



“For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven” proclaimed the wisdom writer of the Hebrew scriptures.

And so, a new chapter begins at St. John’s as of February 1st. I will join you as interim minister to walk

with you through this time of healing and transition. The Consistory and I, with the guidance of our Conference Minister Rev. Bonnie Bates, have agreed that I will work for St. John’s 20 to 32 hours per week. I will preach and lead most worship services and will be available for funerals, baptisms and weddings. The rest of my time will be focused on addressing the grief dynamics present in the congregation, working with the leadership and the congregation to address the items identified by the Situational Support Consultation and prepare the ground for the search for a new permanent pastor. To begin, I expect to be talking with many of you in the coming month by phone or video conference and look forward to hearing your story.

The guiding Bible verse of my life and ministry comes from Hebrews: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” In our time together, may we be assured of the hope of fulfilling St. John’s mission statement; that called by God, St. John’s UCC will serve to be a welcoming community of faith for all.

The Rev. Dr. David DeRemer has served for more than a decade as an adjunct professor and then Director of Supervised Ministry and most recently Director of Enrollment at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem PA. He has taught courses in worship, preaching, and UCC History, Polity and Theology. He is also an adjunct professor in UCC Theology and Polity at Princeton Seminary.

DeRemer earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew Theological Seminary in 2006 with a focus on collaborative ministry. In 2014, he concluded more than 18 years as Senior Pastor of St. John’s United Church of Christ in Nazareth PA, one of the largest UCC congregations in the Central Atlantic region. Since his departure from St. John’s, DeRemer has worked as a senior consultant with MMS Advancement Associates Consulting, a national consulting firm based in Macungie, PA specializing in the needs of non-profit organizations, especially fund development and capital campaigns.

Additionally, he has been providing consulting services through Penn Northeast Conference UCC to congregations in transition, especially those that no longer can afford a full-time pastor.

In 1985, DeRemer was the founding director of New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem. Created by the Episcopal Diocese, this ecumenical, social ministry organization grew from one program to a continuum of housing services in his ten-year leadership.

He served as pastor of First UCC Bethlehem from 1979 to 1985.

A graduate of Ursinus College and Princeton Theological Seminary, DeRemer was ordained in 1979 by the United Church of Christ.

He is married to Kathy, who is employed at the St. Luke’s School of Nursing and is a violinist with the Allentown Symphony. They have two grown children and one grandchild.