

Mr. John S. Keogh

Brief Summary:

The Call Committee is pleased to introduce you to John S. Keogh. John has lived in New York City for more than 30 years and is looking forward to new adventures in Attleboro, where he hopes to have his first call as a Lutheran Pastor. John has felt connected to God as far back as the first grade. He was raised Roman Catholic but became a Lutheran in 2011. It was as a Lutheran in the ELCA that John discovered the theme of “justification by Grace - a powerful message that changed my faith life.” John received his Master of Divinity in 2017 and currently works full time as a Vicar at a small, inner-city parish in NY.

For worship, John believes that “liturgy is important and requires our attention” and finds all the different elements that go into liturgy planning highly fulfilling. A supervisor felt John’s preaching style revealed “a chaplain’s heart - with a concern and compassion for those entrusted to his care.” He tends to direct his sermons to the everyday concerns of a contemporary Christian and wishes worship to be “a true and joyful song to the Lord.” He also feels that being a pastor isn’t only a job for Sundays.

The call committee was impressed with John’s out-of-the-box and creative ideas for connecting with the community, expanding membership, fundraising, capital campaign projects, creating innovative programs, and being involved with committees. John reports his leadership style as easy-going and exhibiting an air of calm.

John is perhaps best known for his compassion, sincerity, empathy, and genuine spirit. It is important to him to be an avid listener and to be genuine in all he does in ministry and daily interactions. He had a heart attack at age 38, which strengthened his faith in the healing power of prayer and his ability to minister to others facing illness, pain, or grief.

John would like to work in “a ministry setting that is alive with 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.” The Call Committee felt that “John’s strengths will add to the church and help it grow and flourish. We feel that we as a parish can grow with him and he with us.”

Please see additional pages for more details about John.