

Rev. Cecilia J. Williams, MDiv., is passionate about connecting the ministry of local churches and neighboring community organizations with the physical, social, structural, and spiritual realities and concerns of the communities in which they are planted. Throughout her vocational ministry career, she has been sharply focused on leadership development, intercultural competence, anti-racism and reconciliation, and helping people connect to God and His mission.

Following a successful career in corporate banking and investment management, Cecilia stepped into full-time ministry. A graduate of Bethel Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and a present candidate for a Doctor of Ministry degree at Luther Seminary, Cecilia recently completed seven years of national ministry and service with the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), Chicago, IL. There she had the “deep privilege” of serving as Executive Minister, as well as Ministry Development Director for the *Love Mercy Do Justice* mission priority of the denomination. In this role, Cecilia worked closely with local congregations, regional conferences, and national ministry partners to identify, develop, and initiate sustainable neighborhood restoration and reclamation projects, as well as advocate on matters of justice and reform.

During her tenure with the ECC, Cecilia innovated and pioneered *CovEnterprises*, a faith-based platform for social entrepreneurship which helped churches partner with and invest in local businesses specifically designed for community empowerment. She initiated an advancement program to foster economic incubation for funding startup ministries committed to forging holistic, transformational community development. And she helped to establish *Bezalel LLC*, a national affordable housing initiative, designed to lead individuals into shelter security and home ownership.

Cecilia also served in various regional and local executive leadership and nonprofit management capacities to include most recently Pastor, Sanctuary Covenant Church (SCC), Minneapolis, MN, as well as President (ex officio) of Sanctuary’s Community Development Corporation (CDC). Her experiences include graduate teaching at Bethel Theological Seminary, where she also served as Director of Multicultural Affairs.

Cecilia has a passion for forging alliances and mobilizing projects and resources to meet the growing and ever evolving needs of our ethnically, culturally and economically diverse (and increasingly divided) communities. Her vision is to foster Spirit-inspired justice work that is visionary, relevant, and which seeds the reality of God’s preferred future in which individuals, families and entire communities are made “whole.” She is presently writing in the area of intercultural development and leadership.

She is married to husband Troy and they have two adult children, Nicolette and Troy Jr. They presently reside in Minneapolis, MN.