

# Adam Lawrence Dyer

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## Summary:

An emerging scholar whose work focuses on the intersection of ethics, equity, embodiment, and public life. A boldly outspoken advocate for equity and an accomplished public speaker with exceptional written communications skills and an expansive and diverse professional network.

## Education:

**University of Virginia, PhD Student in Modern and Contemporary Religious Thought (in progress from fall 2022)**

**Pacific School of Religion, M.Div. with a Certificate of Sexuality and Religion (2017)**

Concentrations: Racial diversity, LGBTQ advocacy, embodiment, and education.

*(Unitarian Universalist Minister - Ordained: 2018; Full Fellowship: 2020)*

**Princeton University, B.A., English Literature (1987)**

Concentrations: Creative Writing, Modern British Poetry, Music Theory and Composition

## Organizational Leadership and Ministry:

**First Parish in Cambridge Unitarian Universalist, Cambridge, MA (2017 - 2022)**

*Lead Minister:* Called as the 24th settled minister for this historic Unitarian Universalist congregation in Harvard Square. Served as Chief of Staff. Specific duties included providing worship, pastoral care, staff management and development and organizational visioning. Community outreach included leading local faith-based advocacy on mental health and support for unhoused populations. Responsible for the management and stewardship of \$900K annual budget and a \$14M endowment. During this tenure, First Parish provided space and organizational support for the Y2Y Youth Shelter, Youth on Fire LGBT Drop-In Center, Tuesday Meals program (soup kitchen), Paine Senior Services, The Cambridge Forum, the Cambridge Homeless Court and On the Rise women's support services among others.

**Harvard University Chaplains, Cambridge, MA (2018 – 2022)**

*Unitarian Universalist Chaplain:* Part of the executive team of the Harvard Chaplains provided interfaith support to students, faculty, and staff. Specific support provided to the BGLTQ office as well as the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. Served on the executive committee as the inaugural chaplain liaison to the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging.

**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, San Diego, CA (August 2014 – June 2015)**

*Intern Minister:* In addition to daily ministerial duties, cultivated relationships with local and national justice organizations including but not limited to the ACLU, United Way, San Diego Pride, PICO National Network and Planned Parenthood. Primary outreach focused on strengthening connections with local black communities. Co-founded the San Diego Black LGBTQ Coalition.

**Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek, CA (2013 - 2016)**

*Lead Youth Advisor/Worship Associate (2012 - 2014):* Taught the Tapestry of Faith religious education curriculum (middle school) and Our Whole Lives sexual education curriculum (middle school and high school). Participated in middle school and high school conferences including summer WUUKY (camp) as an adult advisor/chaplain. Served on the Pacific Central District Youth and Young Adult Advisory Committee (2013 – 2014). Designed and led worship services. Trained and coached worship associates. Provided pastoral support to worship associate team and youth.

## Administrative Leadership:

### PolicyLink, Oakland, CA (2013 – 2014, 2015 - 2017)

*Research Assistant/ Senior Program Assistant:* Supported the Vice President of Research coordinating the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Racial Data Disaggregation initiative. Provided program management for the research, documentation, and administration of the ArtPlace America Community Development Investment Initiative. Provided administrative and program support for California state policy advocacy with the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color. Organized and participated in legislative lobbying efforts. Spearheaded LGBTQ focused networking with other organizations. Contributed to scholarly research on equity in LGBTQ communities. Convened the first “Faith in Equity” panel and LGBTQ Caucuses for the 2015 Equity Summit in Los Angeles.

### Public Speaking, Instruction and Facilitation (highlights):

- *Episcopal Deans Retreat*, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts - Facilitator (2022)
- *Amherst College Baccalaureate*, Amherst College Commencement – Keynote (2022)
- *Preaching Traditions of The Free Church and Unitarian Universalism*, Harvard Divinity School – Instructor (2022)
- *2021 Mahle Lecture in Progressive Christian Thought*, Hamline University – Theologian in Residence (Apr. 2021)
- *The Role of Religion and Spirituality in Mental Health*, The Steve Fund, Washington, D.C. – Panelist (Nov. 2019)
- *Unpacking Masculinity in Non-Toxic Leadership*, Harvard University – Workshop Facilitator (Fall 2019)
- *Introduction to Ministry Studies*, Harvard Divinity School – Guest Lecturer (2018)
- Equity Ministry Network/ California Equity Ministry – Workshop Designer and Facilitator (2015 – 2016)
- Equity Summit 2015: Poet in Residence/ LGBTQ Caucus/Faith in Equity Panel– Organizer/ Moderator (2015)
- Hilda Mason Fellowship – *In Your Hands: The Spirituality, Language, Ethics of Touch* (graduate course) – (2013)

### Board and Community Leadership:

- Journal of Interreligious Studies - Board of Reviewers (2021 - present)
- Cambridge Community Foundation – Board Member (2019 – 2022)
- Cambridge Black Pastors Alliance – Member (2017 – 2022)
- Harvard University Chaplains, Unitarian Universalist Chaplain – Executive Committee (2018 – 2022)
- Wild Goose Festival – Board Member (2016 – 2022)
- San Diego Black LGBTQ Coalition – Founding Member (2015 – 2016)

### In Print (highlights):

- *Spirituwellness: Bodies, Faith, Politics* - <http://spirituwellness.wordpress.com> - Blog (2012 – Present)
- *Complicit Spirits: Making the Case for Unitarian Accountability in Harvard’s Legacy of Slavery* (UUA) – (forthcoming 2023)
- *Religious Equity: A Path to Greater LGBTQ Inclusion*, LGBTQ Policy Journal, HKS (Harvard) – Author (2021)
- *Body Battlegrounds*, Vanderbilt University Press (ed. Bobel, Kwan) – Contributing Author (2019)
- *Wakanda or Watts: Is Unitarian Universalism an oasis or a war zone for blacks?* UU World – Author (2018)
- *Wake to Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience* (ed. Rev. William G. Sinkford) – Contributing Author (2017)
- *Love Beyond God: Meditations*, Skinner House Books – Author (2016)

### Grants and Fellowships:

- William G. Sinkford Scholarship (Unitarian Universalist Association, 2015)
- Susan M. Jackson Scholarship (Unitarian Universalist Association, 2014)
- Hilda Mason Fellowship (Starr King School for the Ministry, 2013)
- John A. Buehrens Scholarship (Starr King School for the Ministry, 2012)

### Awards and Honors:

- Paul Wesley Yinger Preaching Award (2017) – Pacific School of Religion
- Planned Parenthood - The Future: Innovators and Visionaries Who Will Transform Black Communities (2016)

## Links:

### *Selected Sermons*

First Parish in Cambridge Online – “Life is Play” a message for PRIDE (Sunday, June 6, 2021)

[https://youtu.be/WiKGe\\_E6B9g](https://youtu.be/WiKGe_E6B9g)

First Parish in Cambridge Online – “Rethinking the Good Liberal” (MLK Sunday, January 17, 2021)

<https://youtu.be/7jyjhnKDT9c>

### *Selected Blog Posts*

[\*Spirituwellness \(faith, bodies, politics\)\*](#)

White Bricks (March 14, 2022)

<https://spirituwellness.com/2022/03/14/white-bricks/>

Being (October 29, 2021)

<https://spirituwellness.com/2021/10/29/being/>

Black Boy Joy (October 21, 2021)

<https://spirituwellness.com/2021/10/21/black-boy-joy/>

“Meta” Supremacy (September 19, 2021)

<https://spirituwellness.com/2021/09/19/meta-supremacy/>

### *Articles, Reports, Research*

#### **Principle**

[\*Religious Equity: A Path to Greater LGBTQ Inclusion \(Harvard Kennedy School\)\*](#) – (2021)

Author

[\*Equity Ministry Network – Final Report \(UU Justice Ministry CA\)\*](#) – (2016)

Author/ Workshop Designer/ Facilitator

#### **Contributor/ Reviewer**

[\*Advancing Well-Being by Transcending the Barriers of Whiteness \(PolicyLink\)\*](#) – (2021)

Reviewer

[\*Working With Artists to Deepen Impact \(PolicyLink/ ArtPlace America\)\*](#) – (2019)

Program Team/ Researcher

[\*Counting a Diverse Nation \(PolicyLink/ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation\)\*](#) – (2018)

Program Team

[\*LGBTQ Inclusion \(PolicyLink/ Marguerite Casey Foundation\)\*](#) – (2016)

Program Team/ Reviewer

[\*2015 Equity Summit \(PolicyLink\)\*](#) – (2015)

Program Team/ Convener (Faith in Equity panel)/ Organizer (LGBTQ Equity caucus)