

Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery and Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins



The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Lowery is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister, retired Hebrew Bible professor, and President Emeritus of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. He is the author and editor of several books and articles and is currently writing a book, *Genesis, Human Rights, and Climate Change*. Rick earned his Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in 1982 and was ordained in Marquand Chapel. He earned his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Yale in 1989. He has a bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Tennessee ('79), where he was awarded the Charles H. Reynolds Distinguished Alumni/ae Award by the Religious Studies Department in 2019. Rick taught most of his career at Phillips Theological Seminary in Oklahoma where he was named Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Chair of Hebrew Bible, He served as interim vice president and dean of Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. He has been an adjunct professor at several seminaries. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and served as an SBL regional president. Rick has lectured and preached at church and academic gatherings in the US and abroad and has served on various Disciples and ecumenical commissions and committees, including the executive committee of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission, where he participated in the production of the study document on Moral Discernment in the Churches. He attended courses on International Humanitarian Law and Indigenous Peoples Rights and the International Criminal Court at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland in Galway and attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. He has written and collaborated on a number of books, including *The Reforming Kings: Cult and Society in First Temple Judah, Sabbath and Jubilee*, and *Chalice Introduction to the Old Testament*. With Bishop Dr. William Barber II and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris, he co-authored *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing* (Beacon, 2018). He served as co-editor of *Seeking God's Design: Disciples' Quest for Unity and Wholeness* (Chalice, 2019). He was editor and contributor to *Wellsprings of Hope: Prayers for a Prophetic New Vision for Disciples* (Chalice, 2020). In March 2022, he organized a major academic conference, "Visions of Wholeness: Systemic Racism, Antiracism, and 'Reconciliation' in our Shared History and Tradition," at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. Rick is married to the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, who served 12 years as general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They are both retired and live in Indianapolis.



The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins most recently served as pastor of Bethany Memorial Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bethany, West Virginia. Now retired in Indianapolis, she also served congregations in Connecticut, Indiana and Oklahoma. She worked in church relations at Phillips University and student life at Phillips Theological Seminary after beginning her ministry as a Global Mission Intern with the Church of Christ in Congo. From 2005 to 2017, she was General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, the first woman to head a mainline denomination. She preached at the National Prayer Service following President Obama's first inauguration, and is the author of *Whole: A Call for Unity in Our Fragmented World* (Chalice Press, 2014. Now out of print.)

Dr. Watkins holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts in French and Economics from Butler University. In her retirement she enjoys riding bikes with her husband (the Rev Dr. Rick Lowery), spending time with her dad (the Rev. Dr. Keith Watkins), and playing with her grandson.

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