

Isabel Noelia Docampo

Isabel Docampo is a first generation Cuban-American, Baptist ordained clergy. Her diverse background in ministry includes advocacy for just public policies to transform institutionalized inequalities within our communities of faith and also in our larger communities. Her ministry experiences have included gender equity in the church, domestic violence, relief to families suffering economic insecurity, literacy for US native English speakers, interfaith dialogue, workers/labor rights, immigrant and refugee rights, ministry to senior adults, starting congregations among Latinx immigrants and racial reconciliation. This background influences how she approaches theological field education/the Perkins Internship. She writes:

“As a first-generation bicultural Cuban-American Latinx, I live on the threshold of two cultures as a heterosexual woman. This has given me a way of experiencing life that I use to guide students entering theological internships. Thresholds are liminal boundaries between two places that allow movement into a new space; they are places where we can see the place from which we’ve arrived and the place to which we might travel. Theological internships place students in the threshold between the study of theology and the life and death situations faced by the public theologian. Thresholds are also the measure of what can be borne safely for safe passage and healthy living (how much change, pain, burden is possible?). A student who is willing to take risks necessary to embrace the vision birthed in the threshold of an internship will be able to develop the capacity to embody multiple and diverse perspectives along the path to discerning and experiencing the Godself within and in the persons they meet. Nudging students towards these encounters with the Divine in themselves and others is what makes my position as a professor of supervised ministry meaningful.”