

Reverend Sara D. Smith, Esq.

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Minister <i>United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT</i> A 327-Year-Old Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ	2009 - present
President/CEO and Founder <i>nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Inc, Bridgeport, CT</i> A Food-Centered, Volunteer-Powered, Community-Anchored 501c3 Bringing Hope to our City through Direct Service Programs	2010 - present
Protestant Chaplain <i>Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT</i> Office of Mission Integration, Campus Ministry, and Multi-Cultural Affairs	2020 - present
Interfaith Chaplain <i>University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT</i>	2014 - 2016
Interim Senior Minister <i>Webster United Church of Christ, Rochester, NY</i>	2007 - 2009
Sole Pastor <i>Kenilworth United Church of Christ, Buffalo, NY</i>	2002 - 2007
Executive Director and Campus Minister <i>United Ministries in Higher Education at the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO</i>	1996 - 2002
Trial Attorney <i>U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor, Dallas, TX</i>	1988 - 1991

EDUCATION

Doctor of Jurisprudence - 1988

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX
National Chair (First Woman), American Bar Association-Law Student Division

Masters of Divinity - 1995

Brite Divinity School - Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Theta Chi Highest Honors
Chair, Brite Student Academic Journal
Two Professor Book Awards
Hebrew Scriptures Teaching Assistant
Assistant Chaplain to the University, 1992-1995

Bachelor of Science in Psychology - 1985

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
President, Student Body/House of Representatives
Outstanding Senior Student
Outstanding Student Leadership Award
Alpha Delta Pi Sorority National Outstanding Leadership Award

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

City of Bridgeport, Democratic Town Committee: 132nd District 2021 – present

Center for Family Justice, Board of Directors 2016 – present

Bridgeport YMCA, Board of Directors 2009 – present

KEYS Urban Music Program, Board of Directors 2019 – present

Past Chairperson, *Council of Churches*, Board of Directors

Past *Green Village Initiative*, Board of Directors

Past *City Lights Art Gallery*, Board of Directors

Past *OPTIMUS Healthcare*, Board of Directors

Past *Tent of Abraham* Interfaith Event Board

HONORS

The “American Dream” Award - *Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants*, 2020

“Non-Profit Partner of the Year” Award – *The Center for Family Justice*, 2020

“Good Scout” Award – *New England Boy Scouts of America*, 2019

Outstanding Women Leadership Award - *Al-Aziz Islamic Center*

Focus of “*Sailing on Faith: Look Who God Sent*,” 2004

National United Church of Christ Search Committee Video Promoting Diversity Among Clergy

CREDENTIALS

Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, *United Church of Christ*, 1996 - present

Licensed Member, *State Bar of Texas*, 1989 – present

Lifelong Registered Democrat

INTERESTS

Indoor Hydroponic Farming

Kentucky Bourbon (The One, The Only)

Rescue Dogs

Sacred Heart University Women’s Athletics

Acadia National Park

All things Abraham Lincoln

Feeding People