

Biographical Summary for Rebekah Miles, 2024

Rebekah Miles is the Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Miles is the author, co-author, or editor of eight books. She is the co-editor of *The Future of Christian Realism: International Conflict, Political Decay, and the Crisis of Democracy* (Lexington Books, 2023) and *The Routledge Companion to Christian Ethics* (Routledge Press, 2022) and the author of *When the One You Love is Gone* (Abingdon Press, 2012); *Georgia Harkness: The Remaking of a Liberal Theologian, Collected Essays from 1929–1942* (Westminster John Knox, 2010); *The Bonds of Freedom: Feminist Theology and Christian Realism* (Oxford University Press, 2001); and *The Pastor as Moral Guide* (Fortress Press, 1999). She is also a co-author of a book on Wesleyan theology entitled *Wesley and the Quadrilateral: Renewing the Conversation* (Abingdon Press, 1997) and associate editor of *The Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics* (Baker Academic, 2011). Miles is currently writing a book on catalysts for ecstatic religious experience and co-editing one of the volumes in *The Bicentennial Edition of the Works of John Wesley*.

A native Arkansan, Miles grew up in a United Methodist parsonage family. (Indeed, she is the sixth generation in her family to live in Methodist parsonages and is the wife, daughter, sister, niece, great-granddaughter, great-great granddaughter, and great-great-great granddaughter of Methodist pastors, including a 19th century circuit rider in south Texas). Miles, an ordained elder, is a member of the Arkansas Conference. She and her late husband Len Delony, who was also a United Methodist pastor, have three young adult children – Katherine, Anna (aka Moth), and Abby.

Miles has served the United Methodist Church in a variety of capacities, including as a clergy delegate to the 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2019 General Conferences; as a member of the Commission on the Study of Ministry, the Council of Bishop's Task Force on Theological Education, and the University Senate; as a board member of the General Board of Church and Society; and as the Vice President of the Commission on Theological Education.

Miles received her B.A. (history and political science) from Hendrix College in 1982. She and her husband were together at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, Germany in 1982-83 and then received their M.Div. degrees from the Iliff School of Theology in 1988. Her Ph.D., granted in 1995, is from the University of Chicago Divinity School in the field of religious ethics. Miles was on the faculty of another theological school for several years before joining, in 1999, the faculty of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University where she teaches and writes in the areas of ethics and theology, shepherds students through their theological education, and works to strengthen ties between theological school and church.