

Rev. Dr. Deborah Little
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"On any night in Boston, 6,000 or more people are homeless, of which some 300 are sleeping on the street. As we do our work in Boston, we grow more certain that the church belongs on the street as long as there are people whose principle dwelling and orientation is the street. Ecclesia Ministries continues to be a beacon of light to people otherwise not reached by the gifts of the church."

Areas of expertise

- Street ministry to the homeless community
- Theological and civic leadership that builds the spiritual dimension of urban communities
- Pastoral care

Topics in the News

- Homelessness crisis in the United States
- Faith-based urban service
- Worship outside of traditional institutions

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Biography

Rev. Dr. Deborah Little is a minister to people on the margins of life. She is the founder of Ecclesia Ministries in Boston, which provides services to the homeless, and of Common Cathedral, a Sunday worship service on the Boston Common in which authority is shared among homeless participants. Debbie has created a new, radically open worship community on the street, bringing together people of diverse religions, races, classes, and occupations, and is currently working on a project to encourage similar street ministries in other cities. She also serves on the Consumer Advisory Board for Boston Healthcare for the Homeless.

Resources by this expert

- *Home Care for the Dying: A Reassuring, Comprehensive Guide to Physical and Emotional Care* (Doubleday, 1985)
- [Journey To Street Priesthood](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/rev_little_journey.cgi) (undated essay) at www.ecclesia-ministries.org/rev_little_journey.cgi
- [Birth of a Street Church](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/rev_little_birth.cgi) (undated essay) at www.ecclesia-ministries.org/rev_little_birth.cgi
- *Church Under the Tree* (An oral history and reflection on the foundation and beginnings of Ecclesia ministries) May, 2000
- [Sermon at King's Chapel Boston](http://www.ecclesia-ministries.org/sermons/kings_chapel.cgi) (January 16, 2000) at www.ecclesia-ministries.org/sermons/kings_chapel.cgi
- *Storytelling in Urban Ministry*, M. Div. Honor's thesis, 1994.

Recent Interviews & Articles

- *New York Times*, February 6, 2007, ["No Altar, No Pews, Not Even a Roof, but Very Much a Church"](#)
- *Christian Science Monitor*, December 14, 2006, by Jane Lampman, [A \(Boston\) Common Place for Worship](#) 
- *Associated Press*, March 24, 2005 "Churches find ways to modernize Good Friday observances" (This piece was picked up by 179 outlets including outlets in the U.K. and India. The piece also prompted a feature on WBZ Boston radio.)
- Ford Foundation Report, Winter 2004, "An Uncommon Calling"
- *Boston Globe*, October 29, 2000, "Homelessness: Students Take To The Streets to Hear From Those Who Live There About What It's Like, What Causes It, And What Can Be Done"
- National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Sunday*, April 13, 1997, "Common Cathedral"
- *Boston Globe Magazine*, February 9, 1997, "Common faith; Rev. Debbie Little's 'church,' a weekly service on Boston Common, has no stained glass, no gilt, no pews. What it does have, say its hard-luck congregants, is spirit."

Deborah has also been interviewed by the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Frontline*.

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