

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,



Hello. I am your new pastor. I know I am following a great pastor whom you love dearly. I know this transition has come late in the season and you may still be adjusting to the news. I am thrilled to be coming to be in ministry with you. I have been a little familiar with your ministry by being nearby in recent years, but I know I have much to learn about who you are and to what you feel most called.

Our system of itinerary can be frustrating when we have surprise transitions. But I would not trade it for a Call System. The Cabinet has the opportunity to be strategic in placing the right person in the right congregation at the right time. I trust that The Spirit has led the Cabinet to bring us together in this moment for something special. I am excited to see what God has in mind.

God is always calling us onto an adventure in faith. We are

invited to discover new people to love and new ways of reaching out to them. We live in challenging times and definitely need the strength of our faith to stay centered and gracious. The best news is that God goes with us everywhere we journey, and I know that God's presence will bless us in our ministry together.

Blessings,

Rev. Amy Beth

Biography

Rev. Dr. Amy Beth Durward de Macias has been in service for over 25 years. She is married to Gabe Macias and has two grown children, Donovan & Melinda Durward. Originally from San Diego, Ca, she has spent her adult life in northern California. Gabe is a viticulturist (grape vine specialist) who lives and works in Ukiah. Donovan lives in Napa. And Melinda is attending Long Beach State.

Rev. Amy Beth has a bachelor's degree in Community Studies from UC Santa Cruz where she focused on HIV Education & Prevention. Getting her call to ministry, Rev. Amy Beth earned her Master of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Ca. More recently Rev. Amy Beth earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Boston University where her thesis was on Sabbath Practice for Silicon Valley, looking at how our sabbath practice impacts our social justice.

Rev. Amy Beth has a passion for faith lived out in everyday life. Social justice is a foundational part of her faith. She is on the board of True North, the PICO affiliate in our area. Her most recent appointment was at Fortuna UMC just to our south. She has served churches in San Jose, CA and Napa & Sonoma Counties. She is excited to learn our unique context.