



EEWC-Christian Feminism Today

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For Immediate Release

Josefine Parker Awarded “Honorable Mention” by Christian Feminism Today

Indianapolis – The Selection Committee for the eighth annual Nancy A. Hardesty Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Christian Feminism Today, has named Vanderbilt Divinity School student Josefine Parker one of two “Honorable Mention” designees for 2021.

Ms. Parker, who lives in Auburntown, Tennessee, is a first-year Master of Divinity student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, aspiring to become a board-certified interfaith hospital chaplain. Already, she is engaged in groundbreaking work on the concepts of “gender midwifery” and the “transition doula,” one who tends to the holistic needs of someone transitioning gender. Central to her vision is the development of liturgies that can accompany gender-affirming surgeries in hospitals, seeking, as she states, “to articulate the eschatological vision, the *otherworldly* power of our rites of passage.”

At Vanderbilt, Ms. Parker is participating in a chaplaincy field education placement with The K.C. Potter Center. She is active in the LGBTQ+ Faith and Policy Cohort sponsored by the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality; and she is a member of Poiesis, a poetry, music, and artist collective. As an organizer of T4T Caregiving (a gender-affirming surgery collective), she also volunteers to provide chaplaincy for caregivers and to secure grant funding.

Ms. Parker describes her chaplaincy approach as “informed by the strategy of *expansive language*, praying in an increasing range of terms and images for the Divine, over *inclusive language*, using terminology that all can find agreeable.” She is described by the Rev. Lyndsey G. Godwin, assistant director of the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality, as bringing “an intricate blend of scholarly depth, ceaseless curiosity, and experiential wisdom to the cohort ... inviting all of us to expand our theological imaginations in ways that center feminist possibility.”

As an Honorable Mention awardee, Ms. Parker will receive a year’s gift membership in Christian Feminism Today and a 2021–2022 subscription to The Humble Gathering, CFT’s monthly online presentation series that brings the Christian feminist community together for insightful presentations and discussion with outstanding artists and theologians. The other Honorable Mention recipient for 2021 is Ms. Kimberly Shank, a student at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Hardesty Memorial Scholarship recipient this year is Ms. JoDeanne Francis of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

The Hardesty Scholarship competition is held annually in memory of Nancy A. Hardesty (1941–2011), a founding member of the Evangelical Women’s Caucus that, over the past 46 years, has grown into Christian Feminism Today. Until her death, Dr. Hardesty was a professor of religion in

the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Clemson University, in Clemson, South Carolina. Previously, she had taught English and writing at Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois, and had worked on the editorial staffs of *Eternity* magazine and *The Christian Century*.

Ms. Hardesty's first book, co-authored with Letha Dawson Scanzoni, was *All We're Meant to Be: A Biblical Approach to Women's Liberation*. Originally published in 1974, the book has gone through several editions and has influenced countless Christian feminists, from evangelicals to mainline Protestants to Roman Catholics. In 2006, *Christianity Today* magazine ranked *All We're Meant to Be* among the top fifty books that had influenced the evangelical Christian movement over half a century.

Christian Feminism Today is an organization with a long history of working for gender equality. CFT welcomes members of any gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, color, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, age, political party, parental status, economic class, or disability. Its biennial conferences sustain spiritual connectedness and foster learning about critical Christian feminist issues. The CFT website, www.eewc.com, provides Christian feminist news, articles, book reviews, blogs, Bible studies, links to explore, and inspiration.

For more information about Christian Feminism Today or the Nancy A. Hardesty Memorial Scholarship, contact Marilyn McDonald, Christian Feminism Today Executive Council Coordinator, at office [at] eewc [dot] com or 317-721-3660.

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