

John S. Keogh

Vicar, Metropolitan New York Synod

Education:

Master of Divinity in Religion/Religious Studies (2017) from Episcopal General Theological Seminary, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (1981) from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

Current Ministry:

Full Time Vicar at St. John Lutheran Church, New York, NY. St. John's Lutheran is a small, inner city, urban parish that does outreach and partnering with various community groups and welcomes the LGBTQ+ Community.

Home:

Resides with his husband Stephen in New York, NY. They hope to live in Immanuel's parsonage and look forward to having a car! They also have two cats.

Calling:

John has felt the call to be a pastor since first grade when he drew a picture of himself as a "PREST" (priest) wearing black with a white collar. He says "I have worked in various fields, just for this day" of becoming an ordained minister in the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He was raised Roman Catholic but became a Lutheran in 2011 when he discovered the ELCA and "Embraced the teaching of justification by grace - a powerful message that changed my faith life."

If John receives a call to Immanuel, he will be ordained in Providence on January 12, 2019. He is very much looking forward to becoming an ordained Lutheran pastor. He writes "I want to serve at a church that loves good liturgy, where Sundays are a true celebration...to a group of Lutherans that embraces its Lutheran identity...People of strong faith who want to work with a first-call pastor. A people of faith that would embrace a gay married pastor and his husband."

Work Experience:

Head Cashier at Barnes & Noble; Associate Capital Campaign Director at YMCA of Greater New York; Major Gifts Officer at Gay Men's Health Crisis; Director of Development at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church; Executive Assistant at Afghanistan Relief Committee

Areas of Expertise as listed by John:

1. Preaching/Worship Leadership, 2. Spiritual Formation/Direction, 3. Ministry in Daily Life, 4. Stewardship, 5. Music/Worship Arts

Characteristics:

“Compassion, empathy, and genuineness of spirit.” “A chaplain’s heart...with a concern and compassion for those entrusted to his [John’s] care.” John feels that being a good listener is one of his best qualities.

Worship Style:

“All the different elements that go into liturgy-planning are important to me and I find this work most fulfilling.” “My preaching style is almost conversational...it isn’t often deep in theological issues - it tends to be more directed to the everyday concerns of contemporary Christians.” John is most comfortable preaching from the pulpit. “Although I cannot read music, I am musical. I love to sing.”

Additional Thoughts from Call Committee:

--“He has experience working with capital campaigns and has some innovative ideas. We were impressed by his ability to think outside the box,” both for the fundraising for capital campaign and for energizing and growing the church and its connection with/in the community.

--John has had limited experience working with youth. During his internship, John sought out a congregation outside of his assignment to teach confirmation. John feels that the youth are our future but also recognizes that our established members need to be rejuvenated and assisted. John writes “I know I want to be around children...I look forward to the challenge of youth ministry.” Our teen call committee member felt John would be easy to talk to.

--Created innovative programs, some worked well, and he learned from those that didn’t. Ask him about his Rest Stop program!

--John feels that being a pastor isn’t only a job for Sundays. He wants to be involved in committees and help and support lay leaders. He would be interested in leading Bible Studies and has ideas about different types and ways to do this. In his RFP, John wrote “I came to appreciate how ministry is a 24/7 calling and our work to build up the kingdom is never done...Wearing a collar in NYC means ministry happens wherever and whenever - on a street corner, in a crowded subway car. I always had to be prepared to minister to a person in need.”

--John’s recorded sermons held our interest, were educational, funny, and connected with us in our everyday life. We found he enjoyed speaking to a congregation in which he knew the people personally.

Other Details:

Congregations in the New England Synod who hire a First Call Pastor must commit to send their pastor AND one congregation representative to Forward Leadership Training. This includes a weekend retreat at Camp Calumet and 5-6 additional days of training (often on Saturdays) that the pastor and layperson would attend together. This is at a cost of approximately \$600 for the congregation.

Start Date:

First week in February 2019

This summary was completed with information from John's Rostered Ministry Profile and the recommendation summary written by Immanuel's Call Committee .