

2021 Appointment

**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Associate Pastor**



Introducing

Rev. Laura Hannah



David Bard, Interim Bishop
Dan Johnson, Twin Cities District Superintendent

Family

I have been married to my husband Andrew Hoffman for six years, and we are the parents of Montrell (Trell) and Ryla.

Education

- M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary
- B.A. Bethel University

Appointment History

- Discipleship Pastor, United Methodist Church of Anoka:
Feb 2019 - Present

Continuing Education and Training

- Clergy Leadership Academy: 2020-present
- Young Clergy Leadership Forum: January 2020
- Breakthrough Worship Workshop: October 2017
- Intercultural Competency Workshop: January 2017

Service and Community Involvement

- Social media management for a local dog rescue
- Dog foster parent – 55 dogs fostered so far
- Mentor/support for adoptive parents and prospective parents considering foster care adoption

Call to Ministry

My call to ministry began at a young age as a call to become a missionary because I was formed in a religious context in which women could not become pastors. My experience of religion became complicated in middle school and into senior high. I entered college feeling disillusioned with organized religion because of the harm I experienced. In college the Holy Spirit was at work in my life, and I felt a renewed call to pastoral ministry. I continue to be attentive to God's work in my life and how that shapes my call to ministry.

Passion for Ministry

I have experienced transformation that can only be explained as being a testimony to the grace of God. The transformation I have experienced fuels my passion for ministry. I desire to lead and be part of faith communities that are unapologetic about meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those that they serve and invite them into the life changing work of discipleship so that they too may minister to others.

Vision of the Church

When I think of the ideal picture of the Church, it is a place where everyone is invited into an authentic relationship with Christ and that the success of an individual church is fixated on the goal of everyone thriving, no exceptions. That goal is achieved through explicit articulation of what it means to be part of the community: grace abounds, but there are boundaries so that others are not harmed as a result of our brokenness. When harm is done (whether systemic or individual) the community should address the harm and pursue reconciliation.

Gifts for the Ministry

- Strategic Leader
- Compelling Communicator
- Relational
- Innovative

Theological Perspective

My starting point is that the Word made flesh in Jesus is revealed through the Bible, whose interpretation is guided by the Holy Spirit and solidified within the community of faith. The community of faith offers a corrective to theologies that can perpetuate harm to those that have historically been marginalized.

Leadership Style

First and foremost, I lead by example. I do not ask something of those that I lead that I, myself, am not willing to do. Leadership is activating the full potential of someone else to see how their individual contributions strengthen the collective. As a leader, I understand the importance of my own growth and willingness to adapt to the needs of the congregation.

Aspirations for Ministry and for Serving the Local Church

I have always had the sense I would be doing ministry for the rest of my life in some capacity even if it is not in a vocational setting. It is an honor to serve in the local church, but I also recognize that God sometimes calls us into a new way of furthering the kingdom. I desire to be in a local church context where I can be an effective leader and make new disciples for the transformation of the world. I will continue to rely on God to direct my future steps in ministry as I am called into new contexts and new possibilities for ministry.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Daily prayer, Scripture reading and reflection. I value being a life-long learner. Learning that benefits my ministry and learning that benefits my spiritual life are distinct. The study of the Bible and Theology is not an academic exercise but an intentionality to develop a deeper relationship with Christ.

Contact Information

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