



Leah Rosso

Attended seminary at: Duke Divinity School (Durham, NC)

My call to ministry story: It's difficult for me to remember a time when I didn't feel called to ministry. The Holy Spirit had been confirming in my heart for some time that I was called to something, and slowly but surely my call deepened as I began to see how my gifts could align with pastoral ministry. When I was a junior in college, I lived in Zimbabwe for a semester. It was there that I found my world turned upside-down by the gospel as I learned

firsthand how complicated our world is. Going to Duke strengthened my call to social justice, to ministry with people instead of for people, and my desire to seek out how to be a faithful follower of Christ against the pull of culture.

A bit about my church and community: Right now, I am serving in the St. Cloud region, which is in central Minnesota and has a population of about 100,000. First United Methodist Church has been a beacon of social justice and hope in the area since its beginning about 160 years ago. I am thrilled to be a part of that legacy, as well as a part of leading congregants into a new future as we reach out to new people. We have an especially vital role in welcoming the Muslim population that is moving in, as well as others coming to the area for new opportunities. We were once strangers in a strange land, and our role is to remember that and to welcome others with open arms.

What I appreciate about being part of the Minnesota Conference: For most of my time in the conference, we have had a collective mission of growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world. I appreciate this three-fold focus because it means that I get to be a healthy, whole person, even as I am leading a healthy and whole church. We are constantly changing to respond to the needs of our world, but this conference is good at offering me tools along the way.



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Updated 9/17