

Leadership Gifts and Style

As a faith leader, I prioritize extravagant welcome, meaningful engagement with Scripture and theology, and compassionate pastoral care. My leadership gifts include active listening, empathy, and a genuine openness to diverse perspectives and beliefs. I seek to lead with authenticity, bringing honesty, vulnerability, and curiosity into my relationships and ministry. I value collaboration and believe that faithful leadership is rooted in building relationships, nurturing community, and creating space for others to share their gifts.

Aspirations for Ministry

Through my ministry experiences thus far, I have developed a passion for both congregational ministry and chaplaincy. I hope to serve in a call that allows me to engage in pastoral care, preaching and teaching, and interfaith dialogue while building meaningful relationships within the community.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

My spiritual life is grounded in regular prayer and engagement with Scripture. I seek to deepen my faith through theological study, and I value practices of reflection and discernment. I participate in spiritual direction as part of my ongoing spiritual formation, helping me remain attentive to God's presence in daily life and ministry.

Ministry Passions

I am passionate about pastoral care, preaching, and engagement with Scripture through close study of its historical and theological contexts, including working with Greek texts. I strive for all people to know the Gospel message of their identity as God's beloved. I am especially drawn to ministry with people experiencing grief, death, and major life transitions, including hospice and palliative care. I believe these times of suffering and transition are deeply sacred spaces where God's presence is often most tangible, and I feel called to accompany people with compassion and attentiveness in times of both suffering and transformation.

Ecclesiastical Council July 19, 2026 - 2 p.m. Morningside Hills UCC

Introducing Katie Johnson Gant



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Family

I grew up in Bloomington, MN and currently live there with my husband of three years. My parents, siblings, in-laws, and most extended family live nearby in the Twin Cities.

Education

I graduated from St. Olaf College in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Ancient Studies and was awarded distinction in Religion. In December 2025, I earned a Master of Divinity from Luther Theological Seminary. As part of my ministerial formation, I completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, serving patients and families on pediatric and orthopedic units and providing on-call spiritual care.

Vocational History

I currently serve as the Administrative Director at Creekside UCC. In this role I create weekly bulletins, emails, and other church communications, coordinate building and room rentals, and manage the church office. This position has given me valuable experience in the behind-the-scenes work that sustains ministry and congregational life. From 2024-2025, I served as a Pastoral Intern at Robbinsdale Parkway UCC, where I regularly planned and led Sunday worship, preached, provided pastoral care, led children's messages, and participated in the life and governance of the congregation.

Other Employment or Ministry Related Work

Prior to working at Creekside UCC, I worked at Partners in Excellence as a Behavior Therapist for children with autism. In this role, I provided ABA therapy to children ages 1-10, used problem-solving skills to redirect, intervene, and de-escalate challenging behaviors, and communicated effectively with parents and caregivers. I also worked at ACR Homes as a Direct Care Professional, assisting group home residents with daily living, personal and health care needs, medication administration, and physical therapy exercises.

Service and Community Involvement

I serve as a lay leader at my home congregation, Morningside Hills UCC. In this role, I have led book studies and Bible studies, preached, and helped plan and carry out special worship services and congregational events. I am also a member of ISAIAH and, over the past year, have participated in many public actions as a faith leader in response to Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis. In addition, for the past three years I have coached at Vital Volleyball Club, planning practices and helping 12-year-olds develop volleyball skills, build relationships, and learn teamwork.

Theological Perspective

My theological perspective is shaped by a commitment to interpreting Scripture through both historical context and lived experience. I believe it is essential to understand the historical and cultural settings of biblical texts in order to engage them faithfully and responsibly. I am also shaped by liberation, womanist, and queer theologies, which emphasize God's concern for justice, love, and the dignity of those who have too often been marginalized or overlooked. I understand the witness of Scripture as pointing toward God's ongoing work of lifting up the oppressed, the poor, the excluded, and calling the Church into that same work. These perspectives inform my identity as a faith leader and continue to shape how I read Scripture, engage in ministry, and understand God's call in the world.

Call to Ministry in the United Church of Christ

I understand my call to ordained ministry within the UCC as rooted in a deep sense of God's presence in the world and a commitment to accompany people through all seasons of life. I am drawn to the UCC's understanding of covenant, its commitment to extravagant welcome, and its call to justice and inclusion. I feel most alive in ministry when I am able to help people recognize their belovedness in God and embody the Church as a place of compassion, honesty, and belonging. I am grateful for the ways the UCC continues to challenge and shape me and I am excited to continue discerning and living into this call within its ministry and witness.