

Charissa A. Mikoski

August 2025

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EMPLOYMENT

Hartford Institute for Religion Research
Hartford International University for Religion and Peace
Assistant Professor of Research

Hartford, CT

July 2025-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Research

July 2024-June 2025

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

June 2022-June 2024

EDUCATION

Purdue University
PhD in Sociology
Advisor: Dr. Daniel V.A. Olson
Dissertation: *Does the Religious Composition of Cities and Counties Influence Individuals' Attitudes About Racial Inequality?*

West Lafayette, IN
2023

Purdue University
Advanced Methods in the Behavioral, Health, and
Social Sciences Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

West Lafayette, IN
2023

Purdue University
M.S. in Sociology
Advisor: Dr. Daniel V.A. Olson
Analytic Project: *Does County Religious Context Affect Parent to Child Religious Transmission?*

West Lafayette, IN
2019

Westminster College
B.A. in Sociology (*summa cum laude*)
Minor in Religion
Capstone: *The Art of Balance: Influential Factors on Work-Life Balance Stress among Presbyterian Church (USA) Clergywomen.*

New Wilmington, PA
2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Religion
Congregations
Research Methods
Survey Methodology
Quantitative Methods and Statistics

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Mikoski, Charissa. 2025. "Churches and COVID-19: Key Trends in Congregational Life Since the Pandemic." *Religions* 16(6): 759-769. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16060759>

Mikoski, Charissa and Daniel V. A. Olson. 2021. "Does County Religious Context Affect Parent to Child Religious Transmission?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 60(3): 611-27. <http://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12727>

Book Reviews

Mikoski, Charissa. 2024. "Book Review: *An Epidemic among My People: Religion, Politics, and COVID-19 in the United States*." *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. 39(2):322. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13537903.2024.2334123>

Research Reports and Research Briefs (Primary Researcher)

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "*This Place Means Everything to Me*": Key Findings from a National Survey of Church Attenders in Post-Pandemic United States. June 2025.

Mikoski, Charissa, Heidi A. Campbell, and Sophia Osteen. *The Impact of Technology Grants on Congregational Vitality During the Pandemic: A Comparison of Data*. December 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. *Politics in the Pews? Analyzing Congregational Political Engagement*. November 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa and B. Clarvon Watts. *The Episcopal Church: Analysis of the 2023 Parochial Report Data*, October 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa. *Top 5 Takeaways from Finances and Faith Report*. July 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *Finances and Faith: A Look at Financial Health Among Congregations in the Post-Pandemic Reality*. July 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa. *Key Findings from Clergy Health and Wellness Report*. March 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. "*Challenges are Great Opportunities*": Exploring Clergy Health and Wellness in the Midst of a Post-Pandemic Malaise. March 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *The Continuing Impact of Technology on Congregations: Hybrid Worship, Online Giving, and Implications for the Future*. February 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa. *Top 5 Takeaways from Growing Clergy Discontentment Report*. January 2024.

Mikoski, Charissa. *The Episcopal Church: Analysis of the 2022 Parochial Report Data*. September 2023.

Mikoski, Charissa. *Covid Safety Measures in The Episcopal Church: An Analysis of the 2021 Parochial Report Qualitative Questions*. January 2023.

Mikoski, Charissa. *Responses to the Injustices of Racism by The Episcopal Church: An Analysis of the 2021 Parochial Report Qualitative Questions*. January 2023.

Research Reports and Research Briefs (Contributing Researcher)

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *Stubborn or Persistent?: How American Orthodox Christian Churches Dealt with and Recovered from the Pandemic*. August 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *"I'm Exhausted All the Time": Exploring the Factors Contributing to Growing Clergy Discontentment*. January 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *Understanding the Pandemic Impact on Black and Multiracial Congregations*. January 2024.

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. *Back to Normal?: Churches Rebounding After Pandemic, but Still Struggling in Some Areas*. August 2023.

MEDIA MENTIONS

2024

December 10, "Study: Evangelical Churches Aren't Particularly Political," Fiona Andre, Christianity Today.

December 9, "Most Congregations Avoid Discussing Politics, New Study Shows," Fiona Andre, The Roys Report.

December 9, "Most Congregations Avoid Discussing Politics, New Study Shows," Fiona Andre, Religion News Service.

December 4, "Politics in the Pews? Analyzing Congregational Political Engagement," Scott Thumma, Favs News.

November 23, "Politics in the Pews? Analyzing Congregational Political Engagement," Charissa Mikoski and Scott Thumma, Religion Unplugged.

November 19, "Politics in the Pews? Analyzing Congregational Political Engagement," Charissa Mikoski and Scott Thumma, United Methodist Insight.

November 11, "Parochial Report Data Says Pandemic Era Has Ended," Mark Michael, The Living Church.

November 11, "Episcopal Church 2023 Parochial Report data now available," The Anglican Link.

November 10, “Episcopal Church 2023 parochial report data shows recovery from pandemic attendance lows,” David Paulsen, Episcopal News Service.

September 24, “Clergy Report Surprising Financial Optimism, but Experts Caution about Hidden Struggles,” Tracy Simmons, Favs News.

July 23, “Financial Health of U.S. Congregations,” Greg Gillispie, Family Life Radio Network.

July 21, “Financial Resilience and Challenges in Religious Organizations Post-Pandemic,” Fred Bodimer, Total Information AM Weekend.

July 20, “Congregations in Best Financial Health Since Pandemic, Clergy Say in New Report,” Ellie Davis, Episcopal News Service.

July 19, “New Report Reveals Post-Pandemic Financial Landscape of US Churches,” Favs News.

July 18, “Congregations in Best Financial Health Since Pandemic, Clergy Say in New Report,” Ellie Davis, The Roys Report.

July 17, “Congregations in Best Financial Health Since Pandemic, Clergy Say in New Report,” Ellie Davis, Religion News Service.

April 16, “Part-Time Clergy Score Highest in Every Health and Wellness Category,” Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations, Favs News.

February 7, “Yes, Technology has become more critical for U.S. churches since pandemic,” Jeff Brumley, Baptist News Global.

2023

September 22, “Episcopal Attendance Bounces Back 19% from Pandemic Low,” Kirk Peterson, The Living Church.

September 21, “Episcopal Church 2022 Parochial Report data now available,” The Anglican Link.

2021

November 16, “Why You May Want to Factor Faith into Your Home Search,” Kelsey Dallas, Desert News.

October 29, “Religion in the U.S.: Items of Note from Ongoing Research,” Frank Newport, Gallup Polling Matters.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Views from The Pews: How 25,000 Church Attendees Describe Post-Pandemic Congregational Life." Presented at the annual meeting of Society for the American Academy of Religion, November, Boston, MA.
- Mikoski, Charissa. 2025. "Spiritual But Also Religious? Examining the Religious and Spiritual Practices of US Church Attendees." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, November, Minneapolis, MN.
- Thumma, Scott and Charissa Mikoski. 2025. "A Glimpse of The New Normal: How 24,000 Church Attendees Describe The Post-Pandemic Congregational Life." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, November, Minneapolis, MN.
- Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Committed, Casual, or Clicking In? A Look at Post-Pandemic Church Attendees." Presented at the annual meeting of Association for the Sociology of Religion, August, Chicago, IL.
- Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2024. "Exploring Clergy Health and Wellness in the Midst of a Post-Pandemic Malaise." Presented at the Canadian Church Research Gathering 2024 organized by the Canadian Institute for Empirical Church Research, December, Toronto, Canada.
- Thumma, Scott and Charissa Mikoski. 2024. "The Congregational Contextual Impact on Clergy Health and Wellness." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, October, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Norton, Allison and Charissa Mikoski. 2024. "Congregations and their Buildings: Long Term Trends and New Priorities in a post-COVID Era." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, October, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2024. "The Congregational Contextual Impact on Clergy Health and Wellness." Presented at the annual meeting of Association for the Sociology of Religion, August, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Norton, Allison, Charissa Mikoski, and Colleen Hill. 2024. "Working Cooperatively to Gather Data on Congregations." Presented at the annual convention of Religion Communicators Council, April, Louisville, KY.
- Mikoski, Charissa. "Technology Use by Congregations in 2023." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, October, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Norton, Allison, Patricia Tevington, Hannah Evans, and Charissa Mikoski. 2022. "Solidarity at Six Feet Away? Congregant Experiences in Different Worship Modalities and Gatherings in Hartford, Connecticut." Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, November, Baltimore, MD.

Mikoski, Charissa and Daniel V. A. Olson. 2019. "Does County Religious Context Affect Parent to Child Religious Transmission?" Presented at the annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, October, St. Louis, MO.

Mikoski, Charissa and Daniel V. A. Olson. 2019. "Does County Religious Context Affect Parent to Child Religious Transmission?" Presented at the annual meeting of North Central Sociological Association, March, Cincinnati, OH.

Mikoski, Charissa. 2017. "The Art of Balance: Influential Factors of Work-Life Balance Stress among Presbyterian Church (USA) Clergywomen." Presented at the Undergraduate Research and Arts Celebration, April, New Wilmington, PA.

Mikoski, Charissa. 2017. "The Art of Balance: Influential Factors of Work-Life Balance Stress among Presbyterian Church (USA) Clergywomen." Presented at the Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Sociology Symposium, April, Wooster, OH.

INVITED TALKS

Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Attending Church in a Post-Pandemic World: Insights from 24,000 Churchgoers" Presented at FACT Annual Meeting, August, Louisville, KY.

Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Attending Church in a Post-Pandemic World: Insights from 24,000 Churchgoers" Presented at EPIC Webinar, June, online.

Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Views from the Pews: Preliminary Results from the EPIC Attender Survey." Presented at New England Religion Discussion Society meeting, April, Hartford, CT.

Mikoski, Charissa. 2025. "Survey Design and Analysis." Presented in Doctor of Ministry Colleague Seminar II Course (graduate level) at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, April, online.

Mikoski, Charissa. 2025. "Data Related to Congregations and their Buildings." Presented at Closing Congregations Working Group meeting, March, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Mikoski, Charissa and Scott Thumma. 2025. "Views from the Pews: Preliminary Results from the EPIC Attender Survey." Presented at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace Collegial Sharing, March, online.

Mikoski, Charissa. 2024. "Religion in the United States: A Brief Overview." Presented in Political Religion—Religious Politics: Comparative Perspectives (USA and Germany) Course (graduate level) at Philipps-University Marburg, May, online.

Norton, Allison, Charissa Mikoski, and B. Clarvon Watts. 2024. "Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations: Recent Findings and Lessons Learned Along the Way." Presented at Religious Research Association Webinar Series, March, online.

- Thumma, Scott and Charissa Mikoski. 2024. “Challenges Are Great Opportunities: Exploring Clergy Health and Wellness in The Midst of Post-Pandemic Malaise.” Presented at EPIC Webinar Series: From Surviving to Thriving, Research-Based Insights for Congregational Flourishing, March, online.
- Mikoski, Charissa. 2024. “Changing Dynamics of Churches in a Post-Pandemic Reality.” Presented at Westminster College, February, New Wilmington, PA.
- Mikoski, Charissa. 2024. “Technology Use by Congregations in 2023” Presented at EPIC Webinar Series: From Surviving to Thriving, New Congregational Research for a New Year, February, online.
- Thumma, Scott, Charissa Mikoski, and Brittany Watts. 2024. “I’m Exhausted All the Time: Exploring the Factors Contributing to Growing Clergy Discontentment.” Presented at EPIC Webinar Series: From Surviving to Thriving, New Congregational Research for a New Year, January, online.
- Norton, Allison, Charissa Mikoski, and Brittany Watts. 2023. “Back to Normal? The Mixed Messages of Congregational Recovery Coming Out of the Pandemic.” Presented at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace Collegial Sharing, November, online.
- Mikoski, Charissa. 2023. “Overview of Regional Cases and Initial Findings from Key Informant Surveys.” Presented at EPIC Regional Case Studies Data Analysis Retreat, October, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Thumma, Scott and Charissa Mikoski. 2023. “Remaining Religious Communities: Challenges and Possibilities in a Post-Pandemic World.” Presented at Pastoral Innovation Network of New England Symposium, June, Hartford, CT.
- Thumma, Scott, Allison Norton, Sarah Brown, Hannah Evans, and Charissa Mikoski. 2022. “Plenary About Present Research—Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations Team Presentation on 2022 Data Results.” Presented at Hartford Institute for Religion Research: The 40th Anniversary Symposium, December, Hartford, CT.
- Mikoski, Charissa. 2020. “Impact of County Level Factors.” Presented in Political Sociology Course (undergraduate level) at Purdue University, April, online due to COVID-19.

RESEACH EXPERIENCE

Hartford Institute for Religion Research

Visiting Assistant Professor of Research

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Work on the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations project doing quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis at the congregational level.

Collaborate with the Faith and Communities Today project to program surveys in Qualtrics, with 7 language translations, and over 25 personalized versions

Hartford, CT

July 2024-Present

June 2022-June 2024

for more than 16 Christian denomination groups and 5 non-Christian religious groups.

Perform quantitative analysis and write research reports on a variety of topics for a non-specialist audience (clergy).

The Episcopal Church

Research Consultant

Analyzed annual giving and membership data for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. Updated “Fast Facts” report on comparison of five-year trends. Created user-friendly reports to present data in visually appealing and understandable ways.

Conducted qualitative analysis of over 5,000 congregations about their covid safety measures and their response to racism. Created two short reports summarizing trends for a lay audience.

New York, NY
August 2022-Present

Presbyterian Church (USA), 1001 New Worshiping Communities

Research Consultant

Conducted a content analysis of qualitative data and grant applications assessing measures of congregational vitality.

Louisville, KY
Dec 2019-Jan 2020

Pew Research Center

Religious Demography of Nations and Migrants Summer Intern
Explored multiple datasets to examine the non-religious population in South Africa using Stata and SPSS.

Washington DC
June-Aug 2019

Sociology Department, Purdue University

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Daniel V. A. Olson
Cleaned data using Stata and SPSS and constructed a longitudinal version of the Religious Congregations and Membership Study, 1980-2010.

West Lafayette, IN
Aug 2017-May 2019

Cocco Associates

Research Assistant

Populate an Excel file with data points to be used as a training exercise at a business school.

Princeton, NJ
Summers 2017 & 2018

The Confirmation Project (Lilly Endowment Inc.)

Research Assistant

Created tables and figures in Excel for data analysis from a nationwide study of confirmation practices among five major Protestant denominations.

Princeton, NJ
Oct 2015-June 2016

Presbyterian Church (USA), Research Services

Research Intern

Louisville, KY
June-July 2015

Created comparative statistics of membership and financial giving in Excel for 2014 and compiled an index of Presbyterian Panel study reports.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hartford International University	Hartford, CT
Teaching Apprentice	
Doctor of Ministry Seminar II: Exploring and Understanding the Local Religious Context	Jan-May 2025
Doctor of Ministry Seminar I: The Changing American Religious Landscape	Sept-Dec 2024
Sociology Department, Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN
Instructor of Record	
Introduction to Sociology (online)	May-June 2022
Introduction to Sociology (online)	May-June 2021
Introduction to Sociology (online)	May-June 2020
Sociology Department, Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN
Graduate Teaching Assistant	
Political Sociology (Marcus Mann)	Spring 2022 Fall 2021 Spring 2020
Transformative Texts, Critical Thinking, and Communication II: Modern World (Marcus Mann)	Spring 2022 Fall 2021 Fall 2020 Spring 2020 Fall 2019
Sociological Theory (Daniel V. A. Olson)	Spring 2021 Fall 2020
Introduction to Sociology (Patrica Thomas)	Fall 2019
Introduction to Statistics in Sociology (Daniel V. A. Olson)	Spring 2021 Fall 2020 Spring 2019 Fall 2018 Spring 2018
Religion in America (Daniel V. A. Olson)	Fall 2018
Sociology of Law (Beth Hoffman)	Fall 2017

SERVICE

Educational Support and Library committee member, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, 2024-2025.

Faculty Prizes committee member, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, 2024.

Sociology Department Representative to Purdue Graduate Student Government, Purdue University, 2020-2021.

Social Media Public Relations Assistant Purdue Graduate Student Government, Purdue University, 2020-2021.

Sociology Graduate Organization, Treasurer, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, 2019-2020.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Promise Award, Purdue University College of Liberal Arts, used to attend annual meetings of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association in 2019 (\$750).

Promise Award, Purdue University College of Liberal Arts, used to attend the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in 2018 (\$50).

Outstanding Sociology Capstone Research Award, Westminster College (\$50).

Second place Poster Competition, Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (\$50).

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (Section membership: Sociology of Religion)
 Association for the Sociology of Religion
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
 Religious Research Association
 American Academy of Religion
 Religious Communicators Council
 Alpha Kappa Delta

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata
 SPSS
 Qualtrics
 Survey Monkey
 Prolific
 Remark Office OMR
 ArcGIS Pro
 ArcGIS Online

REFERENCES

Available upon request