

Annual Meeting Report – 2022

Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister

"Equipping a courageous church alive with Christ's transforming love."

This sentence from the Minnesota Conference vision and mission statement drew me toward this position almost a year ago. As I viewed the work of the Conference through the lens of the website, seeing the attention toward racial justice and the awareness of the work to be done, I thought that this Conference might be a good fit for me and my family. I felt a call to this place. Ever since I arrived in January, that call has been affirmed over and over.

In just five months, this Conference has welcomed me and invited me into the life and work of the churches, the Committee on Ministry and the staff. I met the DPAM committee on my very first day, and have now worked with all the wonderful committees of the Conference. I continue to be struck by the willingness of the committees to wrestle with the polity and structure in these changing times, knowing that the future will bring transformation to church and ministry that we do not yet understand or see. The committees reflect a commitment to be faithful and diligent in the tasks before us – tasks of standing, authorization, and covenant with clergy and churches in a changing world.

For my first year, I am seeking relationship and introduction to all the churches in my care. I have attended a number of churches, and preached in a handful. I look forward to the coming months as I travel to congregations and events to meet and learn about our communities of faith. I have seen first hand our courageous churches – engaging difficult challenges with faith and grace. I have met many of the clergy of the Conference both through the Committee on Ministry and one on one via zoom, over coffee, or sharing a meal. Through these meetings with churches and clergy I hope to deepen my understanding and ability to equip them to do the work of transformation.

It is an honor to work with the staff and board of this Conference. The staff welcomed me and has embraced me quickly into the work and life of the Conference. Together we work as a team to serve the clergy and churches of Minnesota, and to consider the wider ministries of the vision of the Conference. I have been blessed to watch as the Board of Directors thoughtfully works to move the work of the Conference forward, while also considering powerful possibilities of how to be a stronger, more faithful and justice filled institution.

I am grateful to be a part of the Minnesota Conference, and I look forward to being together as the future unfolds.

With blessings and gratitude,

Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister