

Rev. Wakoh Shannon Hickey, PhD

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Professional Experience

Chaplaincy

- **Board Certified Chaplain** in the Association of Professional Chaplains/Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc., April 2023.
- **Hospice Chaplain.** Provide non-anxious presence and emotional and spiritual support to an ever-shifting caseload of 40–70 patients in various stages of the dying process, as well as their families and caregivers, in different residential settings. Collaborate with nurses, social workers, physicians, hospice aides and other staff on trans-disciplinary treatment teams. Cultivate collaborative relationships with community clergy and plan and participate in interfaith events. Provide patient education and ritual leadership as needed. Support patients and colleagues who are dealing with grief. Advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of my work. (September 2018 to February 2026)
- **Clinical Pastoral Education** (4 units) Served as chaplain on interdisciplinary treatment teams in three San Francisco Bay Area hospitals; served primarily in oncology and adult, inpatient psychiatry. Responded on-call to emergencies throughout the hospitals, as needed. Led spirituality groups for psychiatry patients, taught meditation as appropriate, created a labyrinth for staff and patient use. (1998, 2001-02)
- **Campus Minister/Chaplain.** Led weekly meditation and small-group discussions as chaplain/campus minister at Duke and Johns Hopkins universities; collaborated with other campus ministers and student groups on projects; supervised students in maintaining administrative records, managing budgets, and planning programs and events. (Duke 2004-2007; Johns Hopkins, 2014-2018)
- **PhD specialization in religion and modernity, with specializations in American religious diversity and religion and medicine.** Designed and taught more than five dozen undergraduate and graduate courses in a range of topics in religion, both face-to-face and online, to students ranging in age from 20 to 75. These included many comparative courses, as well as “Caregiving at the End of Life” and “Death, Dying, and Living Well.” Students in courses related to end-of-life issues organized “DeathFests”: information and activity fairs dealing with bereavement and highlighting supportive resources in the community. My uses of contemplative and experiential teaching methods have garnered national attention.
- **Community Religious Education.** Develop and deliver numerous workshops, panel discussions, adult religious education programs, and/or retreats, for schools, churches, synagogues, Buddhist temples, and community interfaith groups. (2002-present) Hosted a “Death Café” in Baltimore Spring 2018.
- **Ritual Leadership.** Organize and lead rituals for people of various faiths, including blessings, funerals, and memorials.
- **Interfaith Leadership.** Maintain strong relationships with local religious leaders and congregations. Collaborate to plan, organize, and lead multiple ecumenical and interfaith events: Thanksgiving, MLK Jr. Day, 9/11 memorials, vigils, responses to religious bias. (2004-present)

Administration, Teamwork, Fundraising

- Collaborate to provide excellent hospice care on interdisciplinary treatment teams. Track care in Electronic Medical Records systems (Epic, HomeCare Home Base). (2018-present.)
- Organized, publicized, and secured funding for guest lectures, panel presentations, retreats, art exhibits, and other events at four universities, as a campus minister and/or faculty member. (2004-2018)
- Collaborated with faculty colleagues on various university policy-making committees, task forces, advisory bodies, search committees, and boards of scholarly organizations. (2009-2018)

- Collaborated with university staff in academic affairs, counseling services, student affairs, and athletics, in advising undergraduates (both adult and traditional-age) about academic and personal issues. (2008-2018)
- Managed the Berkeley campus office of a program that sent U.C. Berkeley undergraduates to Washington, D.C., for academic research and professional internships. Handled publicity, recruiting, orientation, and advising. Hired, trained, and supervised assistants. Developed policy manuals, databases, and internet systems to streamline procedures. Liaised with multiple campus departments. (1999-2001)
- Secured more than a dozen grants and four fellowships to support professional development, conference travel, research, writing, and curriculum development. (2005-2025)

Teaching and Public Speaking

- Offer adult religious education and supply preaching to congregations in Napa and Sonoma representing Protestant, Jewish, Unitarian-Universalist, and New Thought traditions. Includes “Basic Buddhism” at Napa Methodist Church (Spring 2026), a series called “World Religions with Wakoh” offered at First Congregational Church of Sonoma UCC, February to October 2020; through the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South in summer 2020; and at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa in May 2021. Multiple sermons to local congregations: Unitarian Universalist, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Zen Buddhist, on a variety of themes. (Including Lectionary selections.)
- Public lectures with Q&A to university and other audiences regarding my book, *Mind Cure: How Meditation Became Medicine*, including Grace Episcopal Church, St. Helena, CA, March 11, 2026; Davidson College, NC, January 27, 2020; American Academy of Religions Annual Meeting, November 24 and 25, 2019; University of Rochester Meliora Weekend, Interfaith Chapel, Rochester, NY, Oct. 4, 2019; First Congregational Church of Sonoma UCC, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 2019; Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, Durham, NC, July 17, 2019; Napa Friends Meeting, May 19, 2019, Napa, CA; CrossWalk Community Church, April 24, 2020.
- Designed and delivered dozens of undergraduate and graduate courses in religious and contemplative studies at three universities (Duke, Alfred, and Notre Dame of Maryland) and three graduate seminaries (Pacific School of Religion, Colgate Rochester Crozer, and Hartford). (2008-2018)
- Perform scholarly research in religious studies, using ethnographic, archival, and digital methods, for publication. (1999-present) Present research at national and international conferences (2004-2019).
- Completed more than a dozen pedagogical development programs. Details available in academic C.V.
- Designed and delivered corporate training: taught people with disabilities to use voice-activated computers (1995-1998); and writing skills to bank managers and supervisors (1991 to 1993).

Writing, Editing, Editorial Project Management

- *Mind Cure: How Meditation Became Medicine*, a religious history of mind-body medicine and the modern “Mindfulness” industry, focusing on dynamics of race and gender, was published in 2019 by Oxford University Press. See academic CV for a list of public presentations of this work in various venues, and visit https://independent.academia.edu/WakohShannonHickey?from_navbar=true for access to many other published book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals.
- Edited an internationally circulated, peer-reviewed academic journal, *Buddhist-Christian Studies*. Solicited manuscripts, reviewed unsolicited manuscripts, worked with authors on article development and copyediting, coordinated with peer reviewers and section editors, managed production calendar, distributed and collected publication contracts. (2011-2013)
- Supervised research and production for *People Behind the News*, a comprehensive guide to print and broadcast media in the San Francisco Bay Area: more than 300 organizations and 1,000 individual writers, editors, and broadcasters. Hired and supervised researchers and production staff. Designed print and electronic editions. (1996)
- Edited, produced, and/or managed a wide variety of editorial projects in non-profit and corporate settings, including Wells Fargo Bank, Cushman & Wakefield (real estate), and Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro (law), and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. Wrote and edited newsletter articles, managed copy flow, supervised

photographers and graphic designers, laid out pages, sized photographs, proofed galleys, coordinated printing and distribution. (1987-1998)

- Wrote news and feature articles as a staff or freelance journalist. Staff reporter for *The Recorder*, *East/West News*, and *The Daily Californian*. Covered state and local politics, Asian American affairs, law, business, and technology. Freelanced for *California Lawyer Magazine*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *San Francisco Focus Magazine*, *Diablo Magazine*, and other publications. (1982-1996)

Education & Clinical Training

- **Board Certified Chaplain**, Association of Professional Chaplains, 2024.
- **Ph.D.**, Religion and Modernity, Duke University, 2008.
- **M.Div.**, Pacific School of Religion, May 2003. Cumulative GPA: 3.94.
- **Four units of Clinical Pastoral Education**: Mills-Peninsula Medical Center of Burlingame (1998), Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center and Herrick Hospital (2001-2002).
- **M.A.**, Buddhist and Christian studies, Pacific School of Religion, May 2001.
- **B.A.** with High Distinction, Political Science, U.C. Berkeley, 1986. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Northern California.
- **Honors**: Theta Alpha Kappa, honor society in theology and religious studies (2014); William J. Griffith University Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Local Community, Duke University (2009); Irving Memorial Prize for American Wit and Humor, (1986); Academy of American Poets Prize (1985); U.C. Regents Scholar (1981-1984).

Ordination, Religious Training

- Candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Ministerial Fellowship Committee meeting September 2026.
- Renewal of Vows with Shosan Victoria Austin, Roshi, San Francisco Zen Center, January 9, 2016.
- Completed Head Monk (*shuso*) training, Kojin-an Zendo, Oakland, CA, August 2010, supervised by Rev. Gengo Akiba, Sōtō-shū Bishop for North America. Passed “Dharma Combat” August 2, 2010.
- Ordination as a novice priest of Sōtō Zen (*Shukke Tokudo*), a Japanese Buddhist tradition in which I have practiced since 1984, by Rev. Gengo Akiba, Sōtō-shū Bishop for North America, July 20, 2003.
- Residential, monastic training periods (*ango*): Kojin-an Zendo, Summer 2010; Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, Fall 2002 and Spring 1997; San Francisco Zen Center, January to September 1989; Green Gulch Zen Temple, Fall 1984. Non-residential training at Berkeley Zen Center and Kojin-an Zendo, 1984 to 2014.

Employment History

- Spiritual Care Counselor/Chaplain, *Anchor Health, LLC*, 2023-2026.
- Spiritual Care Provider/Chaplain, *Collabria Care Hospice*, 2021 to 2023
- Spiritual Support Counselor, Sonoma Team 1, *By the Bay Health*, 2018 to 2021
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Religious Studies, *Notre Dame of Maryland University*, 2013 to 2019
- Buddhist Campus Minister, Johns Hopkins University Interfaith Center, 2014 to 2018
- Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, *Alfred University*, 2008 to 2013
- Buddhist Chaplain, Duke University Religious Life Staff, 2004-2007
- Chaplain Resident, *Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center*: September 2001 to August 2002
- Program Coordinator, *UC Berkeley Washington Program*: September 1999 to August 2001
- Administrative Assistant I and II, *UC Berkeley*: January 1998 to September 1999
- Trainer, voice-activated computer systems, *various vendors*: January 1995 to January 1998
- Communications Consultant & Trainer, *Wells Fargo Bank*: November 1990 to February 1994
- Legal Reporter, *The Recorder*: July 1989 to November 1990
- Legal Editor & Proofreader, *Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro*: April 1987 to June 1989