

Statement of Call

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"The Lord is my shepherd." (Psalms 23:1a) This verse highlights how God guides us, watches over us, and is always there for us. Similarly, pastors serve as shepherds to their congregations, leading members toward a deeper understanding of God's love to all of humanity. They care for their parishioners, pray for each individual, and offer support—while also respecting necessary boundaries for their own well-being. I feel personally drawn to becoming a shepherd to my own community, guiding a church as we journey together with God illuminating our path.

I have had wonderful experiences while serving in my role as CRE to PMV's retired community and hope to continue that outreach as well. The stories which have been shared of journeys through green pasturelands but also valleys of darkness have been amazing. These are God's people living life with their eyes on God but their feet on the ground. My belief in pastors being high and above reproach has been dispelled as I have met honest humans, not people on pedestals, living the life they have been given. While I did not feel worthy of filling an idealized role as pastor, I feel worthy of humbly being a human for other humans.

In both my pastoral role and personal life, I am committed to addressing social injustice, prejudice, and inequality—issues that stand in opposition to the teachings of Jesus—while emphasizing the significance of love prevailing over fear and light dispelling darkness. Life presents many challenges, as everyone follows their own path. Nevertheless, people, particularly pastors, serve as sources of support for others, and I aspire to fulfill this supportive role. Furthermore, given that a majority of our presbytery's members are older adults, I look forward to utilizing my training in older adult ministries and clinical pastoral education to facilitate meaningful conversations about the joys and difficulties associated with aging as we collectively navigate the complex journey toward life's final stages and the anticipated reward.

I am always growing during my life's journey and look forward to continuing growing as I say 'yes' to my internal nudging to be a pastor. I look forward to exploring God's word with my congregants, encouraging people in celebrating the gift of life that they have, helping them appreciate the spiritual purpose their lives play in this crazy world, and being prepared to be in the kingdom of heaven.