



Andrew Buschena, Licensed Local Pastor

Attended seminary at: Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ)

Interests: Playing board games, reading everything from Stephen King to Paul Tillich, running, and most of all, spending time with my wife and our two daughters

My call to ministry story: I was raised as an active member of an extremely conservative church. In college, I took an introduction to the Bible course and was blown away by the way the professor helped us to look at the Bible in an academic way. I switched my degree to theology/philosophy without knowing what I would do with it. After graduating, seminary felt like a natural next step. I still didn't have clarity after seminary, but after a year working at a UMC church, my wife and I were approached about an appointment. We hadn't pursued pastoral ministry, but the fit felt right so we said yes. I have grown into my role as a pastor and it feels like where I needed to end up all along. I never had a clear destination on my journey, but always saying yes to that next step has led me to where I am now.

A bit about my church and community: I am a pastor at Common Ground: A United Methodist Community in Cambridge. We are a mid-size congregation that has a deep heart for service to our community. We also care deeply about inclusion and welcoming those who have been hurt by the church. In our more conservative community, we are a proud progressive and Reconciling Congregation and seek to be a place for those who feel like they don't fit anywhere else.

What I appreciate about being part of the Minnesota Conference: I truly believe that Minnesota is one of the best places to live. As a Conference, we have a collaborative spirit among the clergy and conference staff that allows us to be resourced well and learn from each other. There is also a culture of creativity and a willingness to try new things that is crucial as we navigate how to do ministry in a relevant way. Also, our State Fair is amazing.



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