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ARELIS BENÍTEZ

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University - Nashville, TN 2017 - 2023
Ph.D., Religion
Concentration: Religion, Psychology, and Culture
Minors: Latina and Latino Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies
Dissertation Title: *Im/migration and Sexual Identity Reconstruction: Parallels of Pain and Reexistence in Pastoral Theology*

Loma Linda University - Loma Linda, CA 2010 - 2013
Master of Arts, Clinical Ministry

Andrews University - Berrien Springs, MI 2008 - 2010
MDiv(c) – Transferred out to enroll at Loma Linda University

Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano (UAHC) Summer 2006
Summer Abroad - Chile & Argentina, S.A.

Denison University - Granville, OH 2003 - 2007
Bachelor of Arts, Religion, and Spanish

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Pastoral Theology, Chaplaincy, Public Theology, Pastoral Care, Migration, Chicana Cultural Theory, Latino and Latina Studies, Queer Theory, Indigenous and Mestizo Healing Practices, Gender and Sexuality, Aztec Mythology, Social Justice, Chicana Feminism, Latina Feminist Psychology, Pedagogical Praxis

CERTIFICATES & CLINICAL TRAINING

Certificate in Humanities Teaching and Learning, Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching 2019

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center – Los Angeles, CA 2011 - 2012
Chaplain Resident, Satisfied 1600 clinical hours, 4 Units of accredited clinical pastoral education (ACPE)

Loma Linda University Medical Center – Loma Linda, CA 2010
Chaplain Intern, Satisfied 400 clinical hours, 1 Unit of accredited clinical pastoral education (ACPE)

RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT

Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative - Vanderbilt University 2020 - 2021
Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative - Vanderbilt University 2018 - 2019

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vanderbilt Divinity School 2022 - Present
Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of the Practice of Ministry

Vanderbilt Divinity School Facilitator, Field Education	2019 - 2022 Nashville, TN
Loma Linda University School of Religion Contract Instructor, Distance Education	2016 - 2018 Loma Linda, CA
Loma Linda University School of Religion Director of MS Chaplaincy Program and Instructor	2014 - 2015 Loma Linda, CA
Loma Linda University School of Religion Contract Instructor	2013 - 2014 Loma Linda, CA

TEACHING RECORD

Loma Linda University School of Religion (2013 - 2018)

Art of Integrative Care

Undergraduate: Radiology Technologist, Nursing; Graduate: Marriage and Family Therapy, Orthotics and Prosthetics

Christian Perspectives on Death and Dying

Undergraduate: Nursing; Professional: Pharmacy Students

Crisis Counseling

Undergraduate: Nursing

Diversity and the Christian Healthcare Professional

Professional: Dentistry

Orientation to Religion and Medicine

Professional: Medical Students

Personal and Family Wholeness

Professional: Dentistry Students

Wholeness and Health (Distance Learning course)

Undergraduate: Nursing; Professional: Medical Students

Wholeness for Physicians

Professional: Medical Students

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Faith Matters Network

Curriculum Consultant, Movement Chaplaincy 2020 - Jan. 2022

Vanderbilt University Medical Center – Nashville, TN

PRN Chaplain 2015 - 2020

Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital – Nashville, TN

PRN Chaplain 2015 - 2020

Loma Linda University, School of Religion – Loma Linda, CA

Contract Instructor, Distance Education 2016 - 2018

St. Thomas Health – Nashville, TN & Murfreesboro, TN PRN Chaplain	2016 – 2017
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital – Nashville, TN Chaplain Intern	2015 - 2016
Loma Linda University, School of Religion – Loma Linda, CA Director of MS Chaplaincy Program and Faculty Member	2014 - 2015
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta – Murrieta, CA Lead Chaplain	2012 - 2014
Loma Linda University, School of Religion – Loma Linda, CA Contract Instructor	2013 - 2014
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta – Murrieta, CA Chaplain	2011
Ohio Conference, Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church – Toledo, OH Children’s Pastor	2007 - 2008

PANELIST/ CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Topic, “Community” Chaplaincy Chaplaincy Innovation Lab , Field Guide for Aspiring Chaplains Series Presenter	January 2022 Online, Webinar
Topic, “Immigration - 1950s to Now - What Has Changed, What Remains?” Vanderbilt University , James Lawson Institute for the Research and Study of Nonviolent Movements Moderator	December 2021 Online: Facebook Live, Zoom
Topic, “Violencia espiritual: Cuando la religión se vuelve veneno” Teología Sin Vergüenza Facilitator , four-part series (90-minute sessions)	February 2021 Online, Zoom
Topic: A Conversation on Non-traditional Chaplaincy Training OpenDiv Summit Speaker , presenting on spirituality, meaning, and connection in the secular world.	February 2021 Online, Pod-Conference
Topic, “Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Panelist with Faith Matters Network	November 2020 Online, Zoom
Topic, “La Experiencia de las Latinas dentro de la Educación Teológica” Duke Divinity School , The Hispanic House of Studies: Sumérgete Retreat Panelist , presenting for Pastors and Leaders Serving the Hispanic and Latino Community	October 2020 Online, Zoom
Teología Sin Vergüenza Speaker , Latina testimonio on Latinx LGBTQ+ identity and spirituality	October 2020 Visual Podcast
Topic, “Movement Chaplaincy Nashville: Spiritual Sustainability for Local Activists” Vanderbilt University	August 2020

Presenter, Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative Conference Nashville, TN

Topic, “What is a Border?: Psychodynamic Reflections on Hybrid Identities, Attachment, and Exchange”
Society for Pastoral Theology June 2020, Cancelled due to Covid-19
Panelist, responding to Dr. Pamela Cooper-White San Diego, CA

Topic, “Complexities and Intersections: Pedagogies for Teaching Doctoral Students at the Intersection of Pastoral Theology, Social Justice, and Public Theology”
Brite Divinity School February 2020
Presenter with Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard, Nancy J. Ramsay Symposium Fort Worth, TX
“Public Theology and the Emergent Field of Movement Chaplaincy”

Loma Linda University School of Religion December 2019
Lecturer, Faculty Lecture Series Loma Linda, CA

Topic, “Participants’ Group Ethnography”
Vanderbilt University October 2019
Workshop Facilitator, Womanist Ethnography & Black Women’s Vocation Conference Nashville, TN

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Creative Researcher 2020 - Present
Collaborative Design Team for the Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Spiritual Care Department
Member of the Professional Advisory Group for CPE Training Center and Member of the Consultation and Assessment for CPE Residency Committee 2020 - Present

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Senior Research Assistant and **Facilitator** at Annual Womanist Ethnography Project 2018 - Present
Director: Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard

Vanderbilt Divinity School Latinx Seminarians
Vice President 2017 - Present

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Member, Faculty Search Committee for Area of Religion, Psychology, and Culture Aug. 2020 - Jan. 2021

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Intern, The Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative Summer Institute Summer 2019
Title: “Policy, Politics, and Privilege: The Prophetic Response to Racist Governance”

Vanderbilt University
Moderator for Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Chancellor’s Lecture Series November 2019
Title: “The Power of Storytelling as a Way to Dismantle, Re-envision and Understand our Culture and Ourselves”

Vanderbilt Graduate Department of Religion
Research Assistant, Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard 2018 - 2019

Vanderbilt Graduate Department of Religion
Research Assistant, Dr. Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore 2017 - 2018

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Teaching Assistant, Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard Spring 2017
Course: Pastoral Theologies and Ethics of the Streets

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Research Assistant, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Literature Review Grant 2017 - 2018
Research Title: "Openheartedness and Heartfulness: A Scoping Review of Influence on Resilience in Early Career Health Professionals and the Patient Experience"

Vanderbilt Divinity School
Teaching Assistant, Dr. Phillis I. Sheppard Fall 2016
Course: Pastoral Care and Community Justice

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Adventist Health Policy Association
Member, Health Equity Task Force 2021 - Present

Faith Matters Network
Fellow, Movement Chaplaincy 2018 - 2020

Divinity Friendship House at Vanderbilt
Resident Director 2020 - Present

Loma Linda University, Students for International Mission Service – Mumbai, India
Chaplain August 2014

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

Forum for Theological Exploration, Dissertation Fellow 2021

Hispanic Theological Initiative, Dissertation Fellow 2021

Fellowship in Theology and Practice, Vanderbilt University 2017 - 2023

Spiritual Life Service Award, Loma Linda University Health 2013

Loma Linda University School of Religion Scholarship 2011

Posse Foundation Full-Tuition Leadership Scholarship 2003 - 2007

Lilly Internship, Denison University 2006 - 2007

Posse Summer Leadership Award (PSLA) Summer 2006

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION & MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion, Member 2017 - Present

Hispanic Theological Initiative, Scholar 2017 - Present

Society for Pastoral Theology, Member 2015 - Present

Forum for Theological Educators, Student Attendee 2018

Seventh-day Adventist Healthcare Chaplains Association (SDAHCA), Member 2012 - 2016

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Chaplain Attendee 2010 - 2014

OTHER

- **Languages:** Fluent Spanish and English (speaking, reading, writing).
- **Microsoft Office:** Proficient
- **Photography Software:** Proficient in Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop
- **Video Editing Software:** Proficient in iMovie and Final Cut Pro