

REV. DIANE SNOWA

I am an ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC) since 1989. As a Designated Interim, I served 8 local churches in Missouri (1988-1993), Virginia/North Carolina (1994-2003) and Kentucky (2003 – 2009). While in Missouri and Virginia, I concurrently served as Hospital Chaplain.

I taught Language Arts in public schools in St. Louis County, Missouri (1959-1984) and at Paul DeCamp Community College, Suffolk, Virginia (1994-1998).

While in Missouri, I was awarded a 1-year Fellowship (1974-75) in the University of Missouri Writing Project, and invited for a second year (1975-76). Subsequently, I designed and facilitated workshops for teachers K-12 throughout Missouri, helping teachers include writing in all subject areas at all grade levels K-12. Concurrently, I was asked to serve as a workshop designer and facilitator for the Desegregation Program in St. Louis and St. Louis County, helping teachers with strategies for “Building Community Within the Classroom.”

During the 1978-79 school year, I volunteered my 13 year old son and me to a year working in a Human Development Project sponsored by The Ecumenical Institute/The Institute of Cultural Affairs in rural Brazil. The young adolescent village girls and I developed a pre-school program for children, a healthcare program, and I taught a Portuguese literacy class for village adults. Four days a week, I taught English as a Second Language at a private school in Rio de Janeiro in order to financially support the work in the village. (Google Bananeiras 1978 for a description of the transformational work.)

Returning from Brazil, I was invited to help design and subsequently teach in an alternative high school for “drop-outs and potential drop-outs.” During my 3 years there 95% of our students went on to college or vocational school (1980-1984)

Feeling the Call to Ministry, I resigned from teaching and entered Eden Theological Seminary, St Louis, Missouri (Fall 1984). While there, I accepted an invitation to sing with an Ecumenical Choir as a peace mission to Poland (1985) before the Iron Curtain had fallen. We sang phonetic Polish in abandoned churches, museums, and a salt mine. We spent a day visiting Auschwitz and the Chapel/Shrine of the Black Madonna.

I was ordained in 1988 in the United Church of Christ, married in 1992, and accompanied my husband to Virginia. While there, I accompanied a Conference Youth trip to Germany as Spiritual Counselor (1994). As an Ecumenical Partner, I traveled in 1995 with 3 UCC colleagues to Angola, Africa, as a Ministry of Presence following the conclusion of a devastating civil war.

I have been a human rights/civil rights activist beginning in 1962 when a teaching colleague and I decided to petition St. Louis and St. Louis County governments to designate parking spots for “people with disabilities.” In 1970, I joined the Youth Minister of my local church in organizing a work project with the Heifer Project in Mission, South Dakota. Our work transformed an abandoned ranch to one ready for a Native American family to operate. During 1974-1977, my son and I hosted three Exchange students from Brazil through the Youth for Understanding program. From 1995-2004, I volunteered as a fund-raiser to support Habitat for Humanity in Suffolk, Virginia. In those 9 years, 14 Habitat homes were built in the small segregated city. I also served on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee, planning programs and serving as moderator. In 2002, I addressed the Norfolk High School assembly.

As an ordained Minister, I have been key-note speaker at Association-wide and statewide UCC Conferences. I served on the Indiana-Kentucky UCC Conference Board of Directors (2008-2012). I was a Board member (2005-2010) and Board President (2009-10) of CHOICES, INC, a Louisville ministry for homeless women and children (now families). I served also as a Board member of East Louisville Community Ministry (2004-2010), a founding member of Mission Beyond Bars (subsequently teaching Life Skills at Luther Luckett Correction Complex (2007-2011)), and core member of CEDAW (Convention for Ending Discrimination Against Women), participating as such in the 2017 UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. I was one of 3 presenters at the Murray State University Summit on Women (2017). From 2018, I have served Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky, as a mentor for students preparing for ministry.

I have been a core member of *The Salaam Network (TSN)*, set up in 2016 as an interfaith education group committed to eliminating bigotry, hatred and mistrust through knowledge-based presentations in Louisville. *TSN* was particularly focused on disseminating accurate information about the three Abrahamic traditions as well as significant contemporary issues. I have been engaged in community outreach for *TSN* and am designated as a Facilitator. In 2017, I coordinated a series of six programs representing Jewish, Christian and Islamic perspectives on selected topics, and a program on Calligraphy as a Sacred Art Form.

Presently, I am a member of the Worship Design Team at St Andrew UCC, Louisville. I also serve on the Hospitality Committee at The Forum at Brookside, Louisville, where I initiated and oversee its first recycling initiative.

My publications include an essay “The Woman Behind Thanksgiving,” published in *The New England Journal* (1956), and two chapters in *God Speaks, Women Respond: UCC Women in Ministry Tell Their Stories*, co-edited by Nancy Peeler Keppel and Jeanette Stokes, Pilgrim Press (2004).