

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Blythe Denham-Kieffer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*People of Faith – Mosaic of Faiths* Oral History project

Interview # PFM-A-L-2019-045

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham-Kieffer, pastor, head of staff and minister of word and sacrament at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *people of Faith – Mosaic of Faiths* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Apr 26 & Jun 20, 2019

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,  
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Ed Schoenbaum, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:20 + 0:56 / 1.33 + 0.93 = 2.26 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, seminary training, Lily Foundation and ministry

Session 2: Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 13, 2019.

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The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

Blythe Denham-Kieffer, *Mosaic of Faiths*, PFM-A-L-2019-045

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Blythe Denham (Kieffer) was born on November 4, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. She grew up in South Holland, Illinois and was raised in the Reformed Church of America before joining Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, which sponsored her ordination. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Hope College, a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Pastoral Counseling from Eden Theological Seminary.

She is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and serves on the advisory board of Care and Counseling, Inc. in St. Louis. She was a director of the PCUSA Board of Pensions from 2006-2012. She received a 2011 clergy renewal grant from the Lily Foundation. The theme of her sabbatical Hospitality Rediscovered included (1) a Medical Mission in Colombia, South America (2) multiple cross cultural experiences of spirituality and worship in Geneva, Switzerland; Taizé, France; and the Isle of Iona, Scotland and (3) an exploration of her family roots in Holland, Michigan, where ancestors from the Netherlands migrated.

She currently serves on the Contact Ministries Board of Directors, representing WPC, one of the founding congregations of this Springfield outreach. Blythe is married to Dr. Peter S. Kieffer, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at S.I.U. School of Medicine who works in St. John's Emergency Department and Nursery. Their son Paul is finishing law school at Tulane University in New Orleans where he is on the Law Review.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL; Presbyterian religion in America; Dr. Peter S. Kieffer; Eden Theological Seminary; Reformed Church of America; Contract Ministries, Springfield, IL; Lily Foundation clergy renewal grant; Presbyterian doctrinal theology

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