

## **A Brief Statement about Me**

Rev. Sue Trigger

When I was an infant, I was baptized into Christ at the First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo, and I have spent my life of faith a Presbyterian. One of the most important disciplines my parents taught me was the importance of active participation in worship, religious education, and service to others. I grew up participating in music ministry, youth programs, serving on the VBS planning team, teaching Sunday school, and helping with the church food pantry before I graduated high school.

I experienced my first sense of call to ministry my junior year in high school. My youth group traveled to Estes Park, Colorado to attend a Group Publishing youth conference. The experience was amazing. At the end of the conference, our youth pastor took us to a quiet park to reflect. He asked us to pray and consider why God had brought us to this place. It was in the midst of prayer that I felt God nudge me to serve in ministry. I thought the call might be in music at the time. After sharing a sense of call, the youth pastor continued to talk with me about what God might be calling me to do. I was encouraged to explore the possibilities in college. I attended Buena Vista College, in Storm Lake, Ia.

In college I pursued religious studies and fell in love with Language and Theatre Arts. My counselor, Rev. Dr. Robert Tollefson, encouraged me to follow those passions. He believed that a change in major would serve me well in ministry. He couldn't have been more right! I graduated prepared to teach English and Theatre and soon was working in my first position as a Director of Christian Education. I also left college with a boyfriend who would become my husband. Together we took a leap of faith and moved to Arkansas where my parents had retired, got married, and began our journey of ministry.

In Arkansas I worked as a DCE in a small congregation and was introduced to the Presbytery Associate in Christian Education, Nancy I. Smith, who took me under her wing. She was an important mentor to me. While serving a larger church in Harrison, AR. I grew in skill and experience and my sense of call to ordained ministry was nurtured. Thanks to colleagues and clergy in the Presbytery, Mitch and I each responded to God's call to ordained ministry and moved our family to the campus of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

After 22 years of ordained ministry, I have been richly blessed by the opportunity to serve together with my husband as we create worshipful opportunities, teach and design programs, offer administrative leadership, guide visioning and future planning, and connect congregations to the needs of the community. I have continued to develop skills, and in recent years was trained as an evangelism coach for the PCUSA. I have seen God's presence in the lives of many; some who come to faith for the first time, and others whose faith has been renewed through their experiences with God and others. Equipping disciples has been rewarding and humbling as I have stood in the shadow of generations of leaders. Ministry is always challenging, and I have experienced difficulties, too. But God has always given me strength for my weakness, and the assurance that God will use me as a vessel of love and compassion. I look forward to going where God calls us.