

CEDAR MONROE

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Profile

Student of religion and spiritual care. Taught in a variety of settings, from colleges to churches. Worked as a chaplain to people experiencing homelessness for the past 13 years. Have extensive experience in spiritual care and the changing religious landscape, and in developing and supporting leadership development, and have a deep commitment to ending white supremacy and organizing poor white people against racism and for justice.

Note: for clarity, my previous name was Sarah Monroe

Academic Qualifications

ThM Indigenous/Interreligious Studies

Vancouver School of Theology, 2024

thesis: "Of Vikings and Settlers: Addressing the Dangers of Neopagan White Nationalism with a Call to Right Relationship"

MDiv Masters of Divinity

Episcopal Divinity School, 2013

thesis: "Searching for Belonging, Longing for Home: A Liberation Theology for the American Underclass"

BA Cultural Studies

The Evergreen State College, 2010

Additional Study

2023 Morrigan Intensive, Irish Pagan School

2012 Study at the U.S. Mexico Border

2011 One Unit Clinical Pastoral Education

2010 Witness for Peace trip to Oaxaca

Books

(Forthcoming) Cedar Monroe, *Trash: A Poor White Journey* (Broadleaf Books, 2024)

Sarah Monroe, "Survival Economics" in *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People's Campaign*, ed. Liz Theoharis (Broadleaf, 2021)

Employment

DIRECTOR/CO-FOUNDER

Chaplains on the Harbor 2013-2022

Located in rural Washington, in Grays Harbor County, a majority white and poor community.

Chaplain

- Served as interfaith pastor to about 500 people experiencing homelessness, incarceration, and addiction
- Mobilized churches to support and used church buildings to create projects of survival
- Met people where they were at, without judgement, supporting each person's own spiritual path and needs

Organizer

- Organized educational events in the community to highlight the crisis of housing, lack of healthcare, addiction, overincarceration, and police violence
- Organized vigils and protests, mobilizing poor and working class people to show up for their own rights and for racial justice
- Engaged local and state politics, as well as the legal system, on issues of housing justice

Administrator

- Grew the organization from a small grant to nearly a million dollar project, with three locations; from a staff of 2 to 16
- Started a supportive employment program for people in recovery and developed Harbor Roots Farm, to employ young people getting out of prison
- Supported the amazing leadership of poor and working class people

PASTORAL INTERN

Ecclesia Ministries, 2011-2012

Was trained as an interfaith chaplain in Boston, MA, during Occupy Boston, in roles of accompaniment, navigating mental health crisis and addiction, and the wider experience of homelessness in the United States.

Speaking

- May 21, 2023, Rural Organizing Project Rural Caucus and Strategy Session, "Countering White Christian Nationalism," with Aaron Scott.
- Jan 2022, EDS@Union, Just Conversations with Kelly Brown Douglas
- June 2019, Panelist, Missional Voices Conference, "Evangelism and Mission in Crisis"
- June 2019, Panelist, Poor People's Campaign Congress, "Systemic Racism and White Supremacy" and "Spirit of Struggle: Organizing in a Moral Movement"
- July 2016, Speaker and Organizer of "State of the Streets" in Aberdeen and Westport
- October 2015, Cursillo Conference Seattle, "Discovering Gifts: Following Jesus on the Streets and Rural Towns of Western Washington"
- June 2015, Panelist, Episcopal Divinity School Alumni Days
- May 2013, Love Mercy Do Justice Conference, "Shattering Stereotypes, Finding Solidarity: Building a Theology of Liberation"

Teaching Experience

- EDS@Union weekend intensive class, "Chaplaincy and Building a Movement in Poor Communities," November 2022
- Arizona State University, guest lecture, "Chaplaincy and Resistance," March 2022
- The Evergreen State College, guest lecture, "Poverty in Grays Harbor County: A Case Study," Jan 2019
- Christ Episcopal Church, guest training, "Street Chaplaincy 101," July 2017
- Grays Harbor College, guest lecture, "Building a Movement to End Poverty Led by the Poor," April 2017

Awards

2020-2022 Episcopal Church Foundation Fellowship
2014 Justice and Advocacy Fellow, TEC
2013 Director's Award, Episcopal Evangelism Society

Articles

- 2020 "Doing Theology on the Edge of Empire," University of the Poor Journal, universityofthepoor.org.
- 2018 "Open Hostility and Broken Promises: Organizing with Poor Whites" Kairos Center Blog, kairoscenter.org/blog.
- 2016 "Radical Chaplaincy: Reflections on the Northwest Solidarity Tour" Kairos Center Blog, with Aaron Scott and Lindsay Krinks, kairoscenter.org/blog

Select Media

- Jul 11, 2019, "Diocese of Olympia chaplains rally behind homeless campers facing eviction from riverfront," Episcopal News Service
- Dec 28, 2018, "At Aberdeen's 'Hobo Beach' a priest and mayor battle over homelessness," Seattle Times
- Aug 18, 2017, "Trump won places drowning in despair: Can he help them?" Associated Press

Film Appearances

(Forthcoming) We Cry Justice, 2023

The River, 2020

America Will Be: The Spirit of Struggle, 2018

Other Organizing

2019 At the formation meeting of the National Union of the Homeless

2015-present Engaged with the Poor People's Campaign in various capacities, as speaker, trainer, state committee member, host

Summer 2010 Part of immigrant rights protests in Seattle with One America

2009-10 Organized with San Mateo Episcopal Church and San Isabel Episcopal Church around immigrant rights

Languages

- English, native proficiency
- Spanish, intermediate proficiency
- Arabic, beginning proficiency
- Irish, beginning proficiency
- Biblical Hebrew, intermediate proficiency