

Introducing The Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller

The Executive Presbyter Search Committee of MVP unanimously recommends the Reverend Beth Buckwalter-Miller for the position of Executive Presbyter for Minnesota Valleys Presbytery.

The Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller comes to us with a trio of impressive degrees: a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Colorado, a Master of Arts in Counseling from Colorado Christian University and a Master of Divinity from Denver Theological Seminary. These degrees, she believes, uniquely prepared her “for the ministry by heightening (her) awareness of the needs we experience in body, mind and soul.” Her most current role since June 2010 has been pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Red Bluff in Red Bluff, CA. Prior to that Beth served as Associate Pastor, temporary supply at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arvada, CO as well as Director of Children’s Ministry and Adult Spiritual Formation. Her Presbytery experience includes serving on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry; recently serving on a Presbytery Task force for “Connectional Revitalization” and Presbytery Council for the Sacramento Presbytery. While at Trinity Presbyterian in Colorado, Beth served on the Committee on Ministry for the Denver Presbytery.

Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller is familiar with rural, agricultural society and small church ministry as she currently serves a rural church. As a Pastor, Beth endured conflict and handled it with grace and dignity. She understands the dynamics of rural small churches, along with the struggles and challenges they face with their finances, lack of volunteers and reaching younger families. The search committee found Beth to be very easy going with a warmth and approachability about her. We believe she is collaborative, willing to learn and listen to the concerns of others. She is thoughtful, keeps positivity at the forefront and she is a breath of fresh air who will bring a revived energy to our presbytery. What is most exciting is that Rev. Buckwalter-Miller wants to travel around to meet every church in our Presbytery and spend time getting to know them! Her deep commitment to her spirituality and longing to build personal relationships with pastors, staff and visiting churches will be a blessing to the members of our Presbytery.

The Search Committee is very excited to present the Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. We are looking forward to getting to know her better as well as developing a partnership ministry with her.

Search Committee members: Terry L. Coffin, Doug Dent, LeRoy Ennenga, John McKay and Leanne Thompson, chairperson.

Statement of Faith

The Rev. Beth S. (Hoyt) Buckwalter-Miller

I believe in a Trinitarian God: Creator, Savior, and Spirit. I believe that God became flesh in the person of Jesus, and that Jesus came to show us the way of love for God and for one another. We all sin. Dying on the cross Jesus became the way for forgiveness of sin, the doorway to grace, that we might be reconciled to God and to each other.

I believe that the sacrament of baptism wraps us in God's love, a tangible expression of God choosing us before we can choose God, taking the initiative to make us a part of God's family.

I believe that the sacrament of communion nourishes us with the presence of our resurrected Lord, and that we are called to discern the body when we take communion: the body of Jesus given for us, but also "the body of Christ" that exists as the family of God throughout the world. We take this sacrament together and the entire body is nourished by the presence of our Lord.

I believe that scripture is the inspired word of God, and while some is not intended to be taken literally, it is all intended to be taken seriously.

I believe that salvation is found through Jesus. Matthew 25 teaches that sometimes we receive Christ without recognizing him, through our care of those in need. We may also come as Nicodemus came, ready to be born from above, seeking a personal relationship with Jesus.

I believe that when we die, we go to Heaven, living with Christ and becoming a part of the "great cloud of witnesses." I believe that one day Jesus will return and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Creation will be restored to its original beauty, the earth made whole and healed.

I believe that abundant life begins now, and we are called to live as the Body of Christ. We are the hands and feet of Jesus, called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God as we seek the reign of Christ and serve our Lord together.

I believe in Holy-Spirit revival. I believe the Presbyterian Church (USA) is a much-needed voice in our world today and that there is a fresh wind of revival blowing even now. I believe that this is a great day to be a Presbyterian and that we will work together as the wind of the Spirit fills our sail and moves us forward. I have been told that the Minnesota Valleys are a windy part of the state. Let the wind blow! Winds of hope! Winds of change! Winds of renewal! May the Minnesota Valleys know God better because we are all here. May our young have vision and be called into ministry! May our old dream dreams that encourage us and lead us forward! May the Spirit be poured out upon our Matthew 25 Presbytery. May we go forth together in Jesus' Name! Every time we feel the wind blowing may we be reminded: "The Holy Spirit is here!"