

Biography

The Reverend Molly Dowell Baum is a musical theatre artist, an ordained Presbyterian minister, wife to Robin, and co-parent of their two phenomenal little kids. Her family relocated to Albany (Robin's hometown) at the beginning of 2020. She started as Youth Director at First Presbyterian in Albany in June. Molly grew up in Atchison, Kansas, went to college at New York University in New York City, and attended graduate school at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in California. Molly served as the 2010-2012 Phillips Talbot Global Ministry Fellow, a program of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC, spending a year living in Zambia and training leaders throughout the country with Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ), and traveling throughout Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. Most recently, Molly lived in Northwest Iowa for 7 years, where her two kids were born, and where she worked as a coordinator and teacher of a Montessori-based spiritual education program for children called Godly Play, and later as an Adult English teacher for immigrants and refugees. When she's not with youth goofing off and asking deep questions, Molly cooks, gardens, and frolics with her children and loved ones. You may also see her onstage performing in a play or musical!

Statement of Faith

there are never enough words

so we also read the white space

and play and live between the lines

aka molly's Statement of Faith

God is

triune. One in three. three in One. relational. community in Herself. forever in divine dance of Love

Divine Love

Great Mystery

seriously playing

making space

inviting all

loving

all

God is Mother is

Father. Loving Parent and Creator

transgender. beyond gender. neither male nor female. gender-full. The Source of All Gender

The Ground of All Being

Author of the Universe

sovereign, loving, faithful, just, merciful, good

constantly creating. improvisational artist

perfect. beautiful. infinitely adaptable

limitless in capacity to reach out and offer grace and mercy

God is Jesus is

fully human. fully divine. The Human One
God with us. Emmanuel
the human image of God in a radical new way
proclaimer. healer. prophet. brother. friend
the in-breaking of the reign of God
our movement founder
Christ. Reconciler. Redeemer
Living Word. The Light. The Way to join in the divine dance

God is Spirit is

Paraclete. Comforter. very presence of God. dancing alongside us
closer than our very breath
praying unceasingly in us with sighs too deep for words
groaning redemption for all creation
transformation power
alive and at work today
Empowerer and Holy-Maker
for communion
for ethical and faithful life

scripture is

a library
foreign and familiar
holy word play
the inspired Word which points to Christ, The Living Word
authoritative in the Church and my life as
stories
of the people of God from ages past
in which the people of God today may find identity
of God's work among and through God's people through the ages
witness
to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
to the early Church
inviting contemplation and discipleship to the Human One
connecting us to the people of God through all time and space
too often coopted and weaponized

humans are

beloved creation
imagers of God
reflecting God's diverse beauty
co-creators
sinners and saints simultaneously
imperfect. flawed. estranged from the dance of Divine Love
addicted and in deep need of spiritual transformation

salvation is

freedom

to be oneself fully alive
from that which enslaves

laying down One's life

for their friends

for the world

made possible through Higher Power

when life not death reigns

played out

in cosmic drama

in Jesus' body

in every moment, body, relationship

sacraments are

making us new

grace made tangible

participatory play

dying and rising with Christ in baptism

belonging to the family of God

covenant renewed at the Lord's table

feasting with disciples throughout time and space

nourishment for brave living

transformation toward holiness and full flourishing

the Church is

people

living out vocation together

called to

be the Body of Christ

hands and feet on earth today

join God's ongoing work in the world

mercy. justice. love. for all creation

radical welcome and hospitality

i put my trust in this. i stake my life on this. at the same time, i am transformed and open to God's ongoing revelation, so i strive to have faith that is fierce yet flexible.