



## **Paula Gaboury, Licensed Local Pastor**

**Education:** Master's degree in counseling psychology from St. Mary's University of Minnesota & graduate of the Native American Course of Study

**My call to ministry story:** I am a "cradle Methodist." In confirmation, my pastor told me I was called into ministry. I felt that call myself, although in that time and place, women were few and far between in church ministry. I spent 25 years working with folks with severe mental illnesses in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

I fully felt this was my ministry call. One day, my pastor told me that it had been on his heart for quite a while that I needed to pursue the licensed local pastor (LLP) track. I had never heard of an LLP, but I read the "red book" he gave me. I knew that this is where the Holy Spirit was guiding me.

I was soon thereafter diagnosed with breast cancer. Ugh! As soon as I was told I was in remission, another pastor asked me, "What does life look like cancer free?" I shared with her my call to be an LLP, and she offered her help.

**A bit about my church and community:** I am the pastor at the United Church of Two Harbors, which is affiliated with both Presbyterian Church USA and The United Methodist Church. Two Harbors is a small town of 3,500 on the north shore of Lake Superior. The community relies heavily on tourism trade and some small manufacturing businesses. My husband and I have felt God's presence constantly over these past seven years of serving there.

**What I appreciate about being part of the Minnesota Conference:** I find the Minnesota Conference very user-friendly, and it offers much needed support. While navigating the church through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minnesota Conference offered a lot of opportunities and help.



**Minnesota**  
**Annual Conference**  
of the United Methodist Church