

## Bio – Rachel Dannar

I grew up in Northwest Missouri. Starting my life at a Disciples of Christ church, it wasn't until my family moved to Union Star when I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that I discovered Presbyterians. After much "shopping" my family attended the Presbyterian Church in Union Star and found a home. I often tell people that I was often the one who would ask incessantly if we were going to church on Sunday and if we could go back to the Presbyterian Church.

It was here I sat with the adults in Sunday School and was welcomed in all activities no matter my age. By the time I was 14 years old, our pastor had retired and we faced many years of pastoral fluxuation. But that was inconsequential to our congregation. We strove to love and support everyone who came through the door. But during this time, I began finding a second home with members of the King City Presbyterian Church and would attend Presbytery meetings with Rev. Jeannie Barnes. I loved them!! I should have known then where my life was heading.

Without going into too deep a story, my time at Westminster College – MO was formative in my discernment process to attend seminary. My father was essential during this time as he stood by listening to me struggle with this call process, all the while knowing what God was trying to say. While I was still not convinced that God was serious that I should go into ministry, I was ready to see what God was trying to say. I attended Princeton Theological Seminary where God continued to reassure me that this was indeed the path that I needed to follow.

I continue to live my life with the knowledge that God continues to be at work in this world. I point to my own marriage as a perfect example. I met my husband, Tim, at a wedding that I officiated through a series of very odd events. The only people in the actual wedding that I knew were the groom's grandparents and it was this wonderful couple who gave my name to the bride and groom. Tim's brothers were groomsmen in the wedding and it was one of their wives who introduced me to "the third brother." A year later Tim and I were married.

Together we have one son, Malachi. He is the joy of our lives and the best child in the world (I stand by that! But, I may be biased.) Everyday, as children so often teach us, I learn more about God's love and grace as I watch Malachi experience life and the world around him. And every day I am humbled even more with the knowledge that God's love is so much greater than this love I share in my life.

As I continue to follow my call and am ever amazed at where God is leading me, I am thankful to be a minister. I am humbled to stand as a leader with God's people. And I am hopeful for the amazing grace that God has for each and every one of us.