



KRISTEN OPALINSKI serves as the Manager for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations on the staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran church in America (ELCA).

Her role centers around helping to shepherd new and existing ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, communicate their work, and assist in the development of resources to aid in the engagement and formation of ELCA members in the work ecumenical and inter-religious relations.

Kristen is a graduate of Augsburg University in Minneapolis (BA) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary), where she earned a Master of Arts in Religion with specializations in public leadership and conflict transformation. In addition, Kristen has been a part of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University and the Summer Institute for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School.

Kristen lived and worked in Southern Africa for five years with the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa. She currently serves as the president of Augsburg University's Alumni Board, vice president of the Board of Directors for OMNIA Institute for Contextual Leadership (a global interfaith peacemaking institute based in Chicago), and as a North American advisor for the South Africa-based NGO, Sonke Gender Justice.