

Kristine M. Stache

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 2008

Major Area of Study: Congregational Mission and Leadership

Dissertation Topic: *Feminist Theology and Missional Church: An Exploration into the Doctrine of the Trinity and its Understanding in Four Denominational Systems.*

Committee: Patrick Keifert, Mary Hess, Craig Van Gelder (Chair)

Master of Arts, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 2002

Major Area of Study: Christian Lay Ministry

Concentration: Congregational Leadership

Bachelor of Arts, Luther College, Decorah, IA, 1988

Major Area of Study: Business Management

Certificate in International Studies

Emphasis: Psychology

DIS Study Abroad Program, University of Copenhagen, 1986-1987 Term

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

2007-Present

Professor of Missional Leadership (2021-Present)

Vice President of Leadership Formation (2022-2025)

- Developed and led the Department of Vocation and Formation, which includes Admissions, Financial Aid, Candidacy, Contextual Education, Chapel, and Community Life
- Served on writing team that resulted in a \$7.4 million dollar grant from Lily title The Castle Project for renewing a baptismal ecclesiology in rural congregations and communities.

Vice President of Strategy and Innovation (2021)

- Served as advisor to the President on strategic planning and innovative learning experiments to move institution forward in its vision

Associate Professor of Missional Leadership (2012-2021)

Holder of the Wilhelm Loehe Chair in Mission (Awarded 2016), Tenure Granted (2013), Ministry Division Department Chair (2015-2016)

Interim President (2020)

- Served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Seminary
- Hired two new faculty in first six months of office
- Led WTS through the upheaval of a global pandemic
- Directed the institution through the completion of one strategic plan and the launch of a second
- Oversaw completion of initiatives to meet goals of strategic plan

Vice President of Administration (July-December 2019)

- Expanded work of strategic plan, initiatives, and assessment

- Managed day-to-day operations together with the President

Director for Innovative Initiatives (2016-June 2019)

- Collaborated with President, Cabinet, and Board of Directors to implement strategic plan throughout institution
- Developed Process of Innovation to create new initiatives and experiments related to the strategic plan, including assessment
- Served on grant writing teams, and direct special projects related to grants

Director of Learning for Life (2014-2016)

- Planned, assessed, and directed WTS continuing education offerings including Seminary for Everyone, providing online access to theological education

Assistant Professor of Missional Leadership (2010-2012)

Director of Certificate Programs and Distributed Learning (2010-2014)

- Advised students in certification programs, and coordinated the schedule of all certification courses
- Collaborated in creation of new Distributed Learning program, responsible for implementation of program

Adjunct Professor of Distributed Education (2009-2010)

Director of Theological Education for Emerging Ministries and Online Learning (2009-2010)

- Coordinated student formation with faculty, staff, and synod representatives
- Scheduled courses and contracted with instructors
- Coordinated logistics for all onsite intensive courses
- Set up website pages for all online courses

Assistant Professor of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (2007-2009)

Director of the Center for Youth Ministries (2007-2009)

- Served as a liaison between seminary and networks in youth, family and young adult ministries
- Designed and executed learning opportunities through the Center, including youth & family ministry certification schools and conferences

Courses Taught: *Congregation and Community, Children, the Family & Faith, Theology of the Congregation, Pastoral Theology Method, Global Church in Motion 1 & 2, Theology in Context, Leadership in the 21st Century, Christian Mission in Global Perspectives, Spiritual Practices, Stewarding Boundaries, Cultivating Christian Communities, Reading and Leading in Context*

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

2003-2006

Adjunct Faculty (2006)

- Team taught select courses as needed

Faculty Teaching Assistant (2003-2006)

Assistant to Professor Patrick Keifert (2003-2006)

- Recruited and supervised other teaching assistants for multiple courses
- Prepped syllabi and course materials
- Led January term travel course to South Africa

Assistant to Professor Craig Van Gelder (2003)

- Assisted with January-term course

Reading Team Researcher (2004)

Supervised by Professor Roland Martinson

- Exemplary Youth Project (Summer 2004)

Lutheran Evangelism Book Project Team Coordinator, (Fall 2002-Fall 2004)

Supervised by Professor Craig Van Gelder

- Coordinated all logistics for planning sessions for team of six writers
- Recorded minutes from meetings
- Created annotated bibliography on resources related to the topic

Evangelism Travel Course Coordinator (2003 and 2004)

Supervised by Professor Craig Van Gelder

- Coordinated all travel, accommodations, and conference logistics for 25 MDiv and DMin students and faculty
- Interfaced with students to assist with course preparations

Courses: Church Organization, Reading the Audiences, Gospel & Culture in South Africa

Church Innovations Institute, St. Paul, MN

2003-2006

Partnership for Missional Church in North America

Managing Director (2005-2006)

- Managed all aspects of PMC including client relationships, scheduling, finances and evaluation
- Supervised the development of all PMC materials and resources including books, manuals, and electronic media
- Coordinated training and placement for all PMC consultants

Research Associate/Project Manager (2003-2005)

- Managed the research process for a shared project with the Gospel and Our Culture Network on church systems and congregations
- Assisted in the development of writing projects, consulting and training products

Kyushu JoGakuin (Women's Junior College), Kumamoto Japan

1988-1991

English teacher and short-term missionary for the ELCA

PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

"God In Us: Identity, Resistance, and Belonging," A weeklong women's retreat with nine teaching sessions at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria, MN, June 2025.

"Behold I Do a New Thing. Do You Not Perceive It?" Presentation to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, UT, February 2020.

"Innovation & Leadership Formation: What is Going on in the World, Church, Culture That Impacts What We Attend To?" Four Churches Consultation, Toronto, ON, May 6-7, 2019.

"Adventures into Digital Teaching, Learning, & Formation: A Case Study from Wartburg Theological Seminary," International Research Consortium, Zurich, Switzerland, June 2018.

"Adventures in Digital Teaching, Learning, and Formation: A Case Study from Wartburg Theological Seminary," Academy of Religious Leadership, Minneapolis, MN, April 2018

"Congregations, Creativity, and Leadership: Embracing the Unknown," *EPIC 2018*: Keynote, East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI, March 2018.

“Spiritual Disciplines & Creativity,” Four-Week Class, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Asbury, IA, January 2018.

“Bible Study Presentation: The Call of Moses,” Lecture for Luther College Student Visitors, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, January 2018.

“Adventures in Digital Learning: A Case Study,” Co-Presentation with Craig Nesson and Tim Snyder, Wartburg College, Waverly, IA, January 2018.

“A Closer Walk: Experiencing Jesus through the Gospel of John,” Retreat for Zion Lutheran Church Members, Dubuque, IA, February 2017.

“Bible Study Presentation: The Call of Mary,” Presentation at *Consider Your Call* Conference, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, March 2017.

“Christian Vocation and the Common Good,” Presentation at *God in the Neighborhood: Toward a Missiological Vision of Place* Conference, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, June 2017.

“Formation & Vocation: A Spiritual Journey In and Out of the Depths,” Post-Sabbatical Lecture, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, November 2016.

“Online Learning: Formation, Engagement and Innovative Educational Models,” Presentation at ATS Seminar for Midcareer Faculty, Phoenix, AZ, April 2016.

“New Frontiers: A Conversation about the Future of the Church,” Lecture Collaboration for Presidential Inauguration, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, December 2015.

“Cutting Edge Pedagogy with Youth: Letter Writing,” Presentation for Lilly Youth Theological Network, Indianapolis, IN, February 2015.

“Catching the Wave: Uncertainty and Our Sacred Pilgrimage,” *Day of Mission*: Respondent to John Sivalon’s Presentation, Sisters of Charity, BVM, Dubuque, IA September 2015.

“Life in Community: God at Work in the World,” Lecture at Cedar River Theological Education Forum, Cedar Rapids, IA, February 2013.

“Communities of Mutuality: Lived Practices of the Faithful,” Lecture at Rural Ministry Conference, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, March 2012.

“Bible Study Presentation: Matthew 14:13-21,” Southeast Iowa Synod Assembly, Iowa City, IA, May 2011.

“Missional Leadership and Internship,” Internship Supervisors’ Training, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, April 2010.

“Participating in God’s Life in the World: Implications for Congregational Ministry,” Luther Academy of the Rockies, Meeker Park, CO, June 2009.

"Youth Ministry & Congregational Revitalization: Separate Entities or One in the Same?" Ankeny Forum, Ankeny, IA, April 2008.

"Congregational Care," Intensive Care Course, ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, Anaheim, CA, February 2008.

"Conversations in Community," Presentation, Youth & Family Ministry Conference, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, December 2007.

"Trinity & Mission," Lecture, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, January 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters or Essays:

"Learning to Listen: A Relational Approach to Vocation and Discernment," *Sustaining Grace: Innovative Ecosystems for New Faith Communities*. Edited by Scott Hagley, Karen Rohrer, and Michael Gehrling. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020.

"Leadership and the Missional Church Conversation: Listening in on What Leaders in Four Denominational Systems Have to Say," *The Missional Church and Leadership Formation: Helping Congregations Develop Leadership Capacity*. Edited by Craig Van Gelder. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, Co., 2009.

Journal Articles:

"Stories that Shape an Understanding of God's Mission in the World: Visionary Leadership in the ELCA," *Ecclesial Futures*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2020.

"Adventures in Digital Learning, Teaching, and Formation: A Case Study of Wartburg Theological Seminary," *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 17, Fall 2018.

"Formation for the Whole Church: A New/Old Vision of Theological Education in the 21st Century," *Dialogue*, Winter 2014.

"What Happens When Those in High School Read Luther and Bonhoeffer," *The Lutheran*, May 2014.

"Congregational Mission Planning with Children and Youth," *Seeds for the Parish*, Fall 2013.

"Practice of Immersion in the Context." *Currents*, Vol. 38, No. 5, October 2011.

Book Reviews:

"Transforming Service: Reflections of Student Services Professionals in Theological Education," Edited by Shonda R. Jones and Pamela R. Lightsey. Pickwick Publications, 2020. *Currents*, Vol. 50, No. 2, 2023.

"How Change Comes to Your Church: A Guidebook for Church Innovations," Patrick Keifert and Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. Eerdmans, 2019. *Currents*, Vol. 49, No. 2, 2022.

"Eat What is Set Before You: A Missiology of the Congregation in Context," Scott Hagley. Urban Loft Publishers, 2019. *Currents*, Vol. 47, No. 4, 2020.

“Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil: Theology and Practice,” James, Christopher B. Oxford University Press, 2018. *Ecclesial Futures*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2020.

“Faith Formation in a Secular Age: Responding to the Church's Obsession with Youthfulness,” Andrew Root. Baker Academic, 2017. *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 2, Summer 2019.

“The Innovation Code: The Creative Power of Constructive Conflict,” Jeff DeGraff. Berrett-Koehler, Inc., 2017. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 17, Fall 2018.

“Family Ministry,” Diana R. Garland. IVP Academic, 2012. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Fall 2014.

“Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families,” Robert Albers, William H. Meller, and Steven Thurber, Eds., Fortress Press, 2012. *Currents*, Vol. 40, No. 3, June 2013.

“The Missional Church in Perspective: Mapping Trends and Shaping the Conversation.” Craig Van Gelder and Dwight Zscheile. Baker Academic, 2011. *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 4, Winter 2012.

“Testing the Spirits: How Theology Informs the Study of Congregations.” Edited by Patrick Keifert. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009. *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring 2011.

“Leadership.” James MacGregor Burns. Harper & Row, 1978. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 4, No. 1 & 2, 2005.

“Closing the Leadership Gap.” Marie C. White. Viking Press, 2004. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 3, No. 1 & 2, Spring 2004 & Fall 2004.

“Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life.” Edited by Miroslav Volf and Dorothy Bass. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002. *Journal of Religious Leadership*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 2002.

Bibliography & Annotation Work:
The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution. Edited by Rick Bliese and Craig Van Gelder. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2005.

Editorial & Advisory Work:
Currents in Theology and Mission. Advisory Member to Editorial Board, 2010-2014.
Ecclesial Futures. Editorial Board, 2020-Present.

LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL CHURCH WORK EXPERIENCE

ELCA Consultant/Facilitator	2021-2025
Churchwide Administrative Team Strategy Retreats	
• August 2021, January 2022, January 2023	
Bishops Advisory Council	
• April 2023, October 2023, October 2024	
ELCA Innovation Team Ecumenical Partner Gathering	
• January 2025	

Luther Seminary/Wartburg Theological Seminary Partnership Gathering

- January 2024, January 2025

ELCA Triennial Youth Gathering

2008-2015

Team Leader, Interactive Learning, New Orleans, LA (2012), Detroit, MI (2015)

- Led visioning, planning, implementation, and operations for the interactive learning programmatic component of the youth gathering, covering nearly 750,000 square feet of space for over 35,000 participants
- Supervised team of 250+ people
- Managed budget, learning outcomes, and evaluations

Area Team Leader, Interaction Center, New Orleans, LA (2009)

- Directed operations for the Interaction Center Rooms processing 12,000 youth daily
- Supervised volunteer team of 40+ people

East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Appleton, WI

2024-Present

Wartburg Faculty Representative, Candidacy Committee

NE Iowa Synod, Waverly, IA

2009-2019

Wartburg Faculty Representative, Candidacy Committee

Lord of Life Lutheran, Asbury, IA

2008-Present

Active Member of Local Church,

- 3rd/4th grade Sunday school teacher
- Member of children's ministry committee
- Confirmation teacher
- Youth Board member
- Worship assistant

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Shoreview, MN

1994-2002

Director of Ministry Development (2000-2002)

- Served as special projects coordinator, creating task forces and doing initial research to start new ministries, such as *Alpha* and *The Shepherd's Path*
- Wrote weekly devotional materials in conjunction with sermon series and developed curriculum for a new discipleship ministry
- Served on task force that supervised the transition of the church council to a governing board structure
- Supervised contextual education students from Luther Seminary

Director of Life Ministries (1998-2000)

- Coordinated ministry efforts between children, youth and adult ministries.
- Directed programming of family ministry
- Supervised Preschool Director and staff

Director of Children's Ministry (1994-1998)

- Provided leadership in spiritual development plan serving children birth-5th grade
- Developed, wrote three-year curriculum for new Sunday morning children's ministry
- Led task force to develop a new weekday preschool ministry on site

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Racine, WI Youth Director	1992-1994
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed new youth ministry for 7-12th grades. • Set-up youth and adult leadership teams for long and short-term planning. • Developed new confirmation program with pastor and parish education associate. 	
ELCA, Chicago, IL Short-term Missionary to Japan	1988-1991
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught English in the women's junior college. • Worked in team ministry with Japanese pastor, American missionary at local church. • Assisted in developing a regional summer bible camp for youth. 	
Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Amery, WI Camp Counselor	Summer 1986

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, GUILDS, and AWARDS

Christos Center for Spiritual Formation "Tending the Holy: Spiritual Direction Training"	2024-Present
Harvard Business School "Driving Nonprofit Performance and Innovation"	June 2022
Research Fellow with Villanova's Center for Church Management "Stories that Shape Leadership: Visionary Leadership in the ELCA"	2018-2019
International Consultation on Ecclesial Futures/Formerly IRC Leadership Team (2022-2023) Transitional Leadership Team (2021-2022) Steering Team (2007-2010)	2007-Present
Academy of Religious Leadership (ARL) President Elect (2025-2027) President (2011-2012) President Elect (2010-2011) Steering Team (2007-2010)	2003-Present
ELCA Youth Ministry Network	2007-2010
The Allelon Center for Missional Leadership	2006-2008
Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA Emerging Women in Leadership Nominee (January 2018) Mid-Career Faculty Roundtable Seminar (April 2016) Newly Appointed Faculty Roundtable Seminar (October 2007)	2007-Present
American Society of Missiology (ASM)	2002-2006, 2012-Present

Community Commitments

- Licensed Foster Parent: Racine County, WI and Dubuque County, IA
- Board Member, Project Concern, Dubuque, IA
- Member of Kinect, Dubuque County Foster Parent Advocacy Task Force
- Community Circle of Care Seven County Planning Development Team, Dubuque, IA
- Co-leader for Girl Scout Troop, Dubuque, IA
- Volunteer Coordinator, Great River School, St. Paul, MN
- Co-teacher for Adoption Education Classes, Children's Home Society, St. Paul, MN
- Task Force Member for Minnesota's Waiting Children Program, Children's Home Society, St. Paul, MN
- Foster Parent Association Executive Board Member, Racine County, Racine, WI
- Volunteer working with infants and children, Ji Ai En Institute, Kumamoto, Japan