

As Conference Associate Minister for Congregational Discernment, Rev. Betsy E Martin Bruaw's primary responsibility is to work with local churches in times of transition, helping them through a discernment process to bring clarity to the type of pastoral leadership needed for the congregation to fulfill its vision where the courageous love of Christ is passionately declared and demonstrated.

Rev. Bruaw was pastor of Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ, Hershey, PA from February 1994 – June 2016. A native of Shamokin, PA, Betsy is a graduate of Shamokin Area High School, Class of 1983, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA, Class of 1987 and Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, Class of 1990. She has participated in the Leadership Renewal and Doctor of Ministry programs at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Betsy was ordained in the United Church of Christ at St. John's UCC, Shamokin, PA on July 1, 1990. She began her ministry as pastor of the Tri Penn Charge UCC in Centre County, PA from 1990-1994.

At Church of the Redeemer, Pastor Betsy enjoyed sharing in the creation of imaginative worship and multi-media ministry, liturgical art and innovative education programs. A highlight of her time in Hershey is the creation of the Garden Labyrinth on the grounds of Church of the Redeemer. In the Hershey community, she is an advocate for survivors of bullying and an LGBT ally. She has represented the Hershey Ministerium in the Derry Township School District in a variety of ways.

Prior to coming on as Penn Central Conference staff, she served the Conference and the wider church, as director of Counselor-in-Training camp at Hartman Center and as a member of the Transition Team; as a Board Member of Penn Central Conference and chair of its Personnel Committee; as a delegate to two General Synods; as co-chair of the Conference's Disaster Readiness and Response Team; as a member of the Convocation Planning Team; as a member of the Board of Directors of United Church of Christ Homes corporation and chair of its Spiritual Life Committee; as a member of the United Church Board for World Ministries and the General Synod Nominating Committee; as an officer of the Harrisburg Association and current member of the Committee on Ministry as well as the Penn Central Conference Commission on Ministry.

Betsy married William H. Bruaw in 1987, and they have two children; Joshua, a music educator, and Laura, a junior at Bloomsburg University. Bill is employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Waiver Capacity Manager for the Central Region Office of Developmental Programs. Betsy enjoys genealogy, music and crafts; she is an avid reader of history, biography and historical fiction.