

Pastor's Narrative Report – Rev. Leisa Nicole (Nickie) Moreno Howard

My pastoral ministry at St. Matthew's includes missions and outreach, discipleship and small groups, worship, and pastoral care. In connection with Global Missions and Community Outreach Committee I worked to support the large scope of missions and outreach at St. Matthew's. This includes, but is not limited to, our Walk-In Ministry, P3 Program, Weyanoke Elementary, and our partnership with Arise Campus Ministry for our Fall Service Day. Discipleship and Small Groups encompasses several ministries throughout St. Matthew's. This Fall, St. Matthew's launched Life Groups with the leadership of the Discipleship Committee. Discipleship also includes our Pub Theology and weekly Prayer Group. I also assist in worship leadership through presiding over communion and writing liturgy, leading the pastoral prayer, preaching monthly, assisting with baptisms and funerals, and working with our Modern Worship leadership. Finally, I serve in Pastoral Care, through pastoral visits, writing cards, tracking St. Matthew's prayer requests, and substituting at Aarondale Retirement Community. While it has only been a few months, my husband Christian and I have received a warm welcome from the St. Matthew's family and I am delighted to serve in these ministries at St. Matthew's.

In our United Methodist Connection, I serve at the district, conference and general levels of our church. At the District Level, I continue to serve as the Bi-District Youth Chair and am working to prepare the current leadership for transition and new leadership. I also have made important connections with the Arise Campus Ministry and will be serving on their board in 2019. I have also accepted a place on the Campus Ministry Leadership Team with The Virginia Annual Conference. Finally, I serve as a mentor to undergraduate and seminary students who are racial/ethnic minorities in the scholarship program, Journey Toward Ordained Ministry with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

In 2018, I will be participating in the Church Leadership Institute in November to learn more about my pastoral leadership style. In 2019, I look forward to continuing education opportunities, including those with the Campus Ministry Leadership Team and the Arlington/Alexandria Districts.

Currently, I am preparing for my Provisional Application and Provisional Interviews in January and February 2019. I am particularly thankful for the support and care of St. Matthew's pastors and staff. Our staff and pastors have been welcoming, helpful, encouraging and attentive during my transition to St. Matthew's and into pastoral ministry. I greatly enjoy working with St. Matthew's teams and committees and learning about the life and heart of St. Matthew's. Over the next year, I look forward to improving my worship leadership, continuing collaboration with St. Matthew's staff, and supporting and growing our discipleship and missions. I am honored to serve at St. Matthew's and with a congregation that places such a high priority on serving the community and addressing the needs of others.