

Aspirations for Ministry and for Serving the Local Church

My vision of the Church is that of a diverse community of people searching for a connection with God through Jesus Christ. In this community, both in things we share in common and things which separate us, we have an opportunity to experience the incarnation of God in Christ. Serving and being a part of the local church is one way in which the body of Christ becomes present. The local church makes Jesus real for our world. This informs all of my life. I strive to be inclusive and accepting of others where they are, not where I think they should be. I want to be engaged in acts of mercy and movements of social justice that address the systemic causes of hunger, exclusiveness and violence. The role of the church in this world is to be faithful to our shared experience of the presence of Christ. It is out of this experience that we invite and welcome others to share in this journey of faith, justice, equality and hope in which we have found both health and wholeness. I have experienced this health and wholeness in worship, through working on mission trips, on retreats, in relationships of teaching and learning, and through recreation.

God both provides gifts and will use what it is we have to offer. This vision directs me to be available to help discern, form and guide others in sharing their gifts.

Care for Soul / Spiritual Disciplines and Study

I have developed a 5-point plan to care for my soul that includes:

- Spiritual Direction / Coaching / Counseling
- Membership in a small group of my peers which meets monthly
- Attendance at one week-long retreat Spiritual Formation Retreat
- Attendance at one or two overnight solo retreats per year
- Daily time of prayer and meditation

I consider taking care of my health and well-being a spiritual discipline and I am as attentive to being active physically as any of the above-mentioned disciplines. Cycling, bicycling is my passion. I enjoy downhill skiing in the winter and working out at the gym as ways to stay active until spring. Pheasant hunting is a new hobby. I am active physically and enjoy the outdoors. I read a lot of historic nonfiction and watch sports and drama on TV.

Valued Connections

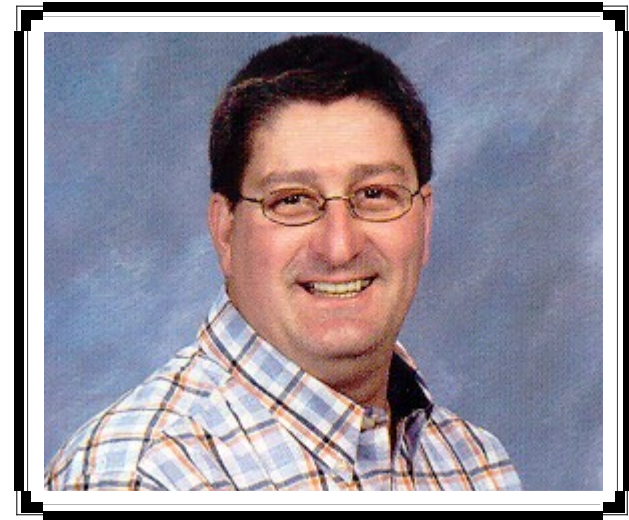
As Katie and I “launch” our young adult children, establishing connections with them is both new and exciting. Our Minnesota family is our most valued connection. I also enjoy relationships with two other pastors in the Twin Cities with whom I cycle.

2009 PASTOR APPOINTMENT

Cambridge United Methodist Church Cambridge, Minnesota

Introducing

Rev. Dan Schneider-Bryan



*Minnesota Annual Conference of
The United Methodist Church
Sally Dyck, Bishop*

*Big Waters District
Kathryn Schneider-Bryan, Superintendent
North Star District
Alan Bolte, Superintendent*

Family

Spouse: Katie Schneider-Bryan is my wife of 27 years. Katie is a pastor in the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church currently serving as the Big Waters District Superintendent.

Children: Gregory is our 24-year-old son who lives and works in St. Cloud. Anna is our 21-year-old daughter who lives and works in Duluth.

Background

I come from Southern Illinois near St. Louis, MO. I have four brothers (I am #2) who are all still living in and around our hometown. Both my parents are deceased. I have lived in Minnesota since 1980. Katie has deep Minnesota roots. Her parents are retired and live in the Twin Cities. Other extended family live in Faribault, MN and nearby in Wisconsin.

Education

M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, Evanston, IL, 1982

B.A. with Honors in Social Sciences, McKendree College, Lebanon, IL, 1978

High School Diploma, Worden High School, Worden, IL, 1974

Appointment History

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|---|---------------|
| Hope UMC, Duluth, Solo Pastor | 2007– present |
| First UMC, St. Cloud, Associate Pastor | 1999-2007 |
| Kimball & South Haven UMCs, Solo Pastor | 1993-1999 |
| Wheelock Parkway UMC, St. Paul, Solo Pastor | 1987-1993 |
| Epworth UMC, Minneapolis, Solo Pastor | 1982-1987 |

Other Employment and Ministry Related Work

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| Intern Pastor, Grace UMC, Minneapolis, MN | 1980-1981 |
| Youth Umbrella Drop In Center, Evanston, IL | 1979-1980 |
| Youth Pastor, Collinsville UMC, Collinsville, IL | 1976-1978 |
| Youth Pastor, Nameoki UMC, Granite City, IL | 1975-1976 |

Leadership and Service

- Disciple Bible Study Leadership Training
- Prepare / Enrich Training
- Ministerial Candidacy Mentor Training
- Participant and Leader; Academies for Spiritual Formation
- Great Challenge Leadership Academy, 2006
- Church Planters Workshop, 2006
- Dean & Camp Counselor at Star Lake and Decision Hills
- Past member of the Conference Board of Church & Society, Conference Nominations Committee, and Ag Grad
- Ministerial Candidacy Mentor
- Past Metro West District Youth Coordinator
- Past member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry
- Past member and Chair of the Northwest Board of District Church Location and Building

- Past member of Northwest District Nominating Committee
- Past service on the United Ministries in Higher Education Board at St. Cloud State University
- Current member of the Big Waters District Board of Church Location and Building

Present Sense of Calling to Ministry in the United Methodist Church

I have followed a call to ministry since a very early age, preaching at my local church as a teenager. Since my college years, I have had a passion for reaching out to those who come from conservative traditions, as did I, who seek to explore their faith with a new openness. This passion has been informed by a variety of local parish ministry settings. I have come to embrace the diversity of our theological and cultural experiences. This perspective continues to inform my sense of calling today. I believe it is crucial that we find ways to meet people where they are and not where we or the church thinks they should be. This sense of calling challenges me to continue to both embrace my convictions and to translate or adapt those convictions for the times we are in and the person I am with.

Leadership Gifts and Style

My gifts include preaching and teaching. I am also a good encourager. These are the parts of ministry that give me energy and passion. A new parishioner once said, “your job is to inspire us and you do that well.” I have taken that as a statement describing what I perceive to be my best gifts for ministry. I am effective in interpersonal relationships and find that I am able to get along with people of different ages and backgrounds. I have come to claim the “developer” in me. I enjoy helping ideas and plans and visions find their expressions.

My leadership style is flexible. I allow others to do the work they desire to do and have made commitments to doing. I like to have a working knowledge of what others are doing, but I am not demanding or controlling. My strength in developing relationships is often a way of opening up communication in groups. I lead by encouraging and by personal service and example. I strive to lead by facing conflict in healthy ways concerning both personal and systemic issues. Family Systems theory has been a guiding source of hope in this part of my ministry.

Theological Perspective

I try to balance an informed reading of the scriptures with a compassionate, open-minded attitude to the experiences of life. I strive in my theological perspective to be both open to the varieties of religious experiences we are blessed with in this world and faithful to my personal experience of the Christian faith. I believe I work well with those who share a different perspective from my own. My intention is not to focus on what separates us, but what brings us together for the ministry task at hand.