

Rev. Stan Gockel

Stan was born in Dayton and raised in Beavercreek. After graduating from Beavercreek High School, he attended Miami University and Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK, where he earned a B.A. in Biblical Studies. He then attended Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, and Northern Seminary, Chicago, where he finished his M.Div. in 1979. He did post-graduate study in the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education in Chicago while serving as an intern at a United Methodist Church.

Stan was ordained in the American Baptist Churches, USA on World Communion Sunday, October 5, 1980. He served ABC congregations in Indianapolis, Buffalo, NY, and Bluffton, Indiana. In 1999 Stan became the chaplain at Mt. Pleasant Retirement Village in Monroe, Ohio, part of what was then known as Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services (now Ohio Living). That was the beginning of Stan's journey into the Presbyterian Church, USA. Invitations to preach in various churches of the Presbytery of Miami Valley eventually led to three years as stated supply pastor at Seven Mile Presbyterian Church; six years at Bellbrook Presbyterian Church; almost four years as interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Indiana; two years, nine months as interim pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springfield; and nearly two years at the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington.

Stan is married to Libby Stanton, a retired elementary educator. They have two daughters, one son-in-law, and three grandchildren. Older daughter Davy and her husband, Ryan live in Ann Arbor, MI. They are the parents of Harrison, 7, Nora, 3, and Lachlan, 1 ½. Davy works as a Pilates/fitness instructor and Ryan a Marine Habitat Specialist for NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Younger daughter Hannah also lives in Ann Arbor and is employed at RoosRoast Coffee (www.roosroast.com) doing digital marketing and web design and is working on her master's degree in the School of Information at the University of Michigan.

Stan has served the Presbytery of Miami Valley as a member of the Network Support and Grants Committee and currently serves on the Leadership Council. In his free time he enjoys singing, reading, traveling, and bicycling. As a professed "Baptiterian," he is grateful that he found a second denominational family among the good Presbyterians of the Miami Valley.