

Roberta Hestenes

Roberta was born and raised in a non-Christian home in southern California, Roberta became a passionate Christian during her student years at Whittier College. After college, she met her husband John, they married and began studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. Roberta began working as the Director of Adult Education and Small Groups at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle.

After she graduated, Roberta joined the Fuller Seminary faculty of the School of Theology as the instructor in communications. Roberta is ordained in the Presbyterian Church, USA, and founded the Christian Formation and Discipleship department and became the first tenured woman in the history of the School of Theology.

In 1987 Eastern College (now University), an American Baptist college on the mainline of Philadelphia, asked Roberta to become their first full-time president. During her time, the college tripled in size, strengthened its Christian identity and academic reputation, and trained numerous leaders for US and third-world Christian ministries. She founded the Center for Christian Women in Leadership, which was later named for her.

In late 1996 they returned to San Diego where Roberta became the senior pastor of a large Presbyterian church. Roberta has written or co-authored 7 books and more than 100 published articles. 5 universities or colleges have awarded her honorary doctorates. She now pastors in Danville, CA part-time and teaches for Fuller Seminary in the D.Min and M.Div courses. In addition to her husband, children and 7 grandchildren, she loves mystery stories, her rose garden and her Cavalier King Charles spaniel named Wimsey.