

INEDA PEARL ADESANYA

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| LEADER | MINISTER | SCHOLAR |

Highly sought-after spiritual leader and visionary, deeply committed to nurturing spiritual depth and religious breadth—leveraging business acumen to support broad spiritual engagement and strategic collaboration in higher education environments through progressive, healing programming and activism—providing effective spiritual care during times of challenge

SUMMARY AND QUALIFICATIONS

An extroverted contemplative leader able to effortlessly engage in the work of transforming institutions and systems yet spiritually formed and deeply committed to yielding to my inner life. A spiritual director at heart, I approach all relationships from the perspective of accompaniment, sacred listening, and discernment combined with business acumen for persuasion, organizational management, and wisdom-filled strategy.

University chaplain and director of spiritual and religious life, instructor, business leader, and former C-Suite executive with a passion for expanding the knowledge and awareness of diversity, equity, inclusion, and liberation through religious, cultural, and ethical program leadership and spiritual guidance. A champion for strengthening understanding of cultural differences, social identities, and historical inequalities to foster well-being and connection for all life on earth.

Experienced executive leader and administrator skilled in directing programs with budgets exceeding \$450M, leading large diverse teams, including up to 10 direct reports. Respected core pastoral staff member of a 2,500-person congregation. Exceptional communicator, motivator, and guide with strong interpersonal, conflict management, and public speaking skills. Demonstrated ability to remain calm, exercise sound judgment in stressful situations, and handle crises appropriately.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

PhD (Candidate), Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion <i>Graduate Theological Union – Berkeley, CA</i>	2023
Dissertation: “Ain’t I a Contemplative: A Womanist Approach to Christian Spirituality”	
Coursework & Research: Contemplation and Mysticism; Pneumatology; Trinitarian Theology; Africana and Womanist Spirituality; Reformation History; History of Religions; Spiritual and Pastoral Care	
MA, Religion and Psychology <i>Graduate Theological Union – Berkeley, CA</i>	2015
Thesis: “The Necessity of Spiritual Care for American Protestant Clergy: Living and Serving via the Fruits of God’s Grace”	
MDiv, Christian Spirituality & Women’s Studies in Religion <i>University of Redlands/SFTS – San Anselmo, CA</i>	2014
DASD, Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction <i>University of Redlands/SFTS – San Anselmo, CA</i>	2013
Clinical Pastoral Education Intern; Chaplain <i>Alta Bates Summit Medical Center – Berkeley, CA</i>	2012
Construction Management Professional Certification <i>California State University – Hayward, CA</i>	1997
AB Architecture <i>University of California at Berkeley – Berkeley, CA</i>	1988

LANGUAGES

German – Certified research language

Yoruba – Certified research language

Biblical Greek – Exegete with basic competence

Spanish – Certified research language

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SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Willamette University, Office of Spiritual and Religious Life – Salem, OR 2021 - present
University Chaplain & Director of Spiritual and Religious Life

- Guide and enhance the spiritual, religious, and ethical life of the non-sectarian University community.
- Nurture the holistic well-being and growth of students, staff, and faculty for all schools and campuses.
- Provide leadership opportunities for multi-faith engagement and broad spiritual understanding.
- Chair university-wide events including the Annual Salem Peace Lecture and the MLK week of events.
- Provide appropriate ethical and spiritual care and counseling to all constituents of the University.
- Serve as a confidential resource and advocate for all constituents of the University.
- Organize and curate programs of intellectual, social, ethical, aesthetic, and spiritual interest.
- Oversee and manage Office of Spiritual and Religious Life budget, calendar, policies, and marketing.
- Provide liturgical/ritual leadership, graces, and invocations for all official University functions, including but not limited to baccalaureate services, matriculation, commencements, vigils, and memorial services.
- Annually facilitate and oversee summer service internships locally and abroad.
- Connect and collaborate with the local civic, religious, and non-profits working for the common good.
- Provide instruction in Religious Studies and other Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences.

American Baptist Churches USA – Central Pacific Coast Region – Portland, OR 2023 – present
Associate Executive Minister

- Support the Regional Executive Minister to 1) assist CPC member churches, affiliated organizations, and ecumenical partners, and 2) recognize and affirm the region's relationship to the ABCUSA and its affiliates.
- Assist congregations with pastoral transition needs, such as pulpit supply.
- Provide short-term spiritual direction to congregations and small groups.
- Provide regular spiritual direction and pastoral care and counseling to pastors within the CPC region. These sessions may take place in person or remotely.
- Assist in the formation of ministers-in-training and ministers seeking ABC recognition of their ordination.

The Chaplaincy Institute, an Interfaith Seminary & Community – Berkeley, CA 2018 – 2022
President / Chief Executive Officer / Interim Executive Director (2019-2021)

- Led the organization's complete turnaround resulting in improved revenues, a more efficient operating budget, increased accessibility, and growing enrollment.
- Defined the vision and multi-year strategic plan to achieve steady and sustainable growth and engagement.
- Stabilized organization's financial position, in part, by reducing costs through right-sizing staffing levels.
- Oversaw executive leadership team in day-to-day operations and programming
- Improved employee morale and minimized risks using a contemplative conflict resolution process.
- Opened the door to create new value-added alliances with other organizations by successfully negotiating the removal of an exclusivity clause in the contract with a critical seminary partner.

University of Redlands – Graduate School of Theology – San Anselmo, CA Seasonal
Home of the San Francisco Theological Seminary 2015 – present
Program Chaplain / Director / Instructor

- Seasonally provide professional, academic, and spiritual service and expertise.
 - Chaplain, Spiritual Direction and Formation Program Chaplain (2020 – 2021)
 - Interim Director of Admissions (2015 – 2017)
 - Supervisor, Spiritual Direction (2018 – 2021)
 - Adjunct Instructor (2015 – 2023) – Taught courses from contemplative listening to spiritual care and oppression to discernment. List of courses included below under Select Teaching Experience

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California Lutheran University – Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary – Berkeley, CA 2017 – 2021
Pastoral Counselor / Campus Pastor

- Supported staff and key leadership with mission, beliefs, values, and strategies related to spiritual life.
- Fulfilled the mission of the campus spiritual care program by leading regular contemplative practices.
- Provided care, counseling, and spiritual direction to deepen understanding and experience of divine relationship.
- As spiritual guide, accompanied forming ELCA pastors and deacons from first-year of seminary through internship and candidacy to first call.

WJoy – A Spiritual Care Ministry – Remote and Bay Area, CA 2013 – 2021
Spiritual Director / Supervisor & Pastoral Counselor

- Assisted others in experiencing more abundant and joy-filled lives by providing spiritual care to individuals, small groups, and institutions of all ages, identities, and spiritual orientations.
- Supervised and empowered spiritual directors by providing guidance, coaching, and support.
- Provided discernment and capital development coaching for faith-based entities.

Peralta Community College District – Oakland, CA 2003 – 2004
Interim Director of Physical Plant and Capital Programs

- Under two-year contract working directly for the Chancellor, directed and managed the planning and implementation of a \$150M+ capital program and served as CEQA/NEPA manager.
- Led turn around of languishing capital program, gaining the trust and confidence of local Board of Education and improving relations with State Department of Education.
- Drove on-time, in-budget planning completing multiple construction projects at the District's four colleges.
- Oversaw district-wide plant operations, maintaining tight cost controls while ensuring uninterrupted operations.
- Supervised a staff of 39 in addition to numerous full- and part-time consultants.

Oakland Unified School District – Oakland, CA 1996 – 2002
Director of Facilities and Construction

- Led and directed all aspects of facilities, construction, maintenance, grounds-keeping, custodial services, fixed-assets, safety, and security services.
- Served as Real Property Manager and Chief Planner for the District, leading a multi-site acquisition program.
- Oversaw the design and implementation of a \$400+ million capital program, including direct management of a \$100M annual budget for efficient construction of all district buildings budgeted within the facilities program.
- Supervised staff of 35 plus a host of consultants representing various allied professions.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

QPR Certified Instructor for Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training | QPR Institute 2022 – 2025

Associate Minister of Spiritual Life | Allen Temple Baptist Church – Oakland, CA 2012 – 2023

Admission Manager | The Chaplaincy Institute – Berkeley, CA 2017 – 2018

Curator, Spirituality and Hermeneutics Forum | Allen Temple Baptist Church – Oakland, CA 2013 – 2019

Chief Executive Officer | IPA Planning Solutions (Land Development) – Oakland, CA 2000 – 2018

Senior Urban Planner | Alameda County Community Development Agency – Hayward, CA 1990 – 1996

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PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Spirituality of the Radical Reformers: Insight for Contemplative Activism Today. Fortress Press, Coming 2024.

Kaleidoscope: Broadening the Palette in The Art of Spiritual Direction. Editor. Church Publishing, Inc., 2019.

Book Chapters

“The Covenantal Hessed of God: Loving the Church in spite of Its Flaws,” in *Wounded in the Manger: Pastoral Essays in Church Hurt*. Mattis and Williams, eds., Wipf and Stock, Coming 2023.

“I Pray,” in *Prayers and Blessings for Healthcare Workers*. Mandy Mizelle, ed., Morehouse Publishing, 2021.

“Contemplative Listening,” Chapter Four, and “The Gift of Discernment,” Chapter Six in *Kaleidoscope: Broadening the Palette in The Art of Spiritual Direction*. Adesanya, ed., Church Publishing Inc., 2019.

“Forget about Jesus?” and “Holy Communion: Some Questions,” worship resources for services of communion in *River of Life, Feast of Grace: Baptism, Communion, and Discipleship*. Jennifer W. Davidson, Judson Press, 2019.

“Prayer and Social Justice,” Chapter One in *Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: Stories of Contemplation and Justice*. Taylor-Stinson, ed., Church Publishing Inc., 2017.

“Becoming a Contemplative Sistah: Finding Weird Joy in Spiritual Freedom,” Chapter Seven in *Embodied Spirits: Stories of Spiritual Directors of Color*. Bryant-Johnson, Norman-McNaney, & Taylor-Stinson, eds., Morehouse Publishing, 2014.

Journal Articles/Book Reviews

Review of *Reversing Sail: A History of the African Diaspora*, Second Edition. By Michael A. Gomez. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020. 301 pp. in *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*, Vol 22, No. 1, Spring 2022.

“The Ordinances: Historical Insight into the Theology of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as Representations of Grace vs. Means of Grace Gleaned through the Lens of Andreas Bodenstein von Karlstadt,” in *American Baptist Quarterly – A Journal of the American Baptist Historical Society*, Vol XXXIX, No., Spring 2020.

“The Ideal Beloved Community: The Perichoretic Nature of the Trinity Reflected in the Communal Nature of African-American Believers as a Qualitative Model for the Ideal Beloved Community,” in *American Baptist Quarterly – A Journal of the American Baptist Historical Society*, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, Summer 2016.

Journal Editor

Department Editor | Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion. *Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology*. The Journal of the Graduate Theological Union.

Peer Editor | Peer review articles in the academic areas of Spirituality, Practical Theology, Pneumatology, Trinitarian Theology, and Spiritual and Contemplative Practices. *Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology*. The Journal of the Graduate Theological Union.

Peer Editor | Peer review articles in the academic areas of Spirituality, Practical Theology, Pneumatology, Trinitarian Theology, and Spiritual and Contemplative Practices. *Teaching Theology and Religion*. John Wiley and GTU.

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Professional Blog

“Spiritual Life Note” | *Devotional notes of spiritual inspiration, information, and challenge. Published weekly from 2011 to 2021 as a column in the Allen Temple Baptist Church Sunday bulletin, on the church website, and private ministry blog pages. Archived.*

SELECT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor Willamette University, College of Arts and Sciences – Salem, OR	2021 – present
Radical Religion: Spiritual Insight for Radical Activism Convo: Campus/Community/Cosmos	
Guest Instructor Sankofa Institute – Oblate School of Theology – San Antonio, TX	2020
An African American-centered Introduction to Spiritual Direction	
Adjunct Faculty California Lutheran University, PLTS – Berkeley, CA	2017 – 2021
Introduction to Pastoral Care II – Hybrid in Residence & Online (Spring 2020) Introduction to Pastoral Care I – Online Course Design (Fall 2019) Formation for Ministry (Fall 2017 – Present)	
Newhall Teaching Fellow Graduate Theological Union – Berkeley, CA	2017 – 2020
Spirituality of the Radical Reformers : Insight for Today’s Radical Contemplatives (Spring 2020) Black Church Spirituality: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church (Spring 2018)	
Guest Faculty The Chaplaincy Institute, An Interfaith Seminary and Community – Berkeley, CA	2017 – 2022
Spiritual Care as if Oppression Matters (Annually) Spiritual Direction – Discernment Methods (Spring 2019) Spiritual Direction – Guidance with African Americans (Fall 2017 – Present)	
Adjunct Faculty & Lecturer & Teaching Assistant University of Redlands SFTS – San, Anselmo, CA	2015 – 2023
The Art of Discernment / Systems in Discernment (Int 2023) Spiritual Direction and Oppression (Int 2021) Spiritual Direction (Sum 2018) Spiritual Life and Leadership – Prayer through Lectio Divina (Fall 2016) Spiritual Life and Leadership – Contemplative Listening (Fall 2015) Introduction to Pastoral Care (Spring 2015) Contemporary Issues in Spiritual Direction (Int 2015)	
Lecturer & Teaching Assistant Pacific School of Religion – Berkeley, CA	2014 – 2017
African American Spirituality (Fall 2017) Social Change Field Work (Spring 2015 and 2016) Spiritual Formation for Leadership (Fall 2014)	

SELECT KEYNOTES / PRESENTATIONS

FUNdamentals of Inner Self-Care	American Association for Women in Community Colleges, Tigard, Oregon	Nov 2022
Social Action: Boundaries and Spheres of Influence	National Honor Society Induction & Honors Awards Ceremony, South Salem High School, Oregon	Apr 2022
What Does it Mean to be Seen?	Access2Education, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon	Apr 2022
Spiritual Direction for the Non-Religious	Open Div Summit, summit.opendiv.org	Feb 2021
Seeking Home: A Spiritual Response to the Resurgence of Overt Racism in America	American Academy of Religion, Western Region, Claremont, CA	Mar 2017

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AWARDS/HONORS

Woman of WU, <i>Willamette University Gender Resource and Advocacy Center</i>	2023
Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award, <i>Willamette University Student Affairs Division</i>	2022
Dissertation Scholarship, <i>National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion</i>	2022
Luke Mowbray Ecumenical/Interfaith Award, <i>American Baptist Churches USA</i>	2021
Emerging Leaders Scholarship, <i>American Baptist Homes Mission Societies</i>	2019 – 2021
Vashti Turley Murphy Dissertation Scholarship, <i>Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.</i>	2020
Henry Mayo Newhall Teaching Fellowship, <i>Graduate Theological Union</i>	2017 & 2019
Research Grant, <i>Graduate Theological Union</i>	2019
Robert G Torbet Best Essay Prize, <i>American Baptist Historical Society</i>	2018
Dean's Scholarship, <i>Graduate Theological Union</i>	2016 – 2017
Community Life Award, <i>San Francisco Theological Seminary</i>	2013 – 2014
Cranmer Scholarship, <i>Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church</i>	2011 – 2012
Alumni Scholarship, <i>San Francisco Theological Seminary</i>	2010 – 2014
Individual Seminarian Grant, <i>American Baptist Churches USA</i>	2010 – 2014

COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Member, Board of Directors <i>Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education</i>	2023 – 2026
Member, DEI Committee <i>College of Arts and Sciences, Willamette University</i>	2021 – 2022
Delegate, Biennial Mission Summit <i>American Baptist Churches USA</i>	2013, 2015, 2017, 2021
Member, Grievance/Ombuds Committee <i>Graduate Theological Union</i>	2018 – 2020
Member, Advisory Board – Bi-Annual Contemplative Retreats <i>Companions on the Inner Way</i>	2016 – 2022
Co-Chair, Womanist/Pan-African Unit <i>American Academy of Religion, Western Region</i>	2016 – 2020
Co-Chair, President's Taskforce on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture <i>University of Redlands/SFTS</i>	2014 – 2016
Member, CPE Professional Advisory Committee <i>San Francisco Theological Seminary</i>	2013 – 2016
Regional Chaplain, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. <i>Far West Region</i>	2012 – 2016
President, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. <i>Oakland Bay Area Chapter</i>	2010 – 2014
Member, Board of Zoning Adjustments <i>Alameda County</i>	2007 – 2010
Vice President (2007), Board of Trustees <i>YWCA Berkeley/Oakland</i>	1989 - 2022
Chair, Councilmember <i>Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council</i>	1999 – 2007

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Baptist Churches USA, Ministers Council—Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors	Goethe Institute
Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education	American Academy of Religion
Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education	Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
University of California at Berkeley, Alumni Association	Spiritual Directors International
ACPE – The Standard for Spiritual Care and Education	Society for Reformation Research
National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion	University of Redlands, SFTS, Alumni Council
NAACP, Salem-Keizer Chapter	Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Contemplative Mind in Society	College Theology Society
Global Compassion Coalition	American Baptist Churches USA – Central Pacific Coast Region