

April 1, 2024 – Living in the New Present – Grief and Loss – Hope/Healing Through Pastoral Care



While losses of all sorts occur continuously and universally, our present is also shaped profoundly by tremendous and even overwhelming losses, including years of pandemic, devastating war, and unrelenting gun violence. As we engage with all of our present losses, we may seek hope and healing for our grief. In this evening, we will consider how we

might reaffirm and/or reshape our lives after loss and how we might nurture and draw on our faith when faced with loss so that we might live into the future with hope.

Melissa Kelley



Melissa Kelley is a Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Previously, she was on the faculty of Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, MA. She has many years of pastoral-clinical experience, including in college campus ministry and individual pastoral counseling. She holds a Ph.D. from Boston University in pastoral psychology.

Professor Kelley is a pastoral psychotherapist with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and a Fellow in Thanatology: Death, Dying and Bereavement through the Association for Death Education and Counseling, a primary organization in the country for bereavement researchers, educators, and clinicians. She has served as a pastoral formation guide with the Southern New England Association of the United Church of Christ and has produced numerous presentations and publications related to grief, including *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*, published in 2010 by Augsburg Fortress Press.