

**Brief Biography of Reverend Mariah Tollgaard**  
**Before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
**Hearing on “Oversight of Fraud and Misuse of Federal Funds in Minnesota: Part II”**  
*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard is the Senior Pastor of Hamline Church United Methodist in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she has led a multi-generational urban congregation since 2014. She is an ordained Elder in the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Tollgaard received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota. Her calling is rooted in a conviction that the church is a vital civic and spiritual institution where people live in relationship with one another as neighbors, each equally called and loved by God.

She is a Trustee of Hamline University and was the co-founder of Minnesota Methodists, a reform movement within the denomination committed to full inclusion. Rev. Tollgaard has also served in leadership and volunteer roles with nonprofits, including Emma Norton Services, Simpson Housing Services, ISAI AH, and Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul.

In addition to her pastoral work, Rev. Tollgaard is a certified leadership coach, providing support and guidance to clergy, nonprofit leaders, and community partners.