|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jana L Howson | 535 Barclay Dr. Bolingbrook, IL  309-229-9814  prjLhowson@gmail.com |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Education |

## Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Education

## Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2016 - 2023

Qualifying Exams: History and Approaches to Christian Education, Emancipatory Pedagogy, Culture and Christian Education, Practical Theology.   
Dissertation Title: Theses of Fandom: 76 Ways Geeks Show Us How to Teach Faith

## Master of Divinity

## Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2010 - 2014

Ministry in Context: St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville, Il  
Internship: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL.   
CPE in Summer 2011 at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove, Il.

## Bachelor of Science in Scientific and Technical Communication

## Michigan Technological University, 2000 - 2004

Minor in Journalism, News Editor of the “Michigan Tech Lode”; Concentration in Mechanical Engineering; awarded “Outstanding STC Student of the Year” 2004

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ACADEMIC Experience |

## MAFCEL Practicum |Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL

### 2023-24 Academic Year

### The Master of Arts in Faith, Culture and Educational Leadership Practicum meets monthly throughout the academic year to provide a forum for students to bring their academic experience and ministry site practice together. Students critically examine their social location, ministry context and community resources as they live their calling to be engaged and reflective leaders in this time and place.

## Christian Education Across Generations| Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago

### Summer 2023

This course centers the learning needs and concerns across age groups and generations, explores models for multi-generational learning events, and examines approaches for equipping learners to bring their faith to pressing questions of justice and inclusion for this time and place.

## Christian Education TEEM Workshop | Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL

### 2022, 2023

### Created and led a 1-day workshop to provide a theology and approach to Christian Education for candidates completing the ELCA Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program.

## Teaching Assistant |Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL

### 2018 – 2021

Serve as Teaching assistant to seminary-level classes, both in person, and online. Classes taught include:

* Theology and Practice of Christian Spirituality (Spring 2021 online)
* Introduction to Youth Ministry (Fall 2019)
* Educating Christians for Social Change (Fall 2018; Fall 2020 online)
* Person in Community (Spring 2018)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Church and COmmunity Experience |

## Pastor | Faith Lutheran Church, Joliet, IL

### 2017 – Current

Solo Pastoral call in a suburban context with emphasis on preaching, music and worship leadership, congregational education, mission and outreach, and pastoral care.

## Dean | Crossways Confirmation Camp

### 2018 – 2022

Served as lead administrator and organizer for week-long cross-synodical Lutheran confirmation camp. Developed and oversaw specialized curriculum that varied each year.

## Site Testing Manager | CDF Freedom School, Evanston/Garrett

### 2019

Oversaw and administered the pre- and post- program reading assessments at the Evanston Freedom School to track scholar progress, and provide data for the efficacy of the program. Coordinated with the national CDF office and with Garrett to convey program data and results.

## Pastor | United Lutheran Church, Gardner, IL

### 2014 – 2017

Solo Pastoral call in a rural context, with emphasis on worship, Christian Education, and pastoral care. Educational focus included confirmation, cross-generational education sessions and adult education.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Publications |

## “Fruits of Engagement: A Congregation’s Encounter with the Book of Faith Initiative,” | Currents in Theology and Mission

### June 2014, Volume 21, Number 3

## Book Review: “Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism| Religious Education

2019, Vol.114 (3), p.411

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Curriculum |

## Curriculum Design Member| Crossways Confirmation Camp

### 2009, 2012, 2015, 2017-2022

Create a custom curriculum for a 80-100 student confirmation camp, working with a weekly theme. Topics have included baptism, sacraments, justice and trauma.

## Bible in a Nutshell| First English Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church

### 2008, Revised 2016

Wrote a curriculum focused on increasing confirmation-aged students’ awareness of style, plot, genre and major characters in the bible.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Presentations AND PODCASTS |

## Sword Events Should Be More Like IKEA| The Sword Guy Podcast

APRIL 2023  
Featured guest on podcast where we discussed core pedagogical principals from Religious Education and ways to apply them in historical martial arts learning and teaching environments.

## To Boldly Go: Using Science Fiction to Open the Door to Brave Conversation in White Spaces | Religious Education Association Annual Meeting 2018

This paper examined how science fiction texts could be used as bridge texts to help practice core competencies in discussing race and racism in white spaces, before applying the same competencies to addressing issues of race in the biblical text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | COmmittees |

## Rostered Leaders Continuing Education Task Force | Northern Illinois Synod

### 2018 – Present

Develop and coordinate high-quality, locally available, affordable educational opportunities for rostered leaders in the Northern Illinois Synod. Topics have included Antiracism for White leaders, Preaching the Narrative Lectionary, Black Womanist Theology for the ELCA, and the Women’s Lectionary.

## Congregational Life Committee | Northern Illinois Synod

### 2015 – 2022

Served on the committee whose primary responsibility was coordinating the Congregational Resourcing Event, a networking and education event for congregations within the Northern Illinois Synod to share ministry ideas and resources.

## Master’s Study Committee | Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

### 2010 – 2012

Served as LSTC Junior Class Representative, 2010-2011, and LSTC Middler Class Representative 2011-2012