

**Michael W. Hovey**  
17309 Quincy  
Detroit, MI 48221  
[michael.hovey.51@gmail.com](mailto:michael.hovey.51@gmail.com)  
(313) 268-0948 (home/cell)

## **Narrative Resume**

Michael Hovey is a senior adjunct instructor for undergraduate students at two universities in Metro Detroit: University of Detroit Mercy, where he teaches “Dynamics of Spiritual Growth: Ignatius Loyola and Catherine McAuley,” “The Study of Religion,” and “Western Religions,” and Wayne State University, where he teaches “Conflict and Religion.” Michael also taught (before Covid) at Siena Heights University and Madonna University. Michael was one of the original core faculty members of Marygrove College’s Master of Social Justice degree program, and taught as an adjunct instructor, in courses “Religion and Social Justice: Conflict and Congruence,” “Values and Society,” and “Human Rights” from 2005-2019.

Michael retired as a lay employee of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit in September 2017, having served for nearly 14 years as, first, director of the Office of Catholic Social Teaching (2004-2008), and then coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. In this latter role, he represented the Archdiocese of Detroit as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Religious Leaders Forum of Metro Detroit. Michael was born in Detroit and raised in Romeo. He graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary High School in Detroit in 1969.

In his retirement, in addition to being an adjunct university instructor, Michael is a lead volunteer at Affirmations, the LGBTQ community center for Metro Detroit, located in Ferndale.

Following his freshman year at University of Detroit, he was told that the financial aid that had been promised to him “had run out.” He was then faced with the military draft but enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was trained as a personnel clerk originally, but after one year at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, was assigned and trained to be a drug abuse counselor, first at Naval Station Long Beach, California, then at two bases in Japan. Soon after his arrival in Japan, Michael was assigned and trained to be an intercultural relations trainer at Fleet Activities, Sasebo. As part of his training, he studied the Japanese language for four semesters with a professor from Nagasaki University.

While stationed in Sasebo, he began to visit the nearby city of Nagasaki. Michael was deeply moved by the experience of being in the second (and hopefully, the last) city destroyed by an atomic bomb. He had what the Navy called a “crystallization of conscience” in the following months, and just weeks after his transfer to Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, applied for a discharge as a conscientious objector. He was honorably discharged as a conscientious objector on February 11, 1976.

After a year of studies at Michigan State University, Michael joined a Catholic missionary community, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, as a Brother candidate. He had two years of formation in New York and ministered and taught religious education in the South Bronx, then went on for six months of Spanish language study in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He then

lived with and ministered to people in a shantytown parish in Lima, Peru for a year and a half, before returning to New York. After an "Integration Year," he decided to leave the community and enrolled at Manhattan College. He graduated with a B.A. in Peace Studies in 1983.

Michael then enrolled at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts (now merged with Boston College) and graduated with a Master of Theological Studies degree in Social Ethics in 1985. He was named executive director of the Pax Christi USA Center on Conscience and War, also in Cambridge, where he served until 1990. In this capacity, he lectured at over 30 colleges and universities around the United States (including Harvard University and the U.S. Air Force Academy) on Catholic teaching on war and peace/conscientious objection and advocated on behalf of military service members seeking discharge as a conscientious objector when they went before review boards.

In 1987, he was elected to the National Council of Pax Christi (the U.S. section of the international Catholic peace movement) and served for two three-year terms of office. During that time, he became a member of several international committees, which took him to meetings in most of the countries in Western Europe, Japan, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and later, as executive director of the Hague Appeal for Peace, Moscow, Russia in 2002.

In 1990, Michael began Ph.D. studies in the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict (PARC) at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He was named a teaching assistant and taught courses in Nonviolent Social Action, International Human Rights, Mediation and Negotiation Skills. He also earned an M.A. degree in Political Science as part of the program in 1994. He became a Ph.D. candidate, with his dissertation topic: "The Role Played by International Non-Governmental Organizations at the United Nations in Promoting Recognition of the Universal Human Right of Conscientious Objection to Military Service." As part of his research, he became a participant/observer at the United Nations Human Rights Commission (now Human Rights Council) in Geneva, Switzerland in February/March 1993. Although he achieved ABD (all-but-dissertation) status, he chose to discontinue his pursuit of the doctoral degree. A summary of his findings was published in *Transnational Social Movements and Global Politics: Solidarity Beyond the State* (Syracuse University Press, 1997) in Chapter 12, "Interceding at the United Nations: The Human Right of Conscientious Objection." He is also published in the *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, & Conflict, Volume 1* (Academic Press, 1999) in a co-authored article, "Ethics of Conscientious Objection," and is a co-author of the article "Conscientious Objection," in the *New Catholic Encyclopedia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* (Thompson Gale/Catholic University of America, 2003).

In 1995, Michael became a campus minister at Iona College (now Iona University) in New Rochelle, New York. He was named coordinator of Peace and Justice Education in Iona's Minor degree in Peace and Justice Studies and taught several courses, including "Christian Nonviolence," "International Human Rights," and "Introduction to Conflict Resolution." He directed the annual observance of Holocaust Remembrance (Yom Hashoah) and was a member of the New Rochelle Interreligious Council. He served in this role until 2003, when he and several other Iona personnel were "downsized."

In 1997, Michael was chosen to head up the Pax Christi International non-governmental organization (NGO) representation at United Nations headquarters in New York City. He held that position until 2004, when he returned to Detroit.