

About the Leaders

Nanette Sawyer

Rev. Nanette Sawyer was one of the first women to found an emergent style church in a vibrant hipster neighborhood in Chicago. Now called “Grace Commons” (originally Wicker Park Grace), the community is centered in practices of art and hospitality and meets as a house church in various locations throughout the city. Nanette is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has moved on to serve as a pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago where she leads in the area of congregational life and community building. She is the author of *Hospitality, the Sacred Art*. You can find out more about her art and writing at nanettesawyer.com.



Shawna Bowman

Growing up in small town Iowa, I used to get in trouble for drawing “too loud” in church. But really making stuff... music, crafts, woodworking and sewing projects are the life-blood of my family and I was just pitching in with my best gifts. As I grew so did my love for art-making, theatre and storytelling and now I believe these are essential ways of engaging in worship and ministry. I received a dual degree from Iowa Wesleyan College in Studio Art and Art Education in 2000 and taught art in public schools in Iowa for six years. Then I moved my whole family (Three kids) to Chicago for seminary where I received my M.Div from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2009.



I am a partner and parent, I live with my spouse Jennie and our three kids in the Edgewater hood of Chicago. I am an artist, pastor and activist. I am convinced that our urge to create is one of the most important ways that we are made in God’s image. I work with communities and

organizations to create art as an act of worship and/or public theology and I love facilitating community experiences that help folks reimagine the role of art in their lives and ministry. Recently, I co-founded Creation Lab, a co-working studio space that is also an arts and faith incubator, and I am a solo-pastor doing ministry with the creative and quirky folks at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Chicago.