

PASTORAL CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

Diane Elaine White

FORMAL EDUCATION

Master of Divinity
Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, CA
Graduated - December 2013

The King's College and Seminary
Van Nuys, CA
Graduated with Bachelor of Theology - 2009

WORK EXPERIENCE

Interim Pastor - 02/19/18 - Present

First Presbyterian Church
Lewistown, MT. 59457 Church size: 150 (Rural Community)

Interim Associate Pastor: 4/24/16 - 02/19/17

Interim / Bridge Pastor for Senior Pastorate - 7/16/17 - 02/19/18

Moorpark Presbyterian Church
Moorpark, CA Church Size: 300 – 400 (Suburban Community)

Hospice Chaplain: 12/16/16 - 02/19/18

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses
Ventura, CA

Chaplain Resident: 8/24/14 - 8/24/15

Christiana Care Hospital
Newark, DE

Pastoral Intern: 10/20/13 - 8/22/14

Christ Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, CA Church Size: 100 members (Japanese / American Congregation)

Chaplain Intern: April 2013 - August 2013

St. Anthony Hospital
Denver, CO

Pastoral Intern: 3 years

Monte Vista Presbyterian Church
Newberry Park, CA Church Size: 300 members



PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

I grew up in Colorado Springs, one of two children. In 1975, one week after graduating from High School, I married an Air Force man. When he had completed his military service, we moved with our two children to Ventura, California. When both of our children had entered into Jr. High School, I began a 15-year career with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department first as a Paralegal and then as the Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff and Undersheriff. My husband and I divorced in 2013 due to his addiction problem; however, we remained close friends until his death in 2017. Currently, I have two grown married children and six wonderful grandchildren, all who live in Ventura, California.

I grew up in and attended a Presbyterian Church until I married. During the first few years of my marriage I walked away from the church and God. God continued to call to me and eventually I renewed my relationship with Christ and returned to the church. It was while I was working for the Sheriff's Department that I felt God nudging me to enter into full time ministry. After much prayer and discernment, I retired from the Sheriff's Department and began my journey to becoming a Teaching Elder.

After graduating from Fuller Seminary, I completed a year Chaplain Residency Program at a hospital in Delaware. Upon completion of that program, I returned to Ventura where I served as a Hospice Chaplain, Interim Associate Pastor, and a Bridge Pastor. In 2018, I accepted a position as the Interim Pastor for a church located in the rural community of Lewistown, MT. Although I enjoy Interim Pastoral work, I have a Pastor's heart and it is difficult to leave a congregation that I have loved and cared for. With that in mind, I asked God to lead me to a church where I can serve as an Installed Pastor and stay for many years.

In my spare time you will find me reading, especially biographies; walking with my dog, Meko; hanging out with my grandchildren; going to plays or movies; or, enjoying the outdoors. I also have a great sense of humor and love to laugh, which has led to several practical joke wars with my grandchildren.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Compassionate	Preaching and Worship Leadership
Communicator	Entrepreneurial
Willingness to Engage Conflict	Organizational Agility
Strategy and Vision	Collaboration
Interpersonal Engagement	Motivator

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I'm overwhelmed that the one and only true God, the God who in the beginning set the stars in the sky and out of nothingness created everything deeply loves me. Our God cares, protects, guides, gently disciplines, deeply loves, and waits with open arms to welcome and embrace all persons. In Scripture we read of the mystery of the Trinity, three persons who together are one God, one in their goodness and actions on our behalf. As a result of the first sin, where the first separation from God occurred, humankind has ceased to care for each other at all times which in turn allows others to live homeless, causes us to have a heartlessness, coldness and indifference towards others; and often overlook injustices, all the while rationalizing our actions.

It is in Jesus' life where he denied his own rights, modeled justice, cared for the outcasts, and loved all persons, that we learn how God desires us to live. We have assurance of eternal life only because Jesus gave to God the obedience we actually owe, both in his living as the second Adam and in his dying in our place. In the death of Jesus, we see ultimate sacrifice, the giving of everything to God including one's life. I can only imagine the joy of one day standing in the presence of God, made possible only through Jesus' death on the cross. It is through Jesus' resurrection that death's grip was broken. God, knowing humans need encouragement and discernment, sent the Holy Spirit to provide comfort, interpret Scripture, convict, and assist us in using our God-given gifts. Also, the Holy Spirit intercedes when we have no words.

Baptism by water is a way of publicly declaring God's calling and the adoption of people of any age. Baptism is an outward symbol of the inward working of the Holy Spirit. At the Lord's Table, with Jesus in our midst, we celebrate and partake of the bread and wine with fellow worshippers. In taking communion together, we: experience the fellowship of Christ, made real by the people gathered with us; we are reminded our sins are completely forgiven only by the love and grace of God through the blood of Jesus; and we anticipate Jesus' return. I look forward to the day Jesus returns and I, with all the saints of heaven and earth, will stand and worship before God and Jesus for all eternity. Until then, we are called to care for the outcast, seek justice, and love and care for God's creation, Thus, out of obedience and gratitude, the church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, must continue to proclaim the Good News of the deliverance from bondage that comes only through Christ, through actions and words. All of these things I believe and confess on the authority of scripture and I have taken hold of them by faith. I cannot comprehend the entire depth of God's love and grace, nor can I completely understand God's will. However, by faith I have the assurance, and I can rest in the knowledge, that because God is in control, everything in my life fits into God's plan for my salvation.

SERMON LINKS

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0_E0FUPuVkwPAmgdW4kulw?view_as=subscriber