

## **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.