of bishops and their retinues, and my third generation of psychiatrists.

In the 20 teens, I ran consultations with churches on the east coast. In the 20 aughts, I was department head of a large state psychiatric hospital where I served on the governing body and chaired the ethics committee. Before that, I maintained a successful private practice and consultancy for most of a decade. Before that, I have been everything from parish priest to police officer; mechanic to missionary; print reporter to repo man; chaplain to the saintly and the insane.

As a pensioner, I am happy to be supply clergy, when available. I'll preach a fine sermon, celebrate Eucharist, take your money, and disappear. As Dashiell Hammett observed about a similar profession, I am not only paid for my services, I am paid to leave. If you think you would like to engage me further, we need to have a serious, realistic chat.

I consult for religious issues in psychiatry. I am a pathologist. I work with trauma, religious psychopathology, personality disorder, religious abuse, self-injury, and misconduct. If you are an ecclesial authority whose churches don't have such problems: I have little unique to offer. Please do not call me for standard-issue interim positions. I have no time travel machine to return a congregation to the 1990s. I am weary of pleading with leaders for cultural change. I have neither interest nor aptitude in being a chaplain to the country club, maintaining a religiously themed civic association or lodge hall, or helping bishops hide the bodies.

I prefer my work with under-served and working poor communities. I will collaborate with congregations doing poverty-informed, culturally competent, respectful ministry in that space. Not paternalism, not charity, not *noblesse oblige*.

I am a poor peoples' pastor and occasional chaplain to creative communities in the Mid-South and Southern Appalachia. Theologically, I skew toward social justice themes of Hebrew prophecy and The Sermon on the Mount. I would not be considered evangelical or Christian nationalist. I have past or present alliances with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Integrity USA, and organized labor.

#### EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry, 1994, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, District of Columbia, *Emotional Systems*  
Master of Divinity, 1988, Episcopal Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, *Missions, Eastern Kentucky*  
Bachelor of Science, 1974, American University, Washington, District of Columbia, *Public Administration*  
Diploma, Columbia Military Academy, 1971, Columbia, Tennessee, *Classical southern boarding & preparatory*  
Board Certifications: [retired] Association of Mental Health Clergy; Association of Professional Chaplains

## Church



*Seamen's Church  
Institute*  
2022—  
**River Chaplain**

**Associate.** On call CISM and pastoral care for towboat crews on commercial inland waterways in the Tennessee Valley Region.



*The Episcopal  
Church*

Priest  
1988—  
**Consultant -  
Travel nationally**

for short-term, clinically driven incident management. Typically involves trauma, violence, conflict, misconduct, suicide, or other significant development. Canonical residence: Diocese of Newark, but I have worked in Dioceses of Lexington, Easton, Alabama, East Tennessee, Southwestern Virginia, Western New York, Central New York.

**Rector - North Sassafras Parish** [1692]

1990-1994 4 years  
Earleville, Maryland

**Staff - Episcopal Diocese of Lexington**

1986 – 1990 4 years  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Assistant to the Canon for Missions  
Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary



**Sabbatical**  
*Swift Transportation*  
2002

After 8 years of private practice, culminating with deployments for the World Trade Center attack and the "Tri-State Crematory" incident [and divorce]. Over the road truck driver = Solitary monastic.



*American Red Cross*

**Chaplain, Aviation Incident Response (AIR) Team**

1999 – 2002 3 years

Disaster and Humanitarian Relief. On call for ARC/NTSB airline disaster and, later, mass casualty. **Deployed: World Trade Center, 2001**, two term Chief Chaplain, Family Assistance Center, Liberty Park, New Jersey.

## Clinical Chaplain



*State of New Jersey*  
**Greystone Park  
Psychiatric Hospital**  
Morris Plains, NJ

**Director of Pastoral Services -**

2002 – 2010 8 years  
Department Head, Executive Management Committee, and chair of Ethics Committee.



*Clinical Pastoral Services*  
Chattanooga, TN

1994-2002 8 years  
Established a successful consulting practice focused on pastoral care in psychiatric illness. Perennial presenter for Association of Mental Health Clergy (met with American Psychiatric Association), College of Chaplains, and other clinical groups.



*Sheppard Pratt Psychiatric  
Hospital*  
Baltimore, MD

**Staff Chaplain**

1991 – 1994 3 years  
Advanced and Supervisory Residency. ACPE Supervisor in Training



*State of Tennessee*  
**Lakeshore Mental  
Health Institute**  
Knoxville, TN

**Contract Chaplain**

1989 – 1990 1 year  
Advanced [ACPE] training at state psychiatric hospital.



*Children's Hospital  
Medical Center*  
Cincinnati, OH

**Intern Chaplain**

1988 1 year  
Basic [ACPE] training at regional hospital, followed by contract on-call.



*Appalachian Regional  
Healthcare System*  
Hazard, KY

1988- 1990

**Co-coordinator Chaplain On-Call Program**

## Business



*Whitaker  
Automotive*  
Burnsville, NC

Owner/Operator

1977-1985 8 years

Established and ran a freestanding garage and wrecker service in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

**Hamrick Whitaker  
& Associates**

*Hamrick Whitaker*  
Scottsboro, AL

2005- present

This is the umbrella under which my partner/spouse Kay Hamrick, RN, MDiv, and I operate several cottage businesses including [New York Books](#), [The Second Hand Lamb](#), [Scottsboro Bee Company](#), Rental Housing, transportation services, healthcare services, and other things that interest us from time to time.



*Four Points, Inc.*  
Rossville, then  
LaFayette, GA

**Board Member**

1995 - 2013 18 years  
Domestic Violence Service Center for the five counties of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit of Northwest Georgia. At various times, I was: Board of Directors, development, grant writing, clinical supervisor, and lead educator for court mandated parenting classes. I came with the founding director— then a young law school graduate— and I left when she finally moved on.

One other formative  
experience...



*Baltimore City Police  
Department*  
Baltimore, MD

1974-1976 2 years

**Police Officer/Police Agent**  
Eastern District - Operations