

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Rev. Erik T.R. Samuelson, M.Div., M.A., PCC  
Everett, WA  
cell: 425-405-5752  
[eriksamuelson@gmail.com](mailto:eriksamuelson@gmail.com)

“Do not ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it.  
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

### Education and Credentials:

#### **International Coaching Federation**

March 2022. Professional Certified Coach (PCC) Certification.

October 2021. Associate Certified Coach (ACC) Certification.

#### **Fuller Theological Seminary**

October 2021-May 2022. Church Planter Coaching Certificate.

#### **Vibrant Faith Coaching School**

August-December 2020. Professional Certified Coaching Course.

April-May 2020. Coaching School Faculty Training Course.

October 2019-February 2020. Associate Certified Coaching Course.

#### **Vibrant Faith Congregational Coaching Training**

December 2017.

#### **Clearness Committee Facilitator Training**

August 2015.

#### **ELCA Community Organizing Trainer Training**

August 2014. Certified as a trainer for ELCA Weeklong Community Organizing Training.

#### **IAF Northwest Weeklong Regional Community Organizer Training**

November 2011.

#### **ELCA Mission Developer Training**

August 2010. Approved for new starts and redevelopment Sept 7, 2010.

#### **Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

June 4, 2006.

#### **Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA**

M.A., Systematic and Philosophical Theology, 2006.

With Distinction

#### **Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA**

M.Div., 2005.

#### **Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA**

B.A., Religion/Classics (double major), 2001.

Summa Cum Laude.

## **Bartending Academy of Tacoma (WA)**

Diploma, 1999.

### Experience:

#### **Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

January 2022-present

Transition Partner/Coach

Facilitating and coaching pastor search and call process, including congregational sustainability assessment and mission/vision planning.

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Snohomish, WA; Vashon Lutheran, Vashon Island, WA; Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville, WA; Christ Lutheran, Ferndale, WA, St John United Lutheran, Seattle, WA.

#### **Faith Lutheran Church, North Lakewood, WA**

October 2018-present.

Pastor/Coach

#### **Vibrant Faith**

Sept 2017-present

4<sup>th</sup> Soil Christian Parenting Initiative

Creating a Culture of Calling: Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative

Coach

Coaching School Faculty

Master Class Instructor

#### **Come Alive Coaching and Consulting**

March 2016-present

Founder

Current and former clients include: Cultivate Fresh Expressions Project, NW WA Synod; North County Churches Missional Learning Experiment, Snohomish County, WA; Coach NW, Seattle, WA; Holden Village, Chelan, WA; The General Theological Seminary, New York, NY; Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA; Trinity Education Foundation, Everett, WA; California Lutheran University/PLTS, Thousand Oaks/Berkeley, CA; A Peace of My Mind, Minneapolis, MN; LINC NW, Marysville, WA; Northwest Coast Presbytery (PCUSA), Everett, WA; Camano Lutheran, Camano Island, WA; Peace Lutheran, Silvana, WA; Edgewood UCC, East Lansing, MI; Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD; St. Charles Catholic Parish, Portland, OR; St. John's Episcopal Church, Youngstown, OH; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Austintown, OH; Bethel Lutheran Church, Shoreline, WA; Emmaus Community, Everett, WA; Stillaguamish Dinner Church, Marysville, WA; Christ the Savior Lutheran, Fishers, IN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA; First Congregational UCC, Boulder, CO; Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, SD; Wellspring (Anglican), Englewood, CO; Bethlehem Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN; Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, IA.

#### **Freeborn Lutheran Church, Stanwood, WA**

December 2015-July 2021. Pastor

#### **Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA**

March 2011-May 2016

Campus Pastor, Director of Spiritual and Vocational Formation, President's Assistant for Strategic Projects, Member of the Faculty

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA**

June 2006-February 2011  
Mission Developer/Pastor

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette, CA**

June 2004-August 2005  
Youth Director

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Hope Lutheran Church, Lafayette/Rossmoor, CA**

September 2003-August 2004  
Intern Pastor

**Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Concord, CA**

September 2001- August 2003  
Teaching Parish Student

**Pacific Lutheran University Campus Ministry, Tacoma, WA**

September 2000- June 2001  
Campus Ministry Peer Minister  
Co-Founder, "Common Ground" emergent worshipping community

**Pacific Lutheran University Campus Ministry, Tacoma, WA**

Summer 2000  
Campus Ministry Intern

Current leadership and service:

**Illuman of Washington**

Men's spirituality organization, founded by Father Richard Rohr.  
Co-Convener for Washington State Chapter. Jan 2024-present.  
Guiding Council. Jan 2024-present.  
Leadership Team. Jan 2023-present.  
Stoker (small group facilitator). 2020-present.

**Candidacy Committee, NW WA Synod ELCA**

Co-Chair. Candidacy committee oversees the process of discernment and preparation for approval of ordained pastors and deacons.  
Member, June 2018-present.  
Co-chair, June 2023-present.

**LINC NW (Leveraging Innovation and Networking Communities, NW)**

May 2016-present  
Co-Founder, Board Member, and Chief Strategic Officer

**ELCA Community Organizing Training Team**

Training leadership team and trainer, 2014-present.

**ELCA Organizing for Mission Network**

National ELCA Community Organizing Community of Practice  
Leadership Team 2009-2018, and Member 2009-present

Past leadership, training, and service:

**Rotary Club of Everett**

Rotaract Chair and founding mentor for Snohomish County Rotaract (Rotary affiliated service and leadership club for leaders age 18-30)  
August 2016-September 2023.

**ELCA NW WA Synod Latino Ministry Strategy Task Force**  
2018-2019.

**ELCA Western Mission Network**

Collaborative network of ELCA Seminaries, alternative theological education organizations, and partners in lifelong learning and discipleship across the Western US.  
Board Member and Convocation Planning Team, 2018-2022.

**Select Learning**

ELCA affiliated non-profit that provides alternative theological education  
Board Member, February 2019-December 2020.

**North (Snohomish) County Youth Ministry, Marysville, WA**

A collaborative youth ministry program among Lutheran and Episcopal congregations  
Catalyst and Advisory Board Member.

**The Forum for Theological Exploration (formerly The Fund for Theological Education)**  
**Atlanta, GA**

21st Century Collegiate Ministry Discernment Gathering, 2018  
Peer Group Facilitator, Christian Leadership Forum, 2017  
Planning Team, Christian Leadership Forum 2016  
Worship Team, Christian Leadership Forum, 2016  
Peer Group Facilitator, Christian Leadership Forum, 2015  
Small group facilitator/workshop leader for Young Adult Discernment Conferences, 2014-15  
Advisory Board Member, 2013-2015  
Mentor Pastor, Seminary Student Cohort Project, 2012-2013  
Roundtable Leader, FTE Leaders in Ministry Conferences, 2011-2013  
Facilitator, FTE Calling Congregations Conference, 2012

**Great American Beer Festival, Denver, CO**

Competition Steward, Oct 2017

**Convergence Network, Reimagining Theological Education Initiative**

Chair, Models of Certification and Credentialing Working Group, 2016

**Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry Training: The Work of the Leader, Bellevue, WA**

February 2016. Interim Ministry Training.

**FORGE Network, Hub Leaders Training, Denver, CO**

October 2015. Training to found/lead alternative theological/missional education program for church planters and lead church planting hubs.

**ELCA Region One First Call Theological Education (through LENS)**

Leadership Team, 2008-2011

**ELCA Western Mission Network Consultation on Theological Education, Carefree, AZ**  
Participant, January 2010

**ELCA National Program Committee—Evangelical Outreach/Congregational Mission**  
Elected to a 6-year term 2009-2015

**ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Minneapolis, MN**  
2009 Voting Member representing the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod

**ELCA Youth Gathering**  
2006-2009 Dome Creative Team Member and Sacristan  
2003-2006 Dome Creative Team Manager, Worship  
2001-2003 Evening Dome Team Member

**Leadership Spokane**  
Class of 2009. A one-year intensive course on civic and community leadership.

**ELCA First Call Theological Education Summit, Chicago, IL**  
2008

**ELCA Transformational Ministry Training, Seattle, WA**  
February 2007.

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants Received:

**2024 Holy Innovation Grant, ELCA, \$80,000**  
Cultivate project. (with Rev. Judy Brennan and 3 other Synods)

**2023 Holy Innovation Grant, ELCA, \$80,000**  
Cultivate project. (with Deacon Dianne Johnson and 3 other Synods)

**2021-2022 SAWC Grants, ELCA and NW WA Synod, \$36,000**  
Dinner Church (with Josh Smith and Ryan Brown)

**2020-2021 SAWC Grants, ELCA and NW WA Synod, \$40,000**  
Dinner Church (with Josh Smith and Ryan Brown)

**2020 Grace Grant, ELCA NW WA Synod, \$40,000**  
\$20,000 for “North County Missional Learning Experiment” at Freeborn, Stanwood.  
\$20,000 for “Youth Services Student Spaces” at Faith, N Lakewood.

**2019 New Worshipping Community Seed Grant, NW Coast Presbytery/PCUSA, \$15,000**  
(with Rev. Ahriana Shek-Dill and Rev. Luke Hyder)

**2019 Community Blessing Grant, NW Coast Presbytery/PCUSA, \$20,000**  
(with Rev. Ahriana Shek-Dill and Rev. Luke Hyder)

**2017-2020 Grants Plus Grant, Wheat Ridge Ministries, \$50,000**

**2017 Mentoring Grant, Rotary International, \$10,000**

**2016-2017 Vocational Resources Grant, Forum for Theological Exploration, \$10,000**

**2015-2016 Mentoring Grant, Forum for Theological Exploration, \$20,000**

**2015 Snohomish County TPA Grant, \$5,000**

**2015 ELCA Hunger Grant (Community Organizing), \$3,000**

**2014 ELCA Hunger Grant (Community Organizing), \$2,500**

**2001 Ministry Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, \$5,000**

**2001 ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission Scholarship, full Masters of Divinity tuition**

Teaching:

**Summer Teaching Faculty, Holden Village, WA**

“Listening for Your True Self” Course co-taught with Annemarie Russell. July 2024.

**Vibrant Faith**

Two Loops—Living and Dying Congregational Systems, Webinar, May 2021.

Courage to Connect Across Cultures, with Joe Davis, Webinar Series, March 2021.

Spiritual Practices, Webinar Series, Fall 2019.

**Summer Teaching Faculty, Holden Village, WA**

“The Art of Christian Discernment: Clearness Practice” Course co-taught with Annemarie Russell. Also: “Introduction to Centering Prayer.” “Introduction to the Labyrinth.” August 2019.

**Northwest Coast Presbytery (PCUSA)**

“Living and Dying Systems: An Interactive Journey of Transformation.” Presentation to Commission on Ministry and keynote address at Verge 2.0 Leadership Summit. May and October 2018.

**Northwest Washington Synod (ELCA)**

“Lutheran Confessions, Theology, and History” seminary-level, competency assessment alternative course fulfilling a requirement for ELCA ministry candidates. Fall semester 2018.

**Summer Teaching Faculty, Holden Village, WA**

“Listening for the Sound of the Genuine: Re-forming our sacred identity and vocations through holy listening, storytelling, and embodied spiritual practices” Course co-taught with Annemarie Russell. August 2018.

**Trainer, ELCA Organizing for Mission Cohort**

Leading local, regional, and national trainings for practitioners using community organizing for mission, 2013-present

**Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA**

Professor

“Vocation and Formation” (Freshman Experience Course in discernment and spiritual practices), 2011-2016

“Introduction to Creative Worship,” 2015-2016

“Creative Worship Leadership,” 2015-2016

“Theology of the Cross,” Fall 2015

“Lutheran History and Confessional Theology,” Spring 2016

“The Art of Curating Worship: Chapel Planning,” 2011-2015

**Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA**

Lutheran Confessions, Fall 2005, Teaching Assistant/Instructor  
Rev. Dr. Jane Strohl

Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Spring 2005, Teaching Assistant  
Rev. Dr. Michael Aune

Living Tradition (introduction to Luther, Lutheran theology, and Lutheran history),  
Fall 2004, Teaching Assistant  
Rev. Dr. Michael Aune

**Publications and Presentations:**

“Learning the Practice of Story Sharing in Community.” In *Enlighten: Explorations in Theological Field Education, Vol 3*, edited by Sung Hee Change and Matthew Floding. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

“The Practice of Clearness: A Handbook for Facilitating Community Clearness Circles”  
August, 2019. <http://www.eriksamuelson.com/clearness-committee-handbook>

“ALIVE: Accompanying Leaders in Vocational Exploration” curriculum and resources for vocational discernment. 2017 and ongoing. [eriksamuelson.com/alive-resources](http://eriksamuelson.com/alive-resources)

“Martin Luther and Beer: For Queen Anne Lutheran Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” October, 2017

“Life Together: A weekend of reflection and renewal in the style of Bonhoeffer's Finkenwalde Seminary” retreat co-designed with Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker, Sept 2017, Stanwood, WA.

“Reimagining Theological Education: Craft Seminaries and Other Lessons from the Beer Brewing Industry” video report and handout at Reimagining Theological Education National Conference, June 2016. <http://eriksamuelson.com/media>

“Innovative Approaches to Undergraduate Theological Formation” at Convergence: Reimagining the Future of Theological Education Conference, October 2015, Chicago, IL.

“Vocational Discernment Methods and Resources for Young Adults” at Christian Leadership Forum, Forum for Theological Exploration, June 2015, Dallas, TX.

“Spiritual Practices for Discerning Vocation” workshop at Young Adult Discernment Retreat, Forum for Theological Exploration, April 2015, Asheville, NC.

“Is There a Future for Lutheranism in a Postmodern World?” Two-part presentation. 2014-2015, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Issaquah, WA. Central Lutheran Church, Everett, WA. Peace Lutheran Church, Monroe, WA.

“Living and Dying Systems: Two Loops” at ELCA Community Organizing Train the Trainers, July 2014, Chicago, IL.

“Giants of Faith: Martin Luther” January 2012, First Presbyterian Church, Snohomish, WA.

“Giants of Faith: Dietrich Bonhoeffer” June 2012, First Presbyterian Church, Snohomish, WA.

“Roadmaps to Grace: Five types of Lutheran Confessional Subscription” in *Dialog*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (Summer 2006): 157-169.

“Five Types of Lutheran Confessional Theology: Toward a Method of Lutheran Confessional Theology for the Twenty-First Century.” (Berkeley: Three Trees Press, 2006). Republished: (Everett, WA: Wittenberg Workshop, 2010).