

Essie Koenig-Reinke was born in Kansas City, Kansas, but has spent the last few years figuring out what life is like beyond the rolling hills and fields of “America’s Heartland.” Essie served from 2013-2014 as a PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. During her YAV year she learned how to make a pretty good cuppa (cup of tea), and the importance of sharing and listening to stories. As her affection for coffee, community, and conversation grew she also realized how much she loved the church. This revelation led her to start a new adventure that included exploring theological education and Christian community in Richmond, Virginia at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

While attending seminary she nurtured a passion for youth ministry and discerned a call to ordained ministry. Somehow in the midst of her studies, discovery, and discernment she also found time to meet her now husband Eric Koenig-Reinke. Eric has brought so much joy and willingness to go on spontaneous adventures and road trips into her life! If Essie and Eric aren’t out exploring the world together, you could probably find them playing board games and watching epic shows like *Dr. Who* or anything with superheroes. Essie has two degrees; first a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Wichita State University, and second, a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is currently the Youth Ministries Director at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan.