

Pastor Shannon was twenty when she heard the call in Washington, DC, at a worship service curated by the Methodist Students for an All-Inclusive Church (MoSAIC). A pastor friend was serving communion, and, when she took the bread and broke it, it was rainbow challah bread. After a season of feeling adrift, like God had left her to fend for herself, in that moment she felt as though God was pointing and saying, *'Here. This is where you are supposed to be. This is what you are supposed to be doing.'* At that moment she felt like she belonged; she felt that this was home. It was a feeling of completeness that she wish for everyone. And it is a feeling that is not accessible to everyone in the church. She knew in that moment God was calling her to preside over the table to invite ALL people to the feast. A table abundantly full of God's nourishment and chairs filled with hungry people of all shapes and sizes, all backgrounds. A table of abundant love.

Pastor Shannon shares the following:

*A call is not a once and done thing, just as discipleship is not something that happens at one point and you never have to work for it again. My call continues to evolve and change but that abundance remains. I am coming to you after being an associate for four years, but I was a solo pastor five years before that and a student chaplain in a behavioral health unit before that. At Calvary, I feel like much of what I have done has been survive the pandemic and learn how to edit videos and run Zoom studies, but in the years before the pandemic I focused on ministry with young people from running Vacation Bible Schools to leading youth groups to working with the young adult group Pastor Suzanne started when she was here. I led Bible studies and co-led retreats, which were also great blessings to me in my time at Calvary. I served at Presbury United Methodist Church in Edgewood, Maryland, for four years before that. There, I expanded the church's programming with children and youth and strengthened the church's mission participation through local and national partnerships. I also served on the steering committee that re-established the Emergency Rotating Shelter (ERS) in Harford County to provide shelter for those experiencing homelessness, and Presbury was the first host congregation of this effort. My first appointment was for only a year after I graduated from seminary: Deer Creek and Mt. Tabor United Methodist Churches, two small rural congregations in Forest Hill and Bel Air. There I focused mainly on pastoral care and ministry with children. As a seminarian, I served in a variety of settings, including as chaplain in the behavioral health unit of a New Jersey hospital, an experience I built upon as a volunteer hospital chaplain in Harford County as well.*

*I also have experience in community organizing, creative worship design, international missions, and non-profit work in communications and mentoring. I have traveled extensively through educational and research opportunities in Bosnia, France, Venezuela, Mexico, and Ghana, and have done mission work in Appalachia, Bosnia, South Africa, and Haiti.*

*Where I find abundance in my life most now, though, is in raising children. I do a little of that as a pastor and an aunt (I have three nephews), but a lot as a mom. We have one living child after three losses and many failed fertility treatments. His name is James Ezekiel- we call him Zeke. He is nineteen months old and always on the move. He doesn't talk much, but he loves making noise by playing instruments! He loves animals. He brings us so much joy! Now, motherhood is hard and frustrating- I don't want to overly glorify it! But seeing the world through the eyes of a child day in and out is such a blessing.*

*I parent with my wonderful spouse Aaron Harrington. We have been together since high school and still kinda like each other! He is a pilot for a charter jet company, and he loves all things airplanes. He used to be an aerospace engineer, he is restoring a 1940s airplane (I helped ribstitch!), and he has his*

*helicopter license too. He is also the chief flight instructor at Frederick Flight Center. He is currently teaching himself to play the banjo to prove he has other interests besides airplanes. We love traveling together, whether or not Aaron is flying us there, and exploring Frederick. He fills my life with abundant love and has abundant patience with me when I am weird. Which happens on occasion (or maybe all the time, but I'll let you find that out). We have a dog named Stella, two cats, and six chickens, all of whom feature prominently in our adventures as well.*