

Travis A. Webster

Personal Information

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Ecclesiastical Status: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament), ordained Sept. 25, 2005

Languages: English (native - US citizen), French (B1 - intermediate), German (A2 - elementary)

Professional Summary

Over fifteen years of pastoral service, including parish ministry, hospital/hospice chaplaincy, and pastoral counseling. Pastoral counseling training includes extensive education in and hands-on experience with clients from a variety of cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds. Have overseen ministry areas such as pastoral care, mission, fellowship, discipleship, and education programs in three congregations, with regular preaching and teaching responsibilities.

Core Qualifications

- Th.D. in pastoral counseling and licensure as a marriage and family therapist with nine years' clinical experience as a pastoral counselor
 - Over ten years of service in full-time pastoral ministry
 - Co-founded and help lead a non-profit organization that assists students preparing for Christian ministry in identifying and developing healthier lifestyle choices, with an eye towards creating more balanced and sustainable ministry models
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Work Experience

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, PA

March 2021- present

Associate Pastor

- Oversee adult education (recruiting and training teachers, developing/selecting/recommending curricula, and provided leadership for Sunday school, the Disciple Bible Study, and other educational efforts)
- Offer leadership to the church's Stephen Ministry, provide pastoral care (home and hospital visitation and officiating weddings and funerals), provide worship leadership (preaching once a month), and act as a resource for various ministries (Equipping, Care of Members, and the Board of Deacons)
- Supervise and work with the Director for Children and Family Ministries and the Director for Youth Ministries to plan and coordinate the church's education and fellowship programs for children and youth
 - This includes co-leading the confirmation curriculum
- 550 members, suburban

Training and Counseling Center at St. Luke's (TACC), Atlanta, GA

July 2016 - present

Pastoral Counselor, LMFT

- Counseling with clients presenting with a variety of concerns; have worked frequently with clergy and seminarians preparing for pastoral ministry; I am currently TACC's clergy specialist
- Various sites: urban, suburban, and telehealth

Columbia Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA

Feb. 2015 - Feb. 2022

Office Manager

- Part-time (9 hours weekly)
- Tasked with facilitating the church's daily administrative operations
 - Responsibilities included monitoring voicemail and email, maintaining the church calendar, communicating with vendors, ordering office supplies, and coordinating with groups that used church space
 - In addition, at the pastor's request, I regularly led worship and preached
- 100+ members, suburban

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Jan. 2017 - May 2017

Teaching Assistant

PC 501: Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling, taught by Dr. Gregory Ellison II

- PC501 serves as the pre-requisite for other pastoral care courses, focusing on theological and psychosocial analysis of personal, family, and congregational needs and the caring principles and methods to respond to them
- Responsibilities included attending all class sessions, reading the materials, participating in discussions, grading papers, preparing and delivering lectures at Dr. Ellison's request, and serving as a resource for the students
- 20+ students, suburban

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Jan. 2016 - May 2016

Teaching Assistant

PC502: Pastoral Care in Congregation and Community, taught by Dr. Karen Scheib

- This course is designed to help those called to parish ministry understand the literature, theories, and practices that inform pastoral care within the congregational context
- Responsibilities included attending all class sessions, reading the materials, participating in discussions, grading papers, preparing and delivering lectures at Dr. Scheib's request, and serving as a resource for the students
- 20+ students, suburban

Care and Counseling Center of Georgia, Decatur, GA
Basic Counseling Resident

Sept. 2014 - May 2016

- 8-10 clinical hours a week with clients from a variety of backgrounds
- Clinical education portion of the Th.D. program that ran concurrently with academic coursework
- Responsibilities included providing pastoral counseling services to individuals and couples
 - Process involved making initial contact with potential clients, scheduling appointments, maintaining files, participating in regular supervision, and implementing appropriate classroom and supervision learning in these relationships
- Various sites, urban and suburban

Palmetto Health, Columbia, SC
Chaplain in Clinical Pastoral Education Residency Program

Aug. 2013 - Aug. 2014

- Served Palmetto Health Hospice; visited hospice patients in their homes, offering them and their loved ones pastoral support and coordinating with other members of the hospice team (nurses, social workers, aides, etc.) to make sure we gave the best possible patient care
- Staffed two of Palmetto Health's senior daycare centers, led worship on a weekly basis, was part of the on-call schedule for two hospitals (including a Level 1 trauma center), and was involved in all of the normal educational components of CPE (group meetings, verbatims, IPR time, individual supervision, didactics, etc.)
- Palmetto Health Baptist 413 beds, Palmetto Health Richland 649 beds, urban

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC
Parish Associate

Aug. 2013 - Aug. 2014

- Administered the adult education programs (Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and special studies held throughout the week)
 - Staffed the church's education ministry
- Other responsibilities included providing leadership to the church's Stephen Ministry, assisting in worship, and making hospital visits
- 650 members, suburban

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC
Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Mission

Jan. 2009 - Aug. 2013

- Supervised and worked with the Director for Children and Family Ministries and the Director for Youth and Young Adults to plan and coordinate the church's education and fellowship programs for children and youth
 - This included developing and co-leading the confirmation curriculum
- Oversaw adult education (recruited and trained teachers, developed/selected/recommended curricula, and provided leadership for Sunday school, Wednesday night programming, the Disciple Bible Study, and other educational efforts)
 - Led or co-led 15+ classes
- Worked with the Ministry of Service and Benevolence to direct the church's various outreach and mission efforts
- Initiated and led the church's Stephen Ministry, provided pastoral care (home and hospital visitation and officiating weddings and funerals), developed and supported our young adult and senior congregant ministries, oversaw the planning and implementation of our annual Advent retreat, assisted in establishing and leading the church's Kids' Garden, provided worship leadership (preaching once a month), and acted as a resource for various ministries (Education, Evangelism and Communication,

Fellowship, Service and Benevolence, and the Board of Deacons)

- 650 members, suburban

First Presbyterian Church, Meadville, PA
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Aug. 2005 - Jan. 2009

- Primary responsibilities included leading the Stephen Ministry program, supporting ChristCare small groups, providing hospital visitation and outreach to shut-ins, and short-term pastoral counseling
- Additional responsibilities included leading the adult Christian education program (arranging the schedule, teaching, and finding teachers from among the congregation), offering staff leadership to the Session, Board of Deacons, and committees (Christian Education, Mission, and Membership), officiating weddings and funerals, participating in the weekly traditional worship service (preaching every other month) as well as coordinating and participating in our alternative worship services (Taizé and contemporary worship, twice monthly)
- 900+ members, small city

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Denali, AK
Chaplain

June - Sept. 2003, June - Sept. 2004

- Coordinated the chaplain team as we planned and led worship at three different sites in and around Denali National Park
- Offered pastoral services as needed to park visitors and employees
- Cultivated relationships with local churches
- Worked concurrently full-time for one of the park's concessionaries
- Varying interdenominational congregation, isolated national park with tourist services

Pennington Presbyterian Church, Pennington, NJ
Field Education Student

Jan. 2003 - May 2004

- Specialized in youth ministry
 - Participated in leadership team for junior high fellowship and taught confirmation class
- Regularly assisted in worship leadership, with occasional preaching
- 600 members, suburban

Jeanes Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
Chaplain Intern

Oct. 2002 - April 2003

- Provided pastoral care to patients, their families, and hospital staff
- Participated in regular individual and group supervision
- 146 beds, urban

Camp Buc, Sapphire, NC
Program Director

May - Aug. 2001

- Oversaw the camp's day-to-day operations
 - Included staff hiring, training, management, and evaluation, as well as creating the weekly schedule, organizing staff and camper support, and problem solving
- Assisted in readying the buildings and grounds for the beginning of the season and preparing them for closure after the summer
- Presbyterian wilderness camp, rural

Collège Descartes-Montaigne, Liévin, France
Assistant d'Anglais

Oct. 2000 - May 2001

- Served as a resource for teachers and staff, collaborating with them to plan, teach, and supplement lessons on English language and American culture
- Maintained a daily classroom presence, building relationships with students of different ages and fluency levels
 - Chaperoned several day-long field trips to Canterbury, UK
- Various middle and elementary schools, small villages in a mostly rural setting

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Admissions Counselor

Jan. 1999 - Sept. 2000

- Recruited students to continue their studies at the university
 - Met with students visiting the campus as they considered their higher-education options
 - Traveled throughout South Carolina and other states representing the university at college fairs and in high school visits
 - Established and maintained relationships with guidance counselors and university alumni as a supplement to recruiting efforts
- Large state university, 26,000+ students, urban

Formal Education

Th.D. in Pastoral Counseling, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, May 2022

Exchange student, Eberhard-Karls Universität, Tübingen, Germany, studying theology, German language, and German culture, Oct. 2004 - July 2005

M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, May 2004

B.A., French Language and Literature and History, University of South Carolina Honors College, Columbia, SC, December 1998 (includes one year as an exchange student at the Université de Haut-Alsace, Sept. 1996 - June 1997)

Additional Training, Skills, and Certifications (Selected)

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Georgia, March 2021 (renewed July 2022); Pennsylvania, Nov. 2022 (renewed Feb. 2023)
- ACPE Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy training, April - Oct. 2021
- Health and Wellness Coach, Real Balance Global Wellness Services, Aug. 2015 (renewed Oct. 2021)
- Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Oct. 2012 - May 2013
- Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, May 2012
- Certificate in Spiritual Formation, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, May 2011
- Prepare/Enrich Pre-Marital Facilitator certification, August 2011
- Certified South Carolina Master Gardener, May 2010
- Disciple Bible Study leader training, July 2007

Publications

- Webster, Karen and Travis Webster. “Health as *Shalom*: A Theological Understanding of Wholeness.” Presbyterian Women’s *Horizons* Magazine, Summer 2023
 - Webster, Travis A. “Does It *Have* to Make You Sick? Preparing Seminarians for Greater Vocational Health.” ThD diss., Columbia Theological Seminary, 2022.
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Presentations and Public Speaking (Selected)

- *Policy Priorities Meeting: Best Practices and Learning Collaborative for Theological Seminaries and Educational Institutions that Prepare Future Faith Leaders*, held by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (Partnership Center) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) in Washington, D.C. Aug. 2023
 - Speaker
- “Cooking Up Shalom in Our Kitchens” Mar. 2023
 - Just Creation: Shalom for Our Common Home National Conference (held by Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA)
 - Workshop Presenter
- “Taste and See: Discovering and Developing a Deeper Church Culture Through Biblical Foods” Pastors and Leaders Annual Conference (held by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN) Feb. 2023
 - Workshop Presenter
- “Rooted and Whole” 2-Part Series Jan. 2023
 - Contextual Education Class, Claremont School of Theology (Claremont, CA)
 - Guest Lecturer
- “Validating the Caring Factor Survey – Caring for Self with Clergy” Jun. 4 – Sept. 4, 2022
 - Virtual 43rd Annual International Association for Human Caring Conference
 - Poster Presentation
- “Why Are Clergy So Unhealthy? Constructively Engaging Pastoral Wellness Challenges,” Oct. 2019
 - Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Regional Conference (Hendersonville, NC)
 - Workshop Presenter
- “You Feel What You Eat: The Role of Nutrition in Mental Health,” June 2019
 - Training and Counseling Center (Atlanta, GA)
- “Why Are Clergy So Unhealthy? Constructively Engaging Pastoral Wellness Challenges,” Feb. 2019
 - “The Cura Animarum: Care of Souls” National Conference (held by the C. G. Jung Institute of Seattle and the Washington Pastoral Counseling Association), Tacoma History Museum (Tacoma, WA)
 - Workshop Presenter
- “Forgiveness and Health,” Jan. 2019
 - Wednesday Night Adult Education, First Presbyterian Church (Spartanburg, SC)
 - Guest Presenter
- “Teaching Health and Wholeness in Seminaries,” March 2018
 - Southeast Symposium on Ecologically Informed Theological Education (part of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative), Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA)
 - Workshop Presenter

- “Cultivating a Healthier Church Culture for a Healthier World,”
STEPS Leadership Conference (Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, SC) Aug. 2017
 - Featured Leader
- Cooking Demonstration and Interview on the show “Grow,” Aired Oct. 1, 2017
Atlanta Interfaith Broadcast
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfVsogdVNfs> (starting at 16:42)
- “Cultivating Healthier Seminaries for a Healthier World,” Oct. 2016
Seminary Stewardship Alliance National Conference (Portland, OR)
 - Plenary Speaker