

# Donna Fado Ivery

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## PROFILE

Donna Fado Ivery is a United Methodist Clergywoman whose ministerial focus is the Art of Healing. Her 8th year of pastoring was interrupted by a 1994 freak restaurant accident in which she sustained a disabling head and neck injury. While brain injury made speaking and concentration toilsome, Donna began to express herself through painting. These oil paintings became a journal revealing the way the Spirit speaks for us in our times of not knowing, how the character of pain relates to our deepest selves, and the absolute persistence of healing.

Donna Fado Ivery's professional training in organizational behavioral sciences, theology, pastoral care and counseling alone make her eminently qualified to teach on this subject. As a pastor and community leader she has accompanied, counseled and led communities of compassion, justice, and healing. She brings to her work skills at writing, spiritual reflection, teaching, as well as her knowledge and experience with psycho-social dynamics.

Her own experience of the sudden interruption of life and self from a disabling accident, and her journey to healing through discovering artistic expression authenticates her celebrated knowledge and demonstrated skills. Donna powerfully conveys how art and spirituality have led her through layers of healing. She teaches hope through identifiable stages of living with chronic pain, challenges clichés that are not helpful to those who suffer, and shows how to find the balance necessary for Dancing with Pain.

As an artist, Donna has developed a fresh and new passionate painting style like no other with a pure celebration of creativity and healing. Whether she is painting acrylic on silk, "Woven from cocoon threads, silk reminds me of that sacred space of waiting for the unknown while wrapped within the security and presence of a loving God," or telling the story of Bible-based prejudice and process of healing by creating the Table of Tears out of stained-glass mosaic, "because it combines the beauty of church tradition with the brokenness of prejudice, seen best when illuminated," Donna is bold in her use of innovative, organic materials. Dedicated to the Art of Healing as keynote speaker, conference painter, preacher, and writer, Donna Fado Ivery distills the clutter down to an amazingly articulate and resilient breath of fresh air which has been well received by secular, interfaith, and Christian audiences.

Donna brings excellence in pastoral skills and academia to reveal and support the healing process. While continuing on disability, she contributes by leading workshops, speaking, writing, and creating art. She makes and sells her, "Scarf of Tears" (a gift for the healing process of grief or difficult times) out of her art ministry business, Spirit Brush Arts: Adventures in Healing. She lives in Richmond, CA with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Hubert Ivery, also a UM Minister. They have two adult daughters.

## COURSE CHANGING INJURY: JANUARY 26, 1994

While seated in a restaurant, a more than 200 lb. glass partition, around 5 x 6.5 feet x ½ inch thick, loosed from its ceiling moorings, fell, and hit Donna twice on the head. She had sustained a disabling mild traumatic brain injury and cervical strain. After five years of rehabilitation, her residual disabilities included chronic pain, left side weakness, and visual insufficiencies. Use of a power wheelchair helped Donna to manage situations which involve standing for more than fifteen minutes. While her disabilities are invisible to others, she is able to deliver high energy presentations for up to three hours. Although these limitations had been stable for seventeen years, Donna's mobility and endurance has rapidly improved since 2010.



## **COURSE CHANGING HEALING: SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

After years of deepening work with a skilled healer, Donna experienced a miraculous healing event which she calls, "a four hour long brain surgery with the angels." No more cane. Dramatically increased up hours. Immediate release of blinding pain necessitating strong narcotics. Donna continues regular Shamanic work and dedication to the spiritual life, and has broken through in a number of healing thresholds. All of this is part of the Adventures in Healing journey.



## **EDUCATION**

**1986. Master of Divinity. Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Massachusetts.**

Emphasis: Biblical and Historical Studies.

Honors: Graduated cum laude. Wesley Scholar: with an award of full tuition plus living expenses stipend:

1983-84, 1984-85. 1984-86.

**1983. Bachelor of Science. College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California at Davis, Davis, California.**

Major: "Community and Organizational Development: Applied Behavioral Sciences."

Dean's Student Advisory Committee, Vice-Chairperson, 1982-83.

Executive Committee, College of A&ES, one of two student members, 1982-83.

Honors: Graduated with High Honors.

Dean's Departmental Service Award, 1983.

Merit Scholar. 1981-82. 1982-83.

**1979. High School Diploma. Bullard High School, Fresno, California.**

## **BUSINESS**

**1997-Present**

**Founder and Director, Spirit Brush Arts: Adventures in Healing.**

## **CHURCH WORK**

**1981-1994**

**Senior Pastor, Madera United Methodist Church, Madera, California**

**1993-1994**

**Ordained Elder, California-Nevada Annual Conference, the United Methodist Church**

**1989**

**Elected or Appointed to National Church Leadership**

**1980-1988**

General Conference delegate.

Secretary, International Native American Caucus, the United Methodist Church.

General Commission on Religion and Race, the United Methodist Church.

Chairperson, Youth and Young Adult Racism Committee of the General Commission on Religion and Race

Vice-President, Ecumenical Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation

Chairperson, Publishing and Curriculum Committee of the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation.

**Peace with Justice Intern, the Native American United Methodist Church of the Greater Los Angeles Area, Norwalk, California.**

**Summer 1985**

**Chaplain Associate, Marsh Chapel of Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts**

**1984-1985**

**Minister in Training, Wesley United Methodist Church, Fresno, California**

**Summer 1981**

## ART OF HEALING/SPIRITUALITY/DANCING WITH PAIN WORKSHOPS 1998-Present

Keynote Speaker, Preacher, "Gathering of the Orders" retreat for ministers of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Aptos, California, 2016

Preacher, The General Board of Global Ministries Disabilities Ministries Committee, Dallas, Texas, 2015

Retreat Leader, Preacher, Speaker, Women's Spiritual Retreat, Retreat leader, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California, 2014

Keynote Speaker, United Methodist Women District Retreat, Novato, California, 2013

Keynote Speaker, Delta Quilters Guild, Brentwood, California, 2013

Workshop Speaker, "Too Freaky for Church: Stories of My Miraculous Healing," at the Order of the Elders Retreat, Mt. Hermon, California, 2012

Keynote Speaker, Lenten Weekend Interdenominational Event, Florence, Oregon, 2011

Led three Saturday workshops and preached for Sunday morning worship

A Day Retreat for Stephens Ministry Caregivers and Leaders, Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda, California, 2010

Led lay caregivers through understanding Spiritual Resiliency, the Stages of Living with Pain, and what is helpful to those who are suffering.

Lunch Speaker, Retired Teachers Association of the Bay Area, Alameda, California, 2010

Living Water Women's Retreat, Awakenings Christian Church, Concord, California, 2010

Holy Spirit Lead Us Retreat of the California-Nevada Annual Conference Clergy-Diaconal Women in Ministry Association, Lafayette, California, 2009

Program Speaker, PEO League of El Cerrito, California 2006

Healing Pain through Art and Spirituality, Day Retreat, The Presentation Center, Los Gatos, California 2004

Healing Pain through Art and Spirituality Day Retreat, sponsored by the Interfaith Network and Stanford University Center for Gerontology. Los Altos, California 2002

Art of Healing Workshop, International Consultation of Clergywomen. San Diego, California 2002

Lecturer and Preacher, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Evanston, Illinois 2001

The Art of Healing afternoon program, The United Methodist Women of the Methodist United Church, Berkeley, California 2001

The Art of Healing -- A Spiritual Day Apart, The Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, Maryland 2000  
Sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference Committee on Persons with disabilities

Lecturer and Preacher, Wesley Seminary, Washington D.C. 2000

Brain Injury and Brushes of the Spirit Day Retreat and Sunday Morning Preaching, Wesley United Methodist Church, Fresno, California 2000

Wise Woman Lecturer, the Art of Healing, Women in Leadership Retreat, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Atlanta, Georgia. 1999

Holy Conferencing through the Arts, for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women Fall Meeting, Millbrae, California, 1998

### Sunday Morning Preaching,, 1997-2020

Geneva Avenue United Methodist Church, San Francisco, California

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Cupertino, California

Berkeley Methodist United Church, Berkeley, California

First United Methodist Church, Pinole, California

Hillsdale United Methodist Church, San Mateo, California

First United Methodist Church, South San Francisco, California

El Cerrito United Methodist Church, El Cerrito, California

First United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California

The United Methodist Church, Los Gatos, California

First United Methodist Church, Sunnyvale, California

Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda, California

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Richmond, California

South Hayward United Methodist Church, Hayward, California

Florin United Methodist Church, Florin, California

San Bruno United Methodist Church, San Bruno, California

Pinole United Methodist Church, Pinole, California

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Orinda, California



Berkeley United Methodist Church, Berkeley, California  
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Cupertino, California  
Geneva Avenue United Methodist Church, San Francisco, California  
Open Door United Methodist Church, Richmond, California  
Easter Hill United Methodist Church, Richmond, California  
Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Richmond, California

## POET AND WRITER

**Made New! Women's Conference Speaker**, Tracy United Methodist Church, California, October 2020.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal, Zoom Lecture**, Brentwood & Tracy United Methodist Churches, California, September 2020.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal, Book Talk**, Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore, California, February 2020.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Signing**, The Gathering of the Orders Conference, Livermore, California, January 2020.

**Television Interview, Mosaic**, CBS Studios, San Francisco, California.. December 2019. Interview available on Donna's website and on YouTube.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Signing**, Half-Price Books, Berkeley, California, December 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Party**, at the home of Patriccia Fado, Sacramento, California, November 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Presentation, A Literary Evening**, Saint Marks United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California. November 2019..

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Talk**, Heritage Park Senior Living Center, Sacramento, California, October 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Talk**, Great Minds Reading Group, Davis, October 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Launch**, Book Passage Bookstore, Corte Madera, California, October 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Testimonial**, Christian Churches United Conference, Montgomery, Alabama, October 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Testimonial**, Empowering Vision Ministries Church, Peachtree Corners, Georgia, September 2019.

**The Faulkner Society Writers' Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, September 2019.**

**Sleep, Pray, Heal, Presentation to Clinical Pastoral Education Class**, Oceana Medical Center, New Orleans, LA, September 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Book Launch**, Easter Hill United Methodist Church, Richmond, California, September 19, 2019.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Reading**, The California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Modesto, California. 2018.

**Sleep, Pray, Heal Reading**, Book Passage Bookstore, Corte Madera, California. 2018.

**Featured Poet, Monthly Poetry Event, Kawika's Ocean Beach Deli, San Francisco, California. 2017.**

**Writing and Meditation Retreats, 2004-2020**

Sacramento, Redding, Vallejo, and Livermore, California.

Waltham, Methuen, and Watertown, Massachusetts and Carson City, Nevada.

**Paper Presentation, "Finding Wholeness through Image, Spirit, and Truth. Painting as a Practice of Self Care: Chronic Pain and Brain Injury Disability"** at the Center for Women and Religion, the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. April 1999.



## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**FINALIST, Nonfiction Book, William Faulkner-Wisdom Creative Writing Competition, Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society, New Orleans, Louisiana. 2019.** 209 entries from six countries competing.

**AWARD WINNER, Writer's Digest 2019 Competition, in the Inspirational/Spiritual Category.**(2 chapters of *Sleep, Pray, Heal*)

**SEMI-FINALIST, Essay Contest, William Faulkner-Wisdom Competition, Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society, New Orleans, LA. 2017**





**Grant Recipient, the California Foundation for the Arts and the University of California Los Angeles Disabled Artists Program. 2015, 2016, 2020.**

**Clergy Coaching Grant Recipient, multiple years, the California-Nevada Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church.**

**Frank Bette Art Center, Alameda, California, won "Best in Show" award, for a silk painting. 2008**

**Art Grants for Special Events in the Classroom, for grades 1-12. Developed and received grant funding for art projects in grades, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11 over a ten year period. The Ed Fund, Contra Costa County, California.**



## TEACHING ART

Donna often includes Silk Scarf Painting Workshops within an Art of Healing retreat experience. Of the above listed retreats, she has taught Flow with the Spirit Silk Painting at the following locations:

**Concord, Maryland, Fresno, Atlanta, Millbrae, Berkeley, Evanston, Los Gatos, Los Altos, and South San Francisco.**

**Substitute Teacher, The National Institute for Art and Disabilities, Richmond, California, 2014-Present.**

**Silk Scarf Painting at the Picnic in the Park, Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda, California. 2011**

**Expressive Silk Painting as Spiritual Practice, "Holy Spirit, Lead Us Retrat," California-Nevada United Methodist Clergywomen Association, Lafayette, California, 2009**

**Expressive Silk Painting at the West County Community High School, Richmond, California 2008-2009**

Acquired grant funding and taught at assemblies and workshops culminating in an evening Art Show with student and staff individual paintings and exhibit of the 11x17 foot Golden Gate Bridge Silk Collage which was created out of failed paintings with student collaboration.

**Silk Painting Demonstration and Display with Individual Instruction, The International United Methodist Clergywomen Consultation, Chicago Illinois, 2006.**

**Acrylic Painting for the 4th and 5th grades, Crestmont Elementary School, Richmond, California, 2004-2005**

Taught weekly painting class, including color theory, composition, and project development.

**School Quilt and Silk Painting Project, Manzanita Middle School, Richmond, California, 2003-2004**

Acquired grant funding and taught silk scarf painting and sewing. Field trip to the botanical gardens, and student haiku about the values of the Manzanita tree/school were incorporated into a silk quilt of a Manzanita tree.

**Artist in Residence, City of Berkeley Family Camp, Groveland, California 2000-2004**

Taught silk scarf painting workshops(ages 3 and up) for a week each summer, each week concluding with a show of painted scarves hung on lines from the trees.

**Silk Scarf Painting and Life Science of the Silkworms in the Public Schools, 1st-8th Grades. 1999-2004**  
**Castro Elementary School, El Cerrito, California, and Manzanita Middle School, Richmond, California**

Acquired grant funding and led the classes to raise silkworms and paint silk scarves.

**Flow with the Spirit Silk Painting Workshop, at the Convening of the Elders Retreat of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, at the Zephyr Cove Retreat Center, Zephyr Cove, Nevada. 2003**

**Acrylic Painting and the Science of Color for the 6th Grade, Castro Elementary School, El Cerrito, California. 2000-2001**

Acquired grant funding and taught scientific method using prisms and shadow boxes, followed by each student painting three canvases with acrylic paint.

**Flow with the Spirit Guided Meditation and Silk Painting at Family Camp at the Diamond Arow Conference Center, Nevada City, for the St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California 2000**



**Flow with the Spirit Silk Scarf Painting Workshop, at the Jubilee Conference of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sonoma State University, Sonoma, California 2000.**

**Black History Month Quilt Project, Los Cerritos Elementary School, South San Francisco, California, 1999**

Taught weekly art class for the third grade, including role play, film, and students drawing of squares about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statement, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The project culminated in an 7x10 foot quilt, and students presentation of it on a local cable television station.

**Silk Scarf Painting, Los Cerritos Elementary School, South San Francisco, California, 1999**

Taught silk scarf painting for the second grade classes.

## THE TABLE OF TEARS: ART INSTALLATION AND INTERPRETATION

**Interpreting the Art of Healing and display of the portable 6 foot diameter stained glass and acrylic art installation built of seven tear-shaped portraits (2x3 ft each), a sculptural flame centerpiece, lit beneath and blossoming when whole. The Table of Tears tells the story of the Art of Healing.**

**The "Gathering of the Orders," retreat for ministers, The California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, Aptos, California, 2016.**

Keynote preacher and teacher of three plenary sessions.

**The California-Nevada United Methodist Women's "Mission U," Retreat, Sacramento, California, 2014**

Plenary Preacher and Disabilities Class teacher.

**Mosaic television show, KPIX Channel 5, San Francisco, California, 2010.**

Interview.

**The West Coast Call to Action Roman Catholic Conference, Sacramento, California, 2007**

Keynote Interpretation, Sunday Morning Preacher, and Workshop Leader

**Proclaiming the Whole Gospel: A Gathering for United Methodists, Campbell, California, 2006**

Keynote Preacher and Workshop Leader.

**The Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, San Jose, California, 2004**

**Sunday Morning Preaching with the Table of Tears, 2004-2020**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Orinda, California

Wesley United Methodist Church, Fresno, California

The United Methodist Church, Rancho Cordova, California

The First United Methodist Church, Redding, California

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California

Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda, California

The First United Methodist Church, Pinole, California

Florin United Methodist Church, Florin, California

The El Cerrito United Methodist Church, El Cerrito, California

Easter Hill United Methodist Church, Richmond, California



## **SPIRIT PAINTER: PERFORMANCE PAINTING AND INTERPRETATION 2006-2008**

Painting of three 3x5 foot silk canvases to inspirational music, followed by a brief spoken message.

Preacher/Painter for the Ordination Service of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, California 2006

Sunday Morning Worship: Painting the Message, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, El Cerrito, California 2008

## **EXHIBITIONS**

**Healing Motions on Canvas: Brain Injury and Brushes of the Spirit.** Twelve paintings with accompanying poetry and reflections surveying the first three years of brain injury, the character of pain, and the persistence of healing.

Religion and the Arts Show, Los Altos United Methodist Church, Los Altos, California, 2003

The United Methodist Conference Center, West Sacramento, California, 1998

The Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, California, 1998

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Sacramento, California, 1997

Galt United Methodist Church, Galt, California, 1997

### **Silk Paintings Exhibit**

Silk Paintings of the Sacred Exhibit, Doug Adams Memorial Sanctuary Gallery, Orinda, California, 2013

Frank Bette Art Center, Alameda, California, won "Best in Show" award, 2008

Gallery Evening, West County Community High School, Richmond, California, 2009

Convening of the Orders Retreat, California-Nevada Annual Conference, Zephyr Cove,,Nevada, 2006, 2003

International Clergywomen Consultation, Chicago, Illinois, 2006

Community Arts Event, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, El Cerrito, California, 2006

Zephyr Cove Retreat Center, Zephyr Cove, Nevada, 2005

Fourth of July City Faire, the Table of Tears and Silk Paintings Exhibit El Cerrito, California, 2004

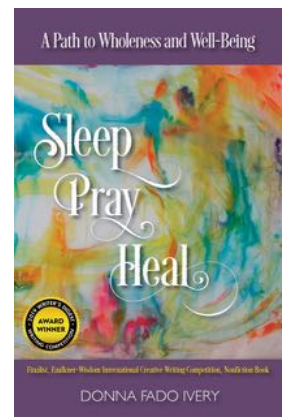
Convening of the Elders Retreat, California-Nevada Annual Conference, Zephyr Cove, Nevada, 2003

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Sleep, Pray, Heal: A Path to Wholeness and Well-Being.* An inspirational memoir about brain injury, chronic pain, and Spirit leading to healing. Published by Adventures in Healing, September 2019. ISBN 9781733639958

*Sleep, Pray, Heal: A Path to Wholeness and Well-Being.* Ebook. Available on Amazon Kindle, ISBN .978-1-7336399-9-6

*Sleep, Pray, Heal:Color Images.* A downloadable pdf to print at home of those images appearing in black and white in Donna's book. Available at [www.AdventuresInHealing.com](http://www.AdventuresInHealing.com) . September 2019.



*Dancing Through the Pain: Spirit and Hope in Pain Recovery DVD.* In art and spoken word, Donna shares her struggle to return to herself after brain injury, the "Four Stages of Living with Pain," and Spirit-led healing. Published by Adventures in Healing. December 2016.



*Guided Meditation CD.* A spiritual exercise of relaxation, breathwork, and meeting a loved one. Published by Adventures in Healing. March 2014.

*Speaking Out: Gifts of Ministering Undeterred by Disabilities,* edited by Robert L. Walker, North Charleston: CreateSpace,Inc. 2012. The book has a



picture of Donna's painting, "Circle Dance" on the cover, and the first chapter written by Donna. All proceeds go to benefit The United Methodist Association of Disabled Ministers.

*Cherish*, a 5x7 notecard with Donna's painting on the front. Published by Adventures in Healing. December 2011.

*Circle Dance*, a 5x7 notecard with Donna's painting on the front. Published by Adventures in Healing. December 2011.

*Spirit Brush Arts*. Wellsprings: A Journal of United Methodist Clergywomen, Volume 14, 2011. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church.. [www.gbhem.org/wellsprings/2011](http://www.gbhem.org/wellsprings/2011)

*A Passionate Preacher's Journey Through Brain Injury, Disability, and the Discovery of the Sacramental Art of Healing*. Liturgy, Volume 23 Issue 2, 19. February 2008. Taylor and Francis Publishing.

*Dancing with Pain*, notecard with painting and poem. Self-published by Spirit Brush Arts. 2004.

Table of Tears Photo Bookmark. 2009.

*Dancing with Pain*. Poem and two pages about Donna are published in [Seeing In The Dark: A Vision of Creativity and Spirituality](#) by Beverly J. Shamana. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2001. Pp. 117-119.

*The Sabbath Question* in Fall 2001 "Wellsprings", a Journal of the United Methodist Clergywomen, United Methodist Publishing House.

*Healing Motions on Canvas: Brain Injury and Brushes of the Spirit*, laminated photos of six paintings to accompany the audiotape of the sermon preached at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. January 1997. 75 copy edition.

*Healing Motions on Canvas: Brain Injury and Brushes of the Spirit*, video of sermon preached at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. January 1997. 100 copy edition.

*Scarf of Tears: Offering Comfort and Care for the Healing Process of Grief, and the Scarf of Tears: Offering Comfort and Care for Difficult Times*. A gift set including a hand-painted silk scarf and Interfaith inspirational reflection. Copyright: Spirit Brush Arts, Donna Fado Ivery, Richmond, CA. Editions: 1997, 2003, 2008.

*Finding Wholeness through Image, Spirit, and Truth. Painting as a Practice of Self Care: Chronic Pain and Brain Injury Disability*. The Center for Women and Religion, the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. April 1999.

Regular contributor and Editor( of *Voices and Silences*, a quarterly professional newsletter, 1998-2017.

