

2022 Appointment

**Peace Community of Faith
Shoreview, Minnesota**



Introducing
Pastor Jason Steffenhagen



David Bard, Interim Bishop
Dan Johnson, District Superintendent

Call to Ministry

People are what matters most. In each area of my calling as a Christian clergy, people are first. One of my mantras that I live by is 'Relationship Over Rightness'. I may love studying theology, and I may love discussing how politics and the systems of our world impact people, but as soon as my ideas marginalize or hinder relationship, I have erred. People matter most.

Hearing how God has impacted their life or how they have been affected by tragedy and pain is a humbling place to sit as a pastor. Showing up for people in the midst of life's hard moments is one of the most sacred ways of being human.

Gifts for the Ministry

One of the ways I can impact a community is helping bring depth and understanding to complex theological and biblical ideas – help make them digestible and applicable to our shared life together. Part of my passion in this area is to be creative and artistic in how a sermon or a message is crafted.

Additionally, I am passionate about using new mediums (virtual spaces, podcasts, etc.) to reach people and help them engage in a life of faith and love.

Aspirations for Ministry and for Serving the Local Church

Context is incredibly important. I believe a church should resonate and respond to the needs of its context. How can we impact and help transform our community to reflect more of God's love and care for one another? How can we serve those that are often marginalized or oppressed in our midst? How can we help people embrace the awe and wonder and beauty that is all around them?

Passion for Ministry

When people have an AH HA moment (one of those lightbulb type moments)...I love those. It can be when someone has a big theological question, or when someone is going through something personally and needs someone to be in the mess with them, or it can just be a small moment where God is more present than ever before. These moments are where ministry is alive.

Vision of the Church

I am passionate about the church being a place that people feel a sense of belonging and transformation. All people are made in God's image and are worthy of love. We invite all to participate in God's Kingdom, and be open to truly being transformed by God's Spirit of love, joy, and justice.

Leadership Style

Collaboration is essential. The best ideas are often born when people come together under a common vision and mission. I'm a team-oriented leader who loves to develop young leaders.

Theological Perspective

I am Christo-centric, trinitarian, Biblically-grounded, Liberation theology-inspired, and open to awe and wonder and the mystery of God.

Family

Michelle, partner
Mateios, son (12)
Michneyder, son (6)

Education

- Bachelor of Arts (Business) Bethel University
- Master of Arts (Theological Studies) Lee University
- Doctor of Ministry (Church Leadership) Bethel Seminary

Ministry Experience

- Associate Minister, The Well, UMC (Rosemount, MN)
- Associate Campus Pastor, Bethel University (St. Paul, MN)
- Assistant Director of Discipleship, Lee University (Cleveland, TN)

Service and Community Involvement

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, volunteer commissioner (City of New Brighton)
- Interfaith Committee, member (Bethel University)
- Prism: LGBTQIA+ Group, creator and leader (Bethel University)
- Youth Baseball Coach (New Brighton)

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Prayer through practicing God's presence
Engaging the Scriptures through midrashic studies
Being attuned to God's presence through aesthetic practice

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