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Biography of Beverly Dale

The Reverend Beverly Dale was born Beverly Dale Harpster on August 25, 1949 and grew up as the daughter of a farmer in Moultrie County in Illinois. Upon graduating from high school she married and raised two children deferring her education until later. In 1982 she received her bachelors of science in sociology with a specialization in sexuality and minor in psychology followed by her masters of science specializing in marriage and the family in 1983 from Illinois State University in Normal Illinois. Her thesis was called "Exposure to Religion and the Sexual Double Standard." She then pursued her master of divinity (1985) and Doctor of Ministry (1988) at Chicago Theological Seminary in Hyde Park. Her doctoral work was focused on pastoral counseling and reviving small churches and entitled "Celebrating the Present Congregational Story as a Means to Small Church Renewal". She was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served as the pastor of Colfax Christian Church in Colfax, Illinois from 1983-1989.

She has been the chief administrator of two organizations; Volunteer Services in Iroquois County in Illinois that provided a variety of social services to the elderly to keep them in their homes rather moving to institutions, from 1974-1980, and the Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania, a progressive social justice ecumenical ministry with a



particular emphasis on sexuality and women's ministry from 1989-2010. It was also during her time at the University that her writing and performing became more central to her career. In 2006 she wrote, directed and performed in her one woman show "An Irreverent Journey from Eggbeaters to Vibrators" that included poetry, storytelling as well as original music. This show debuted at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and has since then been performed in San Francisco, Wilmington Delaware while parts of the performance have been performed in Chicago and at a variety of churches and local venues for sexuality-oriented workshops. She lives in Philadelphia with her partner and a cat named Queen Esther. In her spare time she enjoys flower gardening and expanding her culinary skills.