

HANNAH SUTTON-ADAMS, PH.D., BOARD CERTIFIED CHAPLAIN

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Charlotte, North Carolina

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Theology and Education Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA Advisor, Thomas H. Groome Committee members, Brian Robinette and Margaret Haney Dissertation, “Tending the Inner Altar and Practicing Communion: Adult Christian Faith Formation following Religious Trauma”	2025
Certificate in Traumatic Stress Studies Trauma Research Foundation, Brookline, MA	2023
Master of Divinity Emphasis: Urban Ministry Perkins School of Theology Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX	2018
B.A. Missiology Minor: English Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, TX	2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX • Spiritual Formation and Trauma (hybrid) • Introduction to Spiritual Care (asynchronous)	Present
Godly Play Trainer & Assistant Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood Godly Play Foundation, Ashland, KS • Core Training (online) • Clinical/Chaplaincy Core Training • Godly Play in Clinical Chaplaincy Settings Workshop (online) • Introduction to Children’s Spirituality (online)	Present
Teaching Assistant Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA • Pastoral Care and Counseling, Fall 2021 (online) • Theological Foundations in a Practical Perspective • Moral Theology (online) • Pastoral Care and Counseling, Fall 2023 (online) • Thesis advising	2021–2024
Adjunct Professor Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, TX • Christian Heritage • Christian Life	2018–2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Theology, Medicine, and Culture Research Fellow Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC • Led grant-funded qualitative research team on trauma-informed education and teaching in undergraduate, theological, and medical education • Collaborated with faculty and clinicians to disseminate best practices for trauma-informed teaching and education	Present
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Assistant Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood and Spiritual Care**Present**

The Godly Play Foundation

- Co-directed the Lily Grant “Clearing the Way for Grace”
- Assisted with research and development related to Godly Play and children’s spirituality
- Developed curricula relating to Godly Play for children and adults
- Presented various online and in-person workshops and webinars
- Facilitated the acquisition and revival of the *Journal of Childhood and Religion*
- Co-authored two 1.25-million-dollar Lilly Grants

Postdoctoral Associate**2025**

Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

- Led grant-funded qualitative research team on trauma-informed education and teaching in undergraduate, theological, and medical education
- Taught and mentored undergraduate, graduate, and medical school students about qualitative research design and process
- Collaborated with faculty and clinicians to disseminate best practices for trauma-informed teaching and education

Research Assistant**2021–2024**

The Godly Play Foundation, The Center for the Theology of Childhood, Boston, MA

- Conducted and coded qualitative interviews with caregivers and young adults for *Godly Play in Middle and Late Childhood*
- Planned and facilitated family Godly Play sessions for research purposes

Undergraduate Supervised Researcher**2014–2015**

Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, TX

- Conducted original IRB-approved qualitative research regarding the spiritualities of women in gender-inclusive and non-inclusive churches of Christ

PASTORAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE EXPERIENCE**Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider****Present**

Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC

- Board-certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains
- Provided intercultural and multifaith spiritual care to patients, families, and staff
- Responded to spiritual needs in times of crisis using trauma-informed care, assisting care recipients with accessing resources, and advocating for patients and families
- Provided overnight and weekend coverage as the sole chaplain on duty
- Utilized appropriate interpretive services to offer care to all
- Offered support to patients making end-of-life decisions, assisting them with Advance Directives and Health Care Power of Attorney forms

Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider**2024**

Duke Regional Hospital, Durham, NC

- Board-certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains
- Provided intercultural and multifaith spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families, and staff
- Responded to spiritual needs in times of crisis using trauma-informed care, assisting care recipients with accessing resources, and advocating for patients and families
- Organized and facilitated spiritual care groups in a behavioral health facility

Chaplain and Spiritual Care Provider**2023–2024**

University of North Carolina Hospital (level 1 trauma center), Chapel Hill, NC

- Board-certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains

- Provided intercultural and multifaith spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families, and staff of many religions and cultures
- Responded to spiritual needs in times of crisis using trauma-informed care, assisting care recipients with accessing resources, and advocating for patients and families
- Participated in on-call night and weekend rotation as the sole chaplain on duty
- Assisted staff in managing patients and families in the emergency department
- Provided interim spiritual care for adolescent behavioral health

Hospice Chaplain**2019–2023**

Chelsea Jewish Hospice, Chelsea, MA

- Board-certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains
- Provided spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families, and staff of many religions and cultures
- Coordinated interfaith public worship and bereavement services
- Facilitated monthly grief groups
- Worked with local clergy and faith leaders to provide spiritual care to patients and families
- Participated in interdisciplinary team meetings and coordinated care
- Offered year-long bereavement support to families and loved ones

Spiritual Formation Content Creator**2019–2023**

Eversound Hearing Devices, Boston, MA

- Created online spiritual formation videos for persons with dementia and memory loss
- Crafted and led virtual interfaith worship services for residents of long-term care facilities

Spiritual Care Provider**2019–2021**

Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, Boston, MA

- Established a spiritual care department, including the implementation of assessments and interventions
- Provided spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families, and staff of many religions and cultures
- Coordinated public worship and bereavement services
- Facilitated routine spiritual care programming online and in-person

Part-time Pulpit Minister**2018–2019**

Post Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ, Post, TX

- Facilitated worship and provided pastoral care to two rural West Texas congregations

Clinical Pastoral Education: Intern and Resident Chaplain**2013;2018**

Covenant Health System (level 1 trauma center), Lubbock, TX

- First unit in 2013; subsequent four completed during yearlong residency 2017–2018; 5 units total
- Provided spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families, and staff
- Served as the primary chaplain for inpatient oncology and psychiatry wards
- Coordinated public interfaith worship and memorial services
- Attended all deaths and codes for the adult and pediatric hospital during twenty-four-hour call
- Coordinated public interfaith worship and memorial services

Associate Minister**2016–2017**

Skillman Church of Christ, Dallas, TX

- First woman to serve as a co-associate pastor of teaching and preaching

- Facilitated church religious education programming for adults and children
- Provided pastoral care to congregants

PUBLICATIONS

Sutton-Adams, Hannah. "Recognizing Stones and Snakes in Children's Christian Formation: An Introduction to Religious Trauma and Abuse." *Religious Education* 118, no. 4 (2023): 356–68.

Minor, Cheryl, **Hannah Sutton-Adams**, and Heather Ingersoll. "Crossed Wires: The Disconnect Between Christian Leaders' Perceptions of Parents and the Lived Experiences of Contemporary Families." *Religious Education* 118, no. 5 (October 20, 2023): 430–44.

Minor, Cheryl, **Hannah Sutton-Adams**, "Does Godly Play Work?": A Qualitative Study Examining the Impact of Godly Play on the Spiritual Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults Who Participated in Godly Play in Early, Middle, and Late Childhood." *Christian Education Journal* (in press 2025).

Minor, Cheryl V., and **Hannah Sutton-Adams**. "Godly Play Went Home: An Exploratory Study of the Experience of Godly Play in Homes during the Covid-19 Pandemic through the Lens of Caregivers." *Religious Education* 117, no. 4 (August 8, 2022): 313–23.

Sutton-Adams, Hannah. "Book Review: The Soul of Higher Education: Contemplative Pedagogy, Research, and Institutional Life for the Twenty-First Century." *Anglican Theological Review* 103, no. 2 (May 1, 2021): 246–47.

Sutton-Adams, Hannah. "Book Review: Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation." *Anglican Theological Review*, January 4, 2022.

Sutton-Adams, Hannah. "Book Review: Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide to Reaching Hurting Kids." *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, October 1, 2024.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Association of Professional Chaplains—"What spiritual care providers should know about substance use and treatment"	2026
International Association of Children's Spirituality—"The impact of intergenerational worship on children's spiritual lives."	2026
Healing Centered Church Initiative Annual Lecture—"A Practical Theology of Religious Trauma"	2026
Duke Divinity School—"Recognizing and Responding to Religious Trauma"	2025
American Academy of Religion—"Treacherous Teaching in the Trenches: Trauma-Informed Pedagogy"	2025
American Academy of Religion—"Teaching with Grace: Trauma-Informed Theological Education"	2025
University of Chicago—"The Invisible Wound: Assessment and Intervention for Religious Trauma"	2025
Walter Reed CPE Symposium—"Trauma-Aware Spiritual Care"	2025
Pediatric Chaplaincy Network—"Cultivating Wonder: A Godly Play Session"	2025
Association of Professional Chaplains Annual Conference—"Spirituality Is Like a Child"	2024
American Academy of Religion—"Addressing the Religious Trauma in the Room: Chaplaincy Interventions"	2023

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Childhood and Religion</i>	Present
Committee Member, AAR Study of Childhood and Religion Unit	Present
Student faculty search representative, Boston College	2021-2022
Chair, Early Career Scholars in Theological Disciplines	2022-2023
Committee Member, Early Career Scholars in Theological Disciplines	2019-2022

GRANTS & AWARDS

Nurturing Children through Prayer and Worship Grant, The Lilly Endowment Inc.	2025
Diocese of North Carolina Education for Ministry Grant	2025
Nurturing the Spiritual Lives of Caregivers Grant, The Lilly Endowment Inc.	2022
Traumatic Stress Studies Scholarship, Trauma Research Foundation	2022
Perkins Merit Full Tuition Scholar, Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology	2015–2018
Cooper-McElvaney Peace and Justice Fellowship, Southern Methodist University	2017
B'Nai B'rith Ethics Award, Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology	2017

Dean's Award, Lubbock Christian University	2015
Stone-Campbell Scholar Award, Lubbock Christian University	2015
Best Qualitative Research Award, Lubbock Christian University	2015
K.C. Moser Ministry Award, Lubbock Christian University	2015

OTHER CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics, Level I	(2026)
Godly Play Certified Trainer, Godly Play Foundation	2025
Board Certified Chaplain, Association of Professional Chaplains	2023
Godly Play Core Training, Godly Play Foundation	2021
CITI IRB Training Certificate, Boston College	2021
200-hour Yoga Teacher Training, JP Centre for Yoga	2020
Mental Health First Aid, National Council for Wellbeing	

OTHER PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Tapestry Chaplain Newsletter— "The Importance of Trauma-Responsive Chaplaincy"	2026
American Academy of Religion— Chaired the Childhood Studies and Religion section	2025
Pediatric Chaplaincy Network— "Cultivating Wonder: A Godly Play Session"	2025
Hatching Faith— "Intergenerational Worship and Godly Play"	2025
American Academy of Religion—Panel respondent to "After the Worst Day Ever"	2024
Boston College — "Godly Play and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd"	2024
National Godly Play Conference—"Avoiding Religious Trauma and Neglect in Children's Formation"	2023
Godly Play Foundation— "Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: Interview with Robert Crosby"	2023
Religious Education Association— "Crossed-Wires: Understandings from Christian Families and Faith Leaders"	2023
Boston College— "A Trauma-Responsive Theological Anthropology"	2022
Imago Dei Church— "Creating a Trauma-Responsive Godly Play Circle"	2022
Religious Education Association— "Provisioning Stones and Snakes: Religious Trauma and Childhood Abuse"	2022
Clinical Pastoral Education Review—"Faces of God Among Patients with Cancer"	2018
Cooper-McElvaney Fellowship Luncheon— "Flourishing and Interdependency"	2017
Moser Ministry Conference— "Hall of Mirrors: The Christian Tradition for Today"	2016
Lubbock Christian University Scholar's Colloquium— "A Second Look: Exploring the Rape of Dinah"	2015
National Conference for Undergraduate Research— "Women in the Churches of Christ: Who Is God?"	2015