Dr. Melinda (Mindy) McGarrah Sharp, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ethics at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She studied theology and medical ethics at the University of Virginia (BA), Yale University (MA), and Vanderbilt University (MA and PhD). At Phillips, Dr. McGarrah Sharp teaches courses in pastoral theology, ethics, and global issues at the masters and doctoral levels, including introductory course in pastoral theology and ethics, as well as electives in death and dying, ethics and violence, and border theology courses on the US-Mexico border and in Nicaragua.

Dr. McGarrah Sharp draws attention to experiences of intercultural conflict as sources of understanding and meaning across diverse communities. She teaches across traditional residential, online, concentrated and immersion formats of theological education, in addition to leading seminars in professional societies and local faith and interfaith communities.

Dr. McGarrah Sharp is the author the book *Misunderstanding Stories: Toward a Postcolonial Pastoral Theology,*[1] which considers psychological, moral, and theological dimensions of staying in relationship in the midst of interpersonal and especially intercultural conflicts. It revolves around four stories of conflict from when Dr. McGarrah Sharp was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Suriname, South America (2002-2004). This is a theoretical book written for the academic field of pastoral and practical theology. Dr. McGarrah Sharp is currently working on a book called *Mutual Bridging* about putting this theory into practice in various communities.

As a teacher-scholar, Dr. McGarrah Sharp studies grief and violence as present dynamics within all communities – she believes with postcolonial scholars that studying complex histories around contemporary practices of grief and resistance to violence will lead to deeper hope and peace. Dr. McGarrah Sharp is committed to integrating scholarship, teaching, and community involvement.

Dr. McGarrah Sharp is a trained clinical ethicist who serves on the Hillcrest Ethics Committee. She is a lay United Methodist, and returned Peace Corps volunteer.

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