

Rev. Laura Wittman, M.Div.

Chaplain and Instructor of Religion, Louisburg College
Coordinating Pastor, Lighthouse Congregations, North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church
Email: lwittman@louisburg.edu

Ecclesial Status & Ministry

Ordained Elder in Full Connection, North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church (2013–Present)

Commissioned as a Provisional Elder (2011)

Vocational ministry experience beginning in 2007

Education

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.), In Progress (Expected Spring 2028)

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

Concentration: Fresh Expressions and Future Church

Research interests include spiritual formation, belonging, trauma-informed ministry, Fresh Expressions, and tabletop role-playing games as ecclesial community formation.

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina (2007–2011)

Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy

High Point University, High Point, North Carolina (2003–2007)

Professional Appointments

Chaplain and Instructor of Religion, Louisburg College (July 2024–Present)

Serve as college chaplain through weekly worship leadership, pastoral care, faith-based counseling, crisis intervention, and confidential reporting under Title IX. Teach Old Testament, New Testament, and Religion in America while mentoring students and supervising the Christian Life Council.

Coordinating Pastor, Lighthouse Congregations / Founder, UMC Collective Initiative (November 2022–Present)

Provide leadership, consultation, and congregational support for Lighthouse Congregations during and after denominational disaffiliation.

Senior/Planting Pastor, The Mills Church (August 2020–July 2024)

Founded and led a New Faith Community focused on community engagement, pastoral care, strategic planning, asset-based community development, grant development, and alternative revenue strategies.

Senior Pastor, Saint Paul United Methodist Church (July 2016–August 2020)

Associate Pastor, Epworth United Methodist Church (July 2012–June 2016)

Senior Pastor, Bethesda United Methodist Church (July 2011–June 2012)

Senior Pastor, Ruffin United Methodist Church (June 2007–June 2011)

Teaching Experience

Louisburg College Adjunct Faculty- Courses taught: Old Testament, New Testament, Religion in America, Religion in Pop Culture (Fall 2026)

Polity Instructor / Facilitator — Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) Training, North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Publications & Curriculum Writing

Wittman, Laura. Adult Bible Studies: Winter 2024–2025 Student Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2024.

Wittman, Laura. Adult Bible Studies: Spring 2027 Student Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, forthcoming.

Video Curriculum Writer and Recorded Participant, Adult Bible Studies: Winter 2026–2027. Abingdon Press.

Wittman, Laura. “Navigating the Starfield.” The United Methodist Church.

Wittman, Laura. “For the Love of Gaming.” The United Methodist Church.

Presentations, Panels & Workshops

Immersion Leader — Fresh Expressions National Gathering (February 2026)
“Gaming Church: Gaming as Common Tabletop”

Panel Presenter — Fresh Expressions National Gathering (February 2026)

Presenter — National Church Planters Conference (2022)

Presented on alternative revenue streams for congregational sustainability and mission-aligned use of church property.

Denominational and Community Leadership

Board of Directors, United Methodist Publishing House (2025–Present)

Mentor Assistant for Rev. Dr. Michael Beck and Rev. Dr. Daniel Park, United Theological Seminary (2025–Present)

Assistant Parliamentarian, North Carolina Conference

Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (2024–Present)

Faculty Senate, Louisburg College (2026–Present)

Weather Committee, Louisburg College (2024–Present)

Vice Chair, Conference Trustees and Trustees Executive Committee (2019–Present)

Co-Chair, Conference Worship Committee (2012–2025)

Vice Chair, District Committee on Ordained Ministry (2020–Present)

Annual Conference Planning Committee (2020–Present)

RIOM Group Leader (2016–2023)

Jurisdictional Conference Delegation (2019–Present)

Honors & Awards

Drum Major for Justice Award — North Carolina Reconciling Ministries (2022)

Research & Professional Interests

Fresh Expressions and Future Church

Spiritual formation and belonging in emerging adults

Tabletop role-playing games and ecclesial formation

Trauma-informed ministry

Wesleyan discipleship and covenant community

Religion, play, imagination, and narrative formation