



YOGACHAPEL

The Spirit of Movement and Meditation

Stretching into a New Season

Yoga Chapel Announces New Leadership and Reorganization as a Nonprofit

Camp Hill, PA, March 14, 2023 – In a recent asset purchase agreement, the founder of Yoga Chapel, Bethel Lee, transferred ownership of the Canadian-based sole proprietorship she founded in 2012 to Rev. Anna Layman Knox and Kristin Mooney. Upon acquiring the entity, Layman Knox and Mooney reestablished Yoga Chapel in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as a nonprofit corporation and created a board of directors. The Board under the leadership of Mooney as president, Layman Knox as secretary, and Kyle Evans as treasurer is pursuing 501(c)(3) status for the ecumenical organization which exists to connect people outside the traditional church with Christ through a shared interest in the practice of yoga.

Since its founding, Yoga Chapel has created dozens of communities across Canada and the United States for people to explore the Christian story through the practice of yoga.

“Reorganizing as a nonprofit is central to our growth,” explains Mooney, who serves as the organization’s executive director. “We’re poised to partner with like-minded groups and individuals who see the growth of embodied worshiping communities like Yoga Chapel as an opportunity to engage in authentic relationships with people outside the traditional church.”

The newly-organized Yoga Chapel plans to grow its network of Yoga Chaplains through an education and coaching platform currently in development for release in 2024. The “Pathway to Yoga Chaplain” program will equip yoga instructors and Christian pastors for the work of shaping embodied worshiping communities. Yoga Chapel Director of Spirituality and Leadership Development Layman Knox, an ordained United Methodist clergy member and yoga instructor, will oversee the development of the curriculum designed to prepare participants in the areas of the integration of Christian spirituality and yoga practice, liturgical preparation for worship incorporating yoga, and the development of Yoga Chapel worshiping communities’ sacramental, missional, and communal life.

As an active leader in the United Methodist Church's holy work of dismantling racism and building beloved community, Layman Knox is sensitive to concerns of cultural appropriation in the context of Christians practicing yoga. "As Yoga Chaplains, we deeply appreciate and seek to honor the centuries of ancient wisdom that flow through yoga practice. As a Christian pastor engaging in yoga practice, I've found that the mind, body, and Spirit connection cultivated in yoga allows me to know, love, and serve Jesus in a more holistic way. As Kristin and I have shared Yoga Chapel over the past six years, we've seen healing and transformation in the lives of our community members that we believe honors the yoga tradition and also speaks powerfully of the presence of Christ in embodied worship."

Since March of 2017, Kristin and Anna have served as Yoga Chaplains leading a vibrant weekly gathering in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. As they begin shaping the future of the nonprofit, they recognize the foundational work of Lee and the original Yoga Chapel community. "We are deeply grateful to Bethel Lee for her creation of Yoga Chapel, for her inspired vision of embodied worship, and for her profoundly authored Yoga Chapel meditations and flows," says Layman Knox. "We're excited to begin working with our talented team of Yoga Chaplains who have led the local work of Yoga Chapel across the United States and Canada for more than a decade."

"Drawing upon the collective wisdom of the Yoga Chapel organization, we seek to shape hundreds more local Yoga Chapel communities that share Christ's love worldwide in a fresh way," says Mooney. "To meet this goal, we need partners to come alongside us to financially support this work."

To learn more about partnering with Yoga Chapel, contact Kristin Mooney at kmooney@yogachapel.org or Anna Layman Knox at aknox@yogachapel.org.

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