

2020 Scholarship Award Winners

First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship: Shannon Joshi

The First Congregational Church-McDowell Scholarship was established in 1988 by Florence and Vilas Bohlman and First Congregational UCC, Boscobel, in loving memory of Mrs. Bohlman's parents, Ross and Vere McDowell. The scholarship is presented annually to a seminarian and member in discernment of one of the four Associations whose devotion to the church and commitment to parish ministry offer exceptional promise for service to the Word in congregational life.

This year's award goes to Shannon Joshi. Shannon is a Member In Discernment in the NWA. Shannon is a member of First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire. Shannon is the Director of Faith Formation at her church, a position she has held for three years. She has completed three years of the Lay Academy where her call to ministry has deepened. Shannon currently serves on the Wisconsin Conference Unified Fitness Review Team representing the NWA. Shannon's gifts for ministry are inspiring, she has education background that has benefitted her church, particularly children and youth. We are glad for Shannon's movement toward ordained ministry, her faithful leadership is a gift to the church now and for the future.

Carl H. Zeyher Award: Dianne Droster

The Carl H. Zeyher Award scholarship was established by the late Helen Zeyher and her family in loving memory of husband and father, the Rev. Carl H. Zeyher who was ordained by the Evangelical Synod of North America at New Braunfels, Texas, in 1925 and served faithfully in congregations of the Synod, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the United Church of Christ, in Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, Connecticut, and Wisconsin until his retirement. The Award is presented annually by the Wisconsin Conference to a member in discernment of one of the four Associations and a seminarian whose devotion to word and deed reflect the ways in which Carl H. Zeyher served as a pastor among us.

This year's award goes to Dianne Droster. Dianne has been serving as the Interim Pastor for Our Shepherd UCC in Howards Grove since January. She is also the Caring Ministries Coordinator for First English Lutheran Church in Appleton. A four-year graduate of Lay Academy, Dianne has continued her education at United Theological Seminary Twin Cities and through training in mental health ministries. At her home parish, First Congregational UCC in Appleton, she has been involved with Stephen Ministry, the Fellowship Team, the Mental Health task force, the Service Sunday Team, the Intergenerational Musical, and primary, middle, and high school ministries, among other activities. She was previously a professor at Lawrence University in Appleton.

Myrtle I. Baker Scholarship Award: Hannah Campbell Gustafson

The Myrtle I. Baker scholarship was established in 1982 in honor of the Rev. Myrtle I. Baker, who was ordained in 1933 and was the first ordained woman to serve congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. She served as minister of First Congregational UCC in Boscobel and the Congregational UCC at Steuben, from 1955 until her retirement in 1977. The scholarship was presented to the Wisconsin Conference by Florence M. Bohlman, a lay leader of the church at Boscobel (until her death in the Spring of 2000). The scholarship is presented annually by the Wisconsin Conference to a member in discernment who exhibits the character, love for the church and the pastoral qualities that marked the life and ministry of Myrtle I. Baker.

This year's award goes to Hannah Campbell Gustafson. Hannah is member at First Congregational UCC in Platteville, where she found a worshipping home when she was the first program director of Family Promise

of Grant County. She has been a Member in Discernment in the Southwest Association for three years where her passion for justice, love of community, and commitment to careful discernment have been valued by the Division on Church and Ministry. She received both an MDIV and MSW from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and has often found herself in the place where her love of social work and the local church overlap.

Hannah currently works as an associate chaplain at Carleton College, where she received her undergraduate degree, and as an outreach coordinator at a large congregation in downtown Minneapolis. She's passionate about working to challenge the stigma of mental health, particularly in our churches, and holds a position on the board of the UCC Mental Health Network, serving as treasurer and a regular contributor to their blog. Having relocating to Minneapolis last year, Hannah lives with her clergy-spouse, their growing toddler, and a beloved standard poodle. She hopes her Ecclesiastical Council (which will happen via Zoom) will be on the calendar soon. She returns to SW Wisconsin often to be with her church, her friends, and her family in the Dodgeville area.