

Goodbye, Sarah Rand

Presbytery of Milwaukee

August 28, 2017

A Farewell Interview with Sarah Rand

I can't imagine anyone in the Presbytery not knowing Sarah, but for those of you who don't, she is our Congregational Care Coordinator, and has been for the past four years. Sarah will be retiring at the end of September.

Sarah's work involves shepherding and healing congregations by identifying their needs and working towards resolving their challenges. She has proven to be quite resourceful in this regard. Sarah was instrumental in implementing the Holy Cow! Survey, in which the Presbytery scored very high, especially in comparison with other presbyteries in the U.S. It was an indication of the health and vitality of the Presbytery of Milwaukee, in no small part due to Sarah's guidance.

The staff at the Presbytery hosted a farewell lunch today. Sarah's relational gifts came through in her delivery of various stories about a variety of situations. She had us laughing a number of times, telling funny anecdotes from her daily life. Her work remains confidential, but her personal life is a source of amusement for her, in a constructive way, a healthy way of standing back from it and observing.

Sarah seems to know, on an intimate level, everyone in the Presbytery. This has been key in her job, her ability to know personnel and their challenges and work towards solutions. She cares about us, about our fate, and does what she can to make life a bit easier.

Sarah's passion is creating congregations of vitality. She is very spunky with the Spirit.

I had a few questions for Sarah. Her answers follow my questions:

What gifts did you bring during your four years here?

I am passionate about the Presbyterian Church (USA), and feel strongly that every congregation is uniquely special in their witness to the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ. As such, I have tried to remain open to different ways of being church, welcoming different opinions and seeing strength in our differences. I diligently work to create safe spaces where everyone feels valued, nurturing others to become leaders. I believe teamwork is essential in all aspects of church and presbytery work. As a quiet leader, I have tried to support and encourage others in visioning, planning and implementing goals and strategies. I have tried to lead with grace, a sense of humor, and a level of experience and comfort in polity and procedures.

What is your hope for the congregations in this presbytery?

My hope is that our churches stay relevant. Look outside your doors. What in your neighborhood brings God joy? What situations in your neighbor cause God to cry? Know your

purpose for being the church where you are. Seek help from the Commission on Ministry to become a more relevant and vital congregation.

All the best, Sarah!

Submitted by Donna Holmes
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