

Contributors

Joshua Boettiger is a rabbi who serves Emek Shalom in Ashland, Oregon, U.S., and is a teacher of Mussar (Jewish Ethics) and Meditation. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, is a Rabbis Without Borders Fellow, and is currently studying towards an MFA in Poetry. Rabbi Boettiger has an abiding interest in sacred spaces and continues to work as a builder of ritual structures – from sukkahs and chuppahs to prayer/meditation spaces. He has published work in *Parabola*, *Zeek* and the *San Pedro River Review*.

Timothy Carson, D.Min., is the editor of *Neither Here nor There: The Many Voices of Liminality*. He is a pastor and writer, the author of several books including *Your Calling as a Christian*, *The Square Root of God*, *Six Doors to the Seventh Dimension* and *Liminal Reality and Transformational Power*. Liminality was the subject of his doctoral work, and he has continued his study and writing on transitional states ever since. An avid musician, world traveler and motorcyclist, he is also the Curator of TheLiminalityProject.org.

Colleen Warner Colaner, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Communication and co-director of the Institute of Family Diversity and Communication at the University of Missouri, U.S. Her research explores how communication creates and sustains personal, social, and family identities in diverse family structures. A major focus of her research is communication in adoptive families and she presently leads the Communication in Open Adoption Relationships Project (COARP), examining how adoptive and foster parents communicate with and about birth parents.

Nicole Conner, M.A., was raised by parents deeply affected by the horrors of World War II. As a child, she moved to South Africa, where she observed the corrosive effect of apartheid on its people. She relocated to Australia, where she served for many years as a pastor on the staff of a mega church in Melbourne. After finding herself sidelined by fundamentalist groups for her affirming views and voice for the LGBTIQ community, she left those forms of organized religion. She now continues her life and work differently, as a storyteller, an advocate, and healer in the mystery of “betwixt and between.” She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Narrative Therapy at Melbourne University.

Kristine A. Culp, Ph.D., teaches theology at the Divinity School and is the dean of the Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S. She is the author of *Vulnerability and Glory: A Theological Account* and editor of *The Responsibility of the Church for Society and Other Essays by H. Richard Niebuhr*. She serves on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. She was one of thirty-five scholars in the Enhancing Life Project, funded by the John Templeton Foundation, and is writing a book on “aliveness” or the glory of living things, as part of the project.

Jacob Davis is a writer and student who has lived in the Tennessee prison system since 1998 and is serving a life sentence with possibility of parole, which in Tennessee is 51 years. He is a founding member of No Exceptions Prison Collective, and the interfaith community, Harriet Tubman House. His work has been published in *Contemporary Justice Review*, *The Huffington Post*, *LEAVEN* (published quarterly by Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA), by *Tenx9 Nashville Storytelling*, and *Scalawag* magazine.

Dianne Dentice, Ph.D., teaches classes in race and ethnic relations, gender, social problems and social psychology at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, U.S. From January 2005 until December 2012, she conducted extensive field research among white supremacist groups in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Her current work explores the Christian Identity movement and other home-grown racist religions. She has also published on transgender workplace rights issues in both civilian and military life.

Michelle Dietert, Ph.D., teaches gender, sexuality, and sociological theory at Texas A&M University, Central Texas. Her published research has highlighted topics regarding the transgender population, including

workplace discrimination, early socialization, the experiences of transgender veterans and active duty personnel, and religious extremism against the LGBTQ community.

John Eliastam, Ph.D. After completing studies in theology John served as the pastor of a congregation in Cape Town, SA. He later earned his doctorate from the University of Pretoria where he presently serves as a research associate in the Department of Practical Theology. For the past ten years John has worked as a consultant with organizations and communities focusing on transformation, inclusion, and social cohesion. Since 2015 he has been a part of an interdisciplinary research project on the African social value of *ubuntu*.

Elena Huegel, M.A., is a teacher, storyteller, and artist, who facilitates group-learning processes in peace and environmental education at the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research in Chiapas, Mexico. Having served in Latin America for over twenty years, Elena coordinates the Roots in the Ruins: Hope in Trauma program in central and southern Mexico, as well as in Puerto Rico, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Nicaragua. Her self-identified mission is to walk alongside others on the path to healing and transformation with God, others, ourselves, and all of God's creation.

Debra Jarvis, M.Div., lives in Seattle, Oregon, U.S., and is ordained in the United Church of Christ. She has worked as a hospice and hospital chaplain, and pastoral consultant, training volunteers to work with persons with AIDS and MS. She is the author of several books, the most recent of which is *It's Not About the Hair: And Other Certainties of Life & Cancer*. She is host and producer of the podcast, "*The Final Say: Conversations with Those Facing Life's End*." You can find Debra on her TEDMed talk.

Kenneth J. Krushel serves as a professor at the New School in New York City, U.S. He was founding chairman and CEO of College Enterprise and CEO of Proteus. He has held senior leadership and strategy positions with several entertainment and telecommunication companies, including NBC, USA Networks, American Cablesystems, King World Productions, Paramount Communications, Warner Bros., MGM, Television New Zealand, and Sega Corporation. He is on the board of *Parabola*, a quarterly magazine on philosophy, religion, and cultural traditions, and of School Year Abroad, the pre-eminent high school international study program.

Jill Cameron Michel, M.Div., serves as senior pastor of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Coralville, Iowa, U.S. She has served congregations for twenty-five years and, during her Joplin, Missouri tenure, a deadly category five tornado raged through the center of the city. In the three years following, her congregation housed hundreds of disaster recovery volunteers. Jill is a contributor to *Help and Hope: Disaster Preparedness and Response Tools for Congregations* and she was a founder of the Joplin Interfaith Coalition.

Pádraig Ó Tuama, M.Th., is a poet and theologian, who brings interest in conflict and religion to his work. Since 2014, he has been the leader of the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organization, bringing 10,000 people a year through programs and engagements of peace and reconciliation. Featured on Krista Tippett's On Being project, Ó Tuama's work has drawn attention from broadcasters, poets, theologians, and politicians for an attention to human encounter at the heart of public life.

Adam Pryor, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of religion at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, U.S. He is the author of *The God Who Lives and Body of Christ Incarnate for You*, and his research broadly focuses on issues related to emergence theory, religion and science, and phenomenologies of the body. He is currently working on the phenomenological implications of astrobiology for religious reflection and what it means to "live" in the cosmos.

Timothy Robinson, Ph.D., is the Alberta and Harold Lunger Associate Professor of Spirituality at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. Some of his previous published works include *Spirit and Nature: The Study of Christian Spirituality in a Time of Ecological Urgency*, edited with Ray Maria McNamara, and several articles on spirituality, liturgy, and ecology. His research and teaching interests include the history of Christian spirituality and mysticism, ecojustice, and the life and work of Howard Thurman.

Barbara Brown Taylor is a *New York Times* best-selling author, teacher, and Episcopal priest. Her first memoir, *Leaving Church*, won an Author of the Year award from the Georgia Writers Association. Her last book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, was featured on the cover of *TIME* magazine. She has served on the faculties of Piedmont College, Columbia Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, McAfee School

of Theology at Mercer University, and the Certificate in Theological Studies program at Arrendale State Prison for Women in Alto, Georgia. Her new book, *Holy Envy*, is forthcoming from HarperOne in March 2019.

Kate Hendricks Thomas, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of public health at Charleston Southern University, Charleston, South Carolina, U.S. She focuses her research on evidence-based mental fitness and peak performance, and is the author of two books – *Brave, Strong, True: The Modern Warrior's Battle for Balance* and *Bulletproofing the Psyche*. She is also a former Marine Corps Military Police Officer with experience leading teams in law enforcement, training, and combat commands. Her present research focuses on program evaluation and neurological enhancements made possible through somatic practice.

Michelle Trebilcock, Ph.D., lives in Melbourne, Australia, where she serves as a priest and chaplain in an Anglican welfare agency. Her doctoral work explored love as a hermeneutical principle in the context of liminality, and she continues this passion in works of love, spirituality, and society. Her daily rhythms are shaped by the private practices of meditation and yoga but she also joins with the community to dance, celebrate the Eucharist, offer hospitality, and attention.