



Melissa Marley Bonnichsen

1126 W Washington St South Bend IN 46601

Qualifications

Dedicated, creative, highly motivated, and team orientated professional with 9 years of higher education experience whose accomplishments reflect successful program development and facilitation, strong leadership skills, and demonstrated commitment to civic learning and engagement, integrated learning, innovative education models, transformational change and organizational growth.

Adept at building productive, engaging, sustainable, collaborative, and mutually beneficial relationships between campus and community stakeholders and partners. Has proven years of effective and dynamic program development and management, mentoring and advising, and leadership development in the academic, student life, social sector, and non-profit arenas. Personally and professionally committed and invested in local leadership, community development, community engagement, and community organizing.

Innovative, diverse, and highly skilled problem solver with a deep appreciation for mission-driven education, the academy, the greater university community, and student life. Holds high regard for just and equitable learning environments where experiential learning can occur. Committed to *experiential ways of knowing and skill development* and dedicated to the holistic formation of university students.

Professional & Related Experience

University of Notre Dame – Center for Social Concerns

August 2018- Present

Director of Leadership Formation | Director of the Rev. Don McNeill Fellows Program

Providing leadership and oversight of the Rev. Don McNeill Fellows Program, a scholars program that works with a select cohort of promising student leaders and challenges them to consider the intersection between their career goals and aspirations with social responsibility, leadership capacity, and active citizenship. The McNeill Program engages undergraduate students in social concerns issues, provides infrastructure for continuous and sequenced study, research, and experiential learning, while offering intentional skill development. Ultimately fellows are challenged to consider what it takes to be a 21st century leader working for the *common good*.

Providing ongoing guidance, vision, facilitation, supervision, and support to a team of 8 that all contribute to the work of leadership formation within the Center for Social Concerns including program facilitation, assessment, and research integration with local community partners.

Providing cross campus collaboration and support with faculty and staff who seek to look at the intersection of their fields and leadership formation informed by civic engagement, civic learning outcomes, and active citizenship. Executing early planning for a Leadership for the *Common Good Certificate Program* to be offered to the entire campus through the Center for Social Concerns.

Providing oversight for center-wide student leader formation and training for roughly 300 undergraduates serving in numerous leadership capacities throughout the center and guidance over an annual program budget as well as intentional collaboration with advancement to secure further endowed funding for the program.

Offering leadership, direction, and ideation to center associate directors in the area of strategic planning and the center's role in social innovation and innovation education – *innovating for the common good*.

University of Notre Dame – Center for Social Concerns August 2013- August 2018

Director of Social Concerns Seminars | Concurrent Instructor for the CSC

Provided superior oversight and facilitation of curriculum development, teaching, creation, assessment, and coordination for a series of twenty to twenty four 8-week 1-credit service-learning immersion courses facilitated by various staff and faculty at the Center and beyond for 800+ Notre Dame Undergraduates.

Provided oversight, facilitation, and guidance over an annual program budget and a program endowment in addition to strong collaboration with the center's advancement director and numerous development directors at the university.

Partnered with over 125 national community organizations willing to work with our program and students as we worked alongside each other in mutually beneficial relationships employing best practices of community based learning and consistent assessment.

Provided regular curriculum development, teaching, instruction, and assessment for annual Social Concerns Seminars including but not limited to: *Hands of St. Andre* (fall), *Urban Plunge- The Church in Action* (winter), *Causes of Homelessness* (winter), *Migrant Experience Seminar* (spring), *Appalachia Experience* (spring), and *Leadership in Social Concerns* (both fall and spring).

Provided key leadership and administration of Social Concerns seminars student leader development program (120 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students) including recruitment, training, assessment, and facilitation of the Leadership Seminar and all aspects of the program.

Provided sustained collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and community representatives to facilitate creative learning and related research initiatives that have positive effects for community partners, students, faculty, staff and the University.



University of Portland –Moreau Center for Service and Leadership January 2009-August 2013
Assistant Director of Service and Community Partnership

Provided superior oversight, facilitation, training, curriculum development, and recruitment for four major student-led university programs housed within the Moreau Center: Community Service Work Study (CSWS), Campus Volunteer Coordinators (CVC), Interns for Justice – summer internships (IFJ), and Service Learning Immersion Coordinators (SLIC). Through steady program management, while staying within budget constraints and initiating a growing number of student leadership positions, student participation exponentially increased within these programs.

Provided one-to-one mentorship, coaching, training, and leadership development for 40 student leaders annually, leading within four major student-led university programs housed within the Moreau Center.

Fostered and developed intentional and sustainable ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships with local community partners for academic and co-curricular service learning. Provided university service learning program support for community partners including faculty, student, and staff site referrals in addition to nurturing and facilitating collaborative university-community partner initiatives on and off campus.

Provided program development and student leader advisement for over 19 student leaders, leading over 200 students on eight 1-4 weeklong service learning immersion experiences annually. Service learning opportunities that range from Collegiate Challenge housing build, Urban Policy Plunge, Ashoka Social Entrepreneurship Experience, Civil Rights Deep South Tour, to the Service Plunge-the University of Portland's first year student initial community engagement primer. Provided ongoing training, mentoring, program development, counsel, and evaluation in addition to participating alongside student participants and student leaders in these noted service learning immersions.

Provided key leadership in the development and formulation of the growing CVC program, including community partner placement discernment, student and supervisor training, mentoring, and continuous program evaluation to improve student and community partner experience and to ensure that maximum benefits for both the community partner, and the university are obtained.

Provided key leadership and program development of the Moreau Center's summer internship program, *Interns for Justice*, including securing annual funding, curriculum development, and program oversight and facilitation. Since the summer of 2011, *Interns for Justice* have offered over 120,000 hours of service to communities in need.

Founded the *UP AshokaU Social Entrepreneurship Project*, a social entrepreneurial service learning initiative in collaboration with the University of Portland's Pamplin Business School and the University of Portland's Entrepreneurship Center that seeks to engage a diverse group of university students in social entrepreneurship leadership through a year-long project which includes engagement with *AshokaU* and their yearly conference, social impact projects based in the local community, and the participation in a TEDx event.

Acquired \$20,000 in funding for the center's summer *Interns for Justice* program and authored three \$5,000.00 grants, which were awarded on behalf of Moreau Center service learning programming. The 20K will go to fund the center's summer *Interns for Justice* program- which is exponentially growing each year, while the 5k has funded the *UP AshokaU Social Entrepreneurship Project*, a pilot social entrepreneurial service learning leadership initiative in collaboration with the University of Portland's Pamplin Business School, for the last two years.

Provided key administrative and program managerial duties including event planning, event execution, volunteer recruitment, cross division and interdisciplinary collaboration, in addition to web and office management.

George Fox University -Seminary

January 2009-May 2010

Graduate Lecturer/ Course Assistant

Provided course assistance for three graduate seminary courses including paper and test grading, online module development and facilitation, course development and implementation, mentored and counseled students in areas of academic advisement and facilitated group discussions.

Created and facilitated class discussions around issues of race, gender, injustice, poverty, and theology within the context of church history and its relevance to our current theological and secular context. Lectured for professors on various topics: feminist liberation thought and theory, 16th century female mystics, modern church history, and Ignatian Spirituality.

Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (IAF) -PDX

February 2008-May 2010

Volunteer Community Organizer

Participated in local and National community organizing training through the International Areas Foundation. Analyzed power systems, inequitable relationships, community workings, and strategies to leverage or gain power for marginalized people groups and those without power. Gained tools to equip in community partnership, engagement, and organizing.

Facilitated Fall 2009 MACG Assembly Meeting, attended by over 150 local organizers, and participated in the year's listening season in addition to engaging in community conversations and implementation of organizing steps within my local institution – Redeemer Lutheran Church/ Leaven Project.



Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church -Tampa FL

August 2003-May 2007

Director of Student Ministries and Youth Education (6x12)

Developed, implemented, facilitated, and oversaw Christian education and youth programming for 150 youth, middle and high school students. Recruited and coordinated a team of youth workers, teachers, and trip leaders annually. Facilitated weekly Christian education classes, service learning opportunities, and youth programming in addition to monthly outings in the region. Mentored, counseled, and encouraged students and families in addition to teaching and curriculum development.

Provided key leadership in youth education and programming within the community and performed church administrative and financial duties including implementing and maintaining an annual budget.

Developed, facilitated, and implemented the *SET* program – *Service Experience Trips*. Oversaw and participated in 16 domestic and international service trips for youth 6x12 and leaders in addition to providing key leadership in fundraising efforts for this program

Created opportunity for students to engage in local service opportunities. Collaborated with community partners in addition to developing and facilitating an annual weeklong local service trip for youth and leaders.

Education

Masters of Divinity, George Fox University, Portland OR -2010

Masters Thesis: Feminist liberation theology as praxis within the context of apartheid-area South Africa

MA in Theological Studies, George Fox University, Portland OR –2009

Concentration in Church History and Feminist Liberation Theology

BA in Political Science and Theology, Gordon College, Wenham Mass -2003

Chinese Studies Abroad (Xiamen, PRC) –Fall 2000

Certificate: Civic Leadership Academy with the American Democracy Project

Indiana University of South Bend – Spring 2017

Major Writings & Publications

-Marley, M. M. 2009. “The Boldest Meal: A Reflection on the Eucharist Theology of Denise Ackermann”, in *Ragbag Theologies: Essays in Honor of Denise Ackermann, Feminist Theologian of Praxis*, edited by Miranda Pillay, Sarojina Nadar, Clint Le Bruyuns, -Festschriipt. Sun Press: Capetown, South Africa.

-Marley, M. M. *Unavoidable Presence: Contributions of feminist liberation theology as praxis in South Africa: 1985-1997*. MA thesis. George Fox University, 2010.

Invited Presentations

-Marley Bonnicksen, M.M (February 2015) ***The Role of Student Leader Development in Successful Service-Learning Experiences: How deep understandings of mutuality, agency, and impact are accomplished on immersion.*** Discussed student leadership development that empowers student leaders to lead peers onto rich, mutually beneficial, positive immersion experiences. *Appalachian Summit on Service Learning Pedagogy & Practice 2015*, Carson Newman University- Jefferson City TN.

-Marley Bonnicksen, M.M (February 2014) ***Catholic Social Teaching: Finding Jesus’ Way in a Time of Uncertainty.*** Shared the history of CST in the church and 21st century manifestations in relation to millennials and the world we live in today. Ancilla College - Plymouth IN.

-Marley Bonnicksen, M.M. (February 2013) ***Collaboration for Social Impact: Social Entrepreneurship and the Moreau Center for Service and Leadership.*** Shared the creation and founding of the *UP AshokaU Social Entrepreneurship Project*, a social entrepreneurial service learning initiative and a model of leveraged funding and holistic investment created to support the project. This model sees collaboration and risk as key assets to nurturing student innovation. *Ashoka Exchange 2013*, University of San Diego- San Diego CA.

-Marley Bonnicksen, M.M. (August 2012) ***Feminist Liberation Theology in the 21st Century and a Way Forward.*** Shared the foundations and formation of FLT out of late 20th century religious pluralism and its legitimacy as a viable lens in which to see both faith and life moving forward into the future. *Wild Goose NW Conference*, Corvallis Oregon.

-Marley Bonnicksen, M.M (April 2012) **Community Organizing for Sustainable Practices**. Shared the foundations of community organizing and how they can be applied to both social and environmental justice work and practice. Emphasis on bringing together stakeholders for sustainable practice. *George Fox / University of Portland - Portland Oregon*.

Awards

2010 George Fox University Outstanding Ministry Student Award- George Fox University
 “Award is given to a candidate who expresses integrity in faith, proven academic excellence, active service and ministry while at the University, and strong contribution, dedication, and commitment to George Fox University academics, the institution, colleagues, and peers.”

Institutional Service

University of Notre Dame

- University President’s Council for Diversity and Inclusion – student climate, 2015- present
- University of Notre Dame Black Faculty and Staff Member, 2014-present
- University of Notre Dame Black Faculty and Staff Executive Leadership Board, 2018-present
- Center for Social Concerns Curriculum Committee, 2013-present
- Center for Social Concerns Strategic Planning Team, 2015-present
- University of Notre Dame Truman Scholarship Nomination Panel, 2016 & present

University of Portland

- Oregon Women in Higher Education (OWHE) associate member, 2010-2013
- University of Portland OWHE chapter founder and facilitator, 2012-2013
- Co-Founded the University of Portland’s Oregon Women in Higher Education chapter and co-facilitate monthly meetings with 15-20 University of Portland female staff. Topics range from salary negotiation to female student mentoring to sexual harassment to gender bias.*
- University of Portland Spiritual Director for Students, 2011-2013
- University of Portland committee member on student engagement and campus pregnancy, 2012-2013

Community Engagement

- Board Member, Institute of Collective Trauma and Growth, 2015-present
- Michiana Mothers Coalition Member, 2014-present
- Active participant in spiritual community – Granger Community Church, 2014-present
- Board Member, Women For Success PDX: *Dress for Success Oregon’s Professional Young Women’s Chapter*, 2012-2014
- Women for Success, Associate member, 2011-2013
- Board Member, *Vocoform: The Shape of Calling*, 2013
- Jesuit Volunteer Corp Northwest (JVC) member Spiritual Director, 2011-2012
- Bras, Brew, Bible* – Feminist sacred reading reflection founder and facilitator, 2009-2013