

## Biographical Sketches

### Media Bio 1:

She fit bucking bales into God’s plan, but bucking fear left this Mennonite farm teen begging—literally and figuratively. Now, after thirty years as a professional psychotherapist, Dr. Leona Stucky narrates her unflinching faith-and-violence dilemma in a riveting memoir which spares neither God nor violence against women and has been **recommended by MS Magazine**.

### Media Bio 2:

A minister and psychotherapist for more than thirty years, Dr. Leona Stucky became an author by turning the mirror inward to reveal her own personal story in a gripping and morally unflinching memoir, which has received acclaim from MS Magazine. In her professional life as well as her writings, Dr. Stucky plumbed the depths of faith and identity questions she could not answer, studying contrary schools of thought, and speaking what we seldom say out loud. In her life and writing she provokes new discussions with heart-wrenching, vital stories.

### Media Bio 3:

The religious narratives of Leona’s faith could not reconcile the violence that intruded upon her Mennonite farm story. She yielded to answers more in sync with the harsh realities she faced. That was the beginning of a search that lasted throughout her studies and professional career.

Dr. Stucky first received a degree in psychology and philosophy from Boston College, graduating summa cum laude, before plunging into seminary, first at Andover Newton Theological School and then at Eden Theological Seminary. She earned a doctorate from Southern Methodist University with honors, and a Diplomate certificate from the American Association of Pastoral Counselors—their highest credential—for teaching, supervising, and conducting therapy services. She currently has standing as a Unitarian Universalist community minister.

These professional explorations might have quieted her mind, but the areas where integration seemed impossible became mental sand kernels that disrupted many intellectual resting places. Being fiercely honest in confronting contradictions, she honed her wisdom, gained unusual insights, and enjoyed a professional and personal journey that could only be shared by telling the whole story. After numerous failed attempts, Dr. Stucky finally completed her memoir, *The Fog of Faith: Surviving My Impotent God*.

The provocative title aptly indicates the unflinching moral dilemmas she reveals. The gripping story reads like a real-life thriller that readers can’t put down. Still, each step grounds itself in nuanced networks of passion, relational complexities, cultural and religious dilemmas, circumscribed choices bound by woman’s poverty, persistent violence, and an untamable resilient desire to redeem herself with or without God.

Dr. Stucky’s memoir has gained recognition as a well written, riveting story and also as an important work of art. MS Magazine named it on their best summer reads recommendation. Readers typically say they could not put it down. They report being deeply stirred by the content.

An expert and author on domestic violence intervention, Michael Paymar says, “The voice of this woman’s spirit and courage rings clearly as she faces the personal challenges of her faith—when the adversity in life tests the veracity of her beliefs against the reality of terror. This is an important, insightful book that I highly recommend.”

“Your book has been the most impactful book I’ve ever read. It has kept me in it for days during and after I read it.” Barbara, a Mennonite from Kansas

While authoring this book represents the pinnacle of Dr. Stucky’s career, she still maintains a limited psychotherapy practice, often teaches and speaks, and writes an interactive blog. She can be reached at [Leona@TheFogofFaith.com](mailto:Leona@TheFogofFaith.com) or her website [www.TheFogofFaith.com](http://www.TheFogofFaith.com).