



*Minnesota Annual
Conference of
The United Methodist Church
Bruce Ough, Bishop*

*River Valley District
Cynthia Williams, Superintendent*

2018 Appointment

Newport United Methodist Church
Newport, Minnesota



Introducing

Rev. Steven Pannkuk

Vision of the Church

The church is the people of God, blessed and gifted to love and serve the world in need. We come into the church to hear and experience the living Word, the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We come to be fed and challenged, to remember we are loved and forgiven, and that we have gifts to share. We are then empowered to go out and respond in love and service. It's the church's role to continue to find new ways to reach the people God loves and help them "embrace the life that is truly life".

One of the songs we used to sing in middle and high school youth group comes to mind and heart and sums it up so well. Written by Jay Beech, the lyrics of We Are the Church state that "*The church it is the people living out our lives, called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ. We are the church, the body of our Lord. We are all God's children, and we have been restored.*" I look forward to singing this song with you!

Leadership Style

I am an engaging and consensus building, a collaborative and deeply relational leader. I am a catalyst, inspiring and igniting other to serve and grow in their faith. In StrengthFinders, I am a Woo. With DISC, I am a strong I/S.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Writing and online research, studying the text with colleagues, exercise and writing a song every now and again are some of my spiritual disciplines. Charles Whiston's *Snowflake Prayer* is essential to my spiritual life as well as Psalm 139. I have empowering conversations with close friends and I see a spiritual director. Continuing education, research, and conversations on the Vital Church Initiative have been recent pursuits.

Family



Alicia and I have been married 20 years and have shared many adventures together. She directs a Physician Assistant Program at Augsburg which brought us from Spokane, WA to the Twin Cities. Our greatest adventure is raising three active sons and navigating life's joys and challenges with them. Zach is 17, Sam is 14, and Josh is 12. Processing life and how God might be calling us to respond brings us true joy. We are slowly renovating our house and enjoying nature in our backyard.

Education

- Bachelor of Science (major in Leisure Studies/Therapeutic Recreation, minor in Sociology), University of Iowa; 1993
- Master of Divinity, Luther Seminary; 1998

Appointment History

- Transitional Pastor at Community Presbyterian, Rochester; 2017-present
- Interim Pastor at Word of Peace Lutheran Church, Rogers; 2016
- Family Life Pastor at Advent Lutheran Church, Spokane Valley (WA); 2012-2015
- Interim Pastor at Calvin Sinclair Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids (IA); 2010
- Family Life Pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids (IA); 2004-2010
- Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newton (IA); 1998-2004

Continuing Education and Training

- Christian Life Coach Training graduate, Christian Coaching Institute; 2015
- Intentional Interim Training graduate, National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors; 2010

Service and Community Involvement

- Lift operator at Afton Alps and Ski instructor for Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
- Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity
- Executive Committee Secretary for Human Growth and Development Citizen's Advisory Committee, Spokane School District
- Member of Board of Directors for Spokane Valley Partners Food Pantry
- Member of Board of Directors for Advent Lutheran Child Center
- Volunteer with Lunch Buddy Program at Grant Wood Elementary School, Cedar Rapids

Call to Ministry

Being raised by faithful parents that brought me regularly to our small church growing up was essential to my call. I was surrounded by saints that affirmed and encouraged me as I grew and experienced a life of faith. That first summer working as a counselor, God was speaking through many people *"you remind me of a pastor... you should think about being a pastor."* One of those first courses at college also affirmed this call, naming "pastor" as a key vocational choice. For many years in college and in seminary I continued practicing ministry and taking steps toward being a pastor at camp. I have been blessed now with 20 years of pastoral ministry in varying settings. Throughout this time my call to ministry and my faith have been strengthened and are growing stronger.

Passion and Gifts for the Ministry

I am passionate as a pastor and a coach. I love God's people on both sides of the church doors, but have a special love for the ones who may not yet know Jesus, God's love and plan. I am intentional, inspirational, and deeply relational. I equip churches to be healthy, focused and growing in God's love. God is in the midst of creating a Vital Church again. And we get to be active participants in this new creation. This is my passion.

May 2018

