

Leadership Gifts and Style

I consider myself a collaborative leader. I enjoy working with teams, building community ties, and working toward a common goal. I care deeply about fostering spaces where everyone's voice can be heard. My leadership style is influenced by my experience of restorative justice practices, especially peacemaking circles.

Aspirations for Ministry

I seek to help equip people and communities to become catalysts for positive change, rooted in faith, love, peace, and justice. I sense that my ministry will unfold in a variety of settings over time, including congregational, community-based, educational, and chaplaincy settings. In June 2026, I began serving as Outreach Coordinator at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church (ELCA) in St. Paul, MN.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Sabbath is one of the key theological and spiritual practices that guides my life. I believe it is important for leaders to model sabbath both as a practice of spiritual renewal *and* as a practice of justice for other beings and our environment. I practice sabbath in addition to other spiritual practices, such as prayer, scripture study with colleagues. I often seek new opportunities to deepen and broaden my knowledge of scripture, theology, and peacebuilding.

Ministry Passions

I am passionate about helping equip people of faith to create communities of care, peace, and justice. I care deeply about transforming conflict in healthy, generative ways that lead to communal and individual flourishing. I dream of a world where churches embrace conflict as an opportunity for meaningful, life-giving change, rather than as an opportunity for condemnation, cancellation, and isolation. If St. Irenaeus is right, that "the glory of God is (human) fully alive," then we ought to strive for the full flourishing of the body of Christ. When one member flourishes, all flourish with it. If one member suffers, all suffer with it (1 Cor. 12). All gifts and all people are needed to build God's kingdom.

Ecclesiastical Council

Introducing Anna Jeide-Detweiler



Family

I am from Wayzata, MN and grew up at Wayzata Community Church. I currently live in Minneapolis with my husband, son and dog. I feel grateful to be surrounded by a village of family from both sides. Plymouth Congregational Church is my home congregation.

Education

I have a Bachelor of Arts from Luther College in Decorah, IA, where I majored in English literature, Spanish, and minored in religion. As an undergraduate student, I studied peace and conflict studies in Oslo, Norway and spent a semester with in Ecuador. In January 2026, I graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Divinity and Certificate in Religion and Conflict Transformation from Boston University School of Theology. In May 2026, I completed Level 1 Clinical Pastoral Education at Methodist Hospital where I provided spiritual care to patients in the oncology and neurology units.

Vocational History

I currently serve as the Outreach Coordinator at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN (ELCA). Prior to this role, I worked in healthcare, education, and non-profit organizations focusing on social services, communications, fundraising, teaching, and program facilitation.

Other Employment or Ministry Related Work

I have worked as an elementary teacher, communications manager, development professional, and ministry program director. Throughout my various roles, I have always sought to advance justice, build community and promote peace. Whether it was by teaching English to elementary students, enrolling low-income immigrants in health insurance, or hosting retreats that promoted a theology of reconciliation and forgiveness, I seek to serve others through my work.

Service and Community Involvement

I have taught English as a Second Language to adult learners in Iowa and Minnesota as a volunteer. I have sung in the National Lutheran Choir, and participate in community singing. I have been supporting new parents in my circles by bringing meals and offering emotional support. I have also offered care and support neighbors needing assistance with food or rent in recent months.

Theological Perspective

Gustavo Gutierrez describes theology as “critical reflection on praxis.” The emerging third century church described theology as primarily a problem of matter, how could a God be three-in-one? When it comes to my own theological perspective, I seek to ground my theological perspectives in the history of Christian tradition, even as I remain open to the truth that the Holy Spirit is still speaking. I believe it is important to understand a variety of theological perspectives for the purposes of interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, and in order to ground new theological ground in the history of Christian thought. On a personal level, I care deeply about how our image of God shapes our experience of reality and the world around us. Theology must help us reflect critically on the injustices of our world, and it should help us notice where God is inviting us to participate in the Holy Spirit’s healing work.

Call to Ministry in the United Church of Christ

I was raised in the UCC with family ties to the Congregationalist stream of the UCC. The more I have studied UCC History and Polity, the more deeply I resonate with it’s commitment to covenanted community, even through challenging times. The deeply held belief in the priesthood of all believers deeply resonates with my own understanding of how the Holy Spirit invites us to participate in life with the Triune God. The UCC’s commitment to service, justice, love, and peace is where I feel theologically at home.