

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AND DIVERSITY PROJECT



RESEARCH METHODS

✧ **National sample**

✧ **125 in-depth interviews** with multiracial/multiethnic church head clergy and denomination and religious association leaders.

✧ **40 focus groups** with congregants of racially and ethnically diverse congregations.

✧ **Surveys** of focus group participants.

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The U.S. Census projects that half of the U.S. population will be people of color by 2050. This reality is not lost on the American religious community. Denominations, churches, and religious media are increasingly committed to racial and ethnic diversity. Researchers too are engaged in scholarship on racial diversity and religion. However, there has of yet been a comprehensive focus on the role that head clergy play in sustaining congregational racial and ethnic diversity.

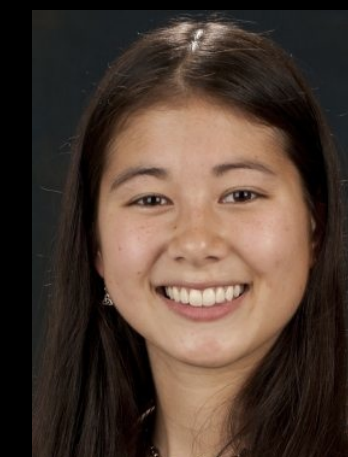
The *Religious Leadership and Diversity Project* will address this limitation. The primary intent of this study is to understand what it means to be multiracial/multiethnic church head clergy; their leadership capacity, challenges and rewards, and the kinds of resources available to them. It will yield the first-ever broad, yet detailed body of knowledge about religious leadership of racially and ethnically diverse congregations that is: (i) based upon rigorous, theoretically grounded empirical research; and (ii) derived from nationwide data on a diverse sample of leaders and congregants.



Principal Investigator
Korie L. Edwards
Associate Professor



Project Manager
Christopher Munn
Ph.D. Student



Research Assistant
Michelle Oyakawa
Ph.D. Candidate