

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2023 Candidates

SECRETARY (1 POSITION)



Jackie L. Halstead, PhD, MDiv

It is an honor to be nominated for the role of secretary of AAMFT. AAMFT has been my professional home since 1985. I have had the opportunity to serve in many roles in our discipline--practitioner,

professor, department chair, program director, consultant, state board member and president, and a member of the board of directors of AAMFT. I know this field, but even more important, I am indebted to this discipline. It has offered me a livelihood that goes beyond a job. It offers a way to be part of something bigger than myself--to serve those with whom I come in contact by giving them the opportunity to heal themselves, their relationships, and their larger context. I am grateful to have the skills to actually make a difference.

That is the impetus with which I approach the position of secretary of the AAMFT board. I bring skills of leadership and experience. But more important, I bring the heart to this position that I know is representative of the heart of our constituency. We come to this field because we have compassion for those who are hurting. Our role as AAMFT leadership is to ensure that those who are members of our field are equipped to serve with excellence and integrity and that the doors are open for us to do so. I am committed to continue to work to achieve parity with other mental health professions. And I am committed to work toward the day when our members will be representative of the communities we serve through diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are needed. We advocate for the healing of the entire system. My commitment is to keep increasing our impact through numbers and as thought leader in the mental health arena both at home and across the globe.

(I) PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

- Associate Professor, Associate Director, Marriage and Family Therapy Online, Abilene Christian University Dallas, 2017 to present
- President, Halstead and Associates, PC., (Private Practice) Nashville, TN. 2000 to present.
- CEO, Selah Center for Spiritual Formation, Nashville, TN, 2015 to present

(II) MOST RECENT PAST PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS (WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS)

- Adjunct Faculty, Marriage and Family Therapy, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, 2014 to 2022.

- Adjunct Faculty, Marriage and Family Therapy online, Abilene Christian University Dallas, 2015 to 2017.
- Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, 2010 to 2014.
- Director, Department of Education, Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, TN, 2014-15.

(III) AAMFT MEMBERSHIP: PAST AND PRESENT PARTICIPATION IN AAMFT, INCLUDING TOPICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INTEREST NETWORKS

- Licensed MFT, Tennessee – 2010 to present
- Licensed MFT, Texas, specialization in clergy and their systems – 2000 to 2010
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor – 2002 to present.
- Supervision Mentor - 2006 to present.
- Strategic Think Tank, Tennessee Association for MFT, 2018.
- AAMFT Board of Directors, 2016-2018.
- Elections Council, AAMFT – 2018.
- Queer Affirmative Caucus Task Force (QACTF) - 2017.
- Strategic Plan Review Task Force 2017.
- International Member Evaluative Criteria Track Task Force – 2016.
- President, Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – 2010.
- Board member, Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – 2000-2010.
- Ethics Committee Chair, TAMFT – 2005-2010.
- Abstract Reviewer, AAMFT
- Leadership Mentor, 2017, 2019, 2022

(IV) PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Activities should be directly linked to the position and should demonstrate the skills needed for the position):

Secretary/Board: Past and present activities, projects, or publications (limit 3) as evidence of leadership skills, experience integrating information, working towards consensus, and decision-making skills.

- **Strategic planning/implementation**
 - o Department Chair/Program Director – set vision and direction and oversaw stability and growth of department, managed budget of both department and clinic housed within the department, worked with advisory board comprised of graduates, users of the

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profession and outside practitioners for evaluation and strategic planning, (2005-2010)

- o Consultant – meet with businesses, churches and other nonprofits to assist with strategic and long-range planning through asset mapping as well as assessment of history, current system and desired goals. (1998 to present)
- o TAMFT Board member and president – served on TAMFT board for ten years culminating with a term as president before I moved out of state. Was involved in the life of the state organization and in the strategic/long range planning of the professional organization. (2000 to 2010)
- o Founder and Director, Highland Counseling Center – had vision to create a counseling center within a large church. Saw need and opportunity of needed resources. Served as director for ten years, hired staff, managed church leadership and helped them see the need and future opportunity of the center. (2000-2010)
- o FaithWorks Charter Board member – Served on charter board for non-profit focused on employment readiness for the unemployed and underemployed in Abilene, TX. Helped craft the initial vision and development plan. (2005 to 2010)
- o Associate Director/Director, Institute for Christian Spirituality – participated in the launch and strategic plan of the institute. Developed an advisory board to assist with vision. Was involved with long-range planning, fund-raising, and marketing. Moved into the Director role after two years and then set the vision and strategic plan. (2010 to 2014)
- o LifeWorks VP – Served as Vice President for board of nonprofit focused on employment readiness for the unemployed and underemployed in Nashville, TN. Helped with on-going strategic planning. (2010 to 2014)
- o CEO, Selah Center for Spiritual Formation – Founded non-profit with focus on spiritual direction. Set vision and strategic plan. Grew from offering on-line courses to inclusion of Certificate in Spiritual Direction. (2015 to present)
- o AAMFT Board member – participated in generative process of the board under leadership of Marvarene Oliver and then Chris Habben. (2016 to 2018)
- o President, Penuel Ridge Retreat Center board – Served on board for two years and then as president of board for two years. Primary focus of tenure as president was assisting the organization weather and cast vision to survive and thrive beyond the pandemic. Helped with a strategic plan for the next chapter of the retreat center. (2019 to 2023)

o Chair, Council of Elders – Serve as Chair of the Elders with primary focus of delineation of roles both now and beyond my term. Strategic plan created with ongoing clarification of spiritual leadership role in collaboration with the clergy. (2020 to present)

• Organizational skills/Communication

- o Department chair/Program director – oversaw budget, maintained records for department and for inhouse clinic. (2005-2010)
- o President, Halstead and Associates, PC (professional corporation) – launched and have run a business for twenty-three years. Oversee employees and clinicians who sublet in private practice. (2000 to present)
- o CEO, Selah Center for Spiritual Formation – launched 501(c)3, maintain budget, organization business practice, oversee employees.
- o President/board member, Penuel Ridge Retreat Center – navigated pandemic with residential retreat center, kept close eye on CDC requirements. Communicated with ED and board members around best practices.
- o Associate Director, MFT Online program – continual oversight and completion of projects to assist with running of program. Communicate with adjuncts. (2017 to present)
- o School Liaison – role appointed by Dean of College of Graduate and Professional Studies to serve as communication liaison between the Dean and the program directors in the School of Health and Human Services. (2022 to present)
- o Professional speaker at national and international levels on topics mental and relational health and spirituality. (2000 to present)
- o Associate Professor – SME (subject matter expert), create and teach courses on subjects of Professional Ethics and the Law, Family Theory, Models of Therapy, Cultural Diversity, Couples Therapy, Family Life Cycle, Spirituality in MFT, Counseling for Church Leaders, Qualitative Research, Internship

• Select National Presentations (Communication)

- o *Creating Healthy Relationship, Texas Rangers Professional Development, Online, 2022.*
- o *Attending to Burnout, Faculty Development Training, ACU Dallas, Online, 2022.*
- o *Spiritual/Emotional Self Care, Kairos Consulting, Elizabeth, IN, 2022.*
- o *Spiritual/Emotional Self-Care for Therapists, Fuller Life Family Therapy Staff Retreat, Huntsville, TX, 2022*

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- o *Church Leadership Self-Care*, Nashville, TN, 2020, 2021, Castalian Springs, TN, Birmingham, AL, 2022
- o *Narrative Therapy - Family Therapy II*, MFT Program, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, 2020, 2022.
- o *Externalizing the Congregational Problem-Saturated Narrative*, Christian Scholars Conference, Congregational Science Panel, Christian Scholars Conference, Nashville, TN, 2021
- o "Patrick!" Podcast interview, "Leaning into God's Embrace – Contemplative Prayer," 2021
- o Online Interview, "The Listening Side of Prayer," Intersection, Siburt Institute, ACU, 2021
- o *Spiritual Self Care*, OKC, OK, 2021
- o *A Systems Approach to Understanding the Congregation*, ACU DMin Colloquium, Online 2021
- o *Latin American Women's Renewal*, Week-long Virtual Retreat, Great Cities Missions, Dallas, TX, 2020
- o *Clergy Support*, Central European Faith Talks Series, Virtual, 2020.
- o *Spiritual/Emotional/Relational Self-Care – East Africa Women's Retreat for NGO workers and missionaries*, Rondo Retreat Centre, Kakamega Rainforest, Kenya, Africa, April 8-12, 2019
- o *Differentiation for ministers – Contemplative Ministers Initiative*, Dallas, TX, 2018.
- o *StrengthsFinder and Ministry*, Weekend retreat, Centerville Lake, TN 2017
- o *Clergy support – ACU Summit*, Abilene, TX 2017.
- o *Contemplative prayer as self-care*, Invited plenary speaker, Christian Association for Psychological Studies, International (CAPS), Denver, CO, April 2015
- o *Sustenance for the journey: Care for church leader couples*, enVision Church Leaders pre-conference, Summer Celebration, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, 2014.
- o *Staff partnership health in large churches*, invited panelist, Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN 2014.
- o *Contemplative Prayer track*, Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) International, Atlanta, GA, April 2014.
- o *Reflecting Team training – Department of Marriage and Family Therapy*, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN 2014
- o *Measurement of Spirituality*, Generative session, Christian Scholars Conference, Pepperdine, Malibu, CA, 2011, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN 2012, 2013
- o *Self care for Clergy – Guest speaker on Intentional Living*, 2013 www.theintentionallife.com
- o *A Christian's response to the Muslim faith*, Panel Respondent for Family of Abraham guest speaker, Nashville, TN 2013

• Select Publications

- o Halstead, J.L. (2021). *Leaning into God's embrace: A guidebook for contemplative prayer*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood.
- o Reese, R.J., Usher, E.L., Bowman, D.C., Norsworthy, L.A., Halstead, J.L., Rowlands, S.R., & Chisholm, R.R. (2009). Using client feedback in psychotherapy training: An analysis of its influence on supervision and counselor self-efficacy. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 3, 157-168.
- o Halstead, J.L. (2006). Ethical and Legal Issues in Marriage and Family Therapy. *Our Common Body of Knowledge: National Licensing Exam Study*, AAMFT, Austin, TX.

(V) COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND EQUITY: Past and present activities demonstrating knowledge of and commitment to social justice and systemic science.

• Presentations (focus with clergy of color and white clergy)

- o *Racial Justice in Family Ministry*, Virtual class, Meadowbrook Church of Christ, Jackson, MS, 2020.
- o *Social activism grounded in spiritual practices*, Racial Unity Leadership Symposium, Carl Spain Center, ACU, Online, 2020.
- o *Forgiveness*, Racial Unity Leadership Symposium Contemplative Retreat, Cullman, AL, 2020.
- o *Response to the Botham Jean Family: Readings from the Heart*, Racial Unity Leadership Symposium, Dallas, TX, 2019.
- o *Life Together*, Racial Unity Leadership Symposium leadership preparation, Dallas, TX, 2019.
- o *Cost of Discipleship for White Christians*, Racial Unity Leadership Symposium (RULS), Jackson, MS, 2018.
- o *Racial reconciliation retreat – Retreat for leaders of Black and White Churches of Christ for purposes of reconciliation – Lebh Shomea, Samarita, TX 2014.*

• Education/Service

- o *Cultural Diversity courses*, instructor, 1998 to present *Faithful Anti-racism*, Facilitator of Book Club, ACU Dallas online, October-November, 2022.
- o Served on Queer Affirmative Caucus Task Force (QACTF) for AAMFT board, 2017.
- o Director of Education, Scarritt Bennett Retreat Center – oversaw assistant directors leading departments in empowerment of women, cultural diversity, and faith-based programming. Emphasis was educating the Nashville community in understanding and activism. 2014-2015.