

## Statement on Ministry

### **The Role of the Church**

The mission of the church is to make disciples, preparing them for the faithful service of love in God's creation. This preparation begins with bible-centered worship that is creative and alive, while still honoring traditions of our heritage. Singing our praises, sharing our prayers and listening for God's Word, refreshes and renews us for the task of teaching the good news of God's power for new life. The church is to be a visible "teacher of the faith". As we welcome a new life in baptism and gather around the Lord's Table, we become a Faith Family of love and service.

### **My role as Pastor and Teacher**

As pastor I am called to invite others to grow in the Christians faith. My passion for teaching feeds my soul as well as the spirit of others; together we teach one another. As our church families face the challenges of daily living, difficult questions are being asked about the presence of God in our midst. It is a privilege to hear the questions of faith and to walk beside persons on their faith journeys.

It is with a sense of compassion and understanding that I listen to the pain and celebrate the joy that flows from the heart of a congregation. My ministry intentionally reaches out to people in need, sharing the prayers of the church family and the promise of God's welcoming love. I pray for life where death threatens, for reconciliation where there is division, for God's tender embrace where there is pain and for God's healing presence where there is emptiness and loneliness. As Pastor and Teacher, I am not timid to announce there is hope for all in the midst of a broken world. I am committed to an outreach ministry that shares God's Word and our abundant resources.

### **Pastor and Church Together**

The church is blessed with a priesthood of all believers, filled with the gifts of God. Together, as the body of Christ we seek to find ways to share our gifts for the glory of God. My pastoral role is to facilitate a ministry that is open and inclusive of talents. The church is always in transition between who we have been and who we are called to be. As people and pastor, we are on a journey together which values the lessons of the past while boldly reaching out to a new future. It is never too early or too late to become a missionary for God. The partnerships we create with one another can be extended to others in our communities and in the world. Working together, we feed a hungry child's body, mind and soul.