

## Gifts for the Ministry

My greatest gifts for ministry include crafting relatable and transformational preaching and inspiring worship, a love for teaching adults and youth, skill in reaching out to the wider community, and embodying an authentic welcoming spirit in the local church. I enjoy connecting with unchurched younger adults and community members who don't always "get" what church is about and finding ways to connect them to God in the church. One of my goals is to work with lay leaders to assess community needs, develop a long-term ministry plan, build a team to implement that plan, and then lead the community to see it through.

## Aspirations for Ministry and for Serving the Local Church

I aspire to be in ministry with a local church that is seeking authentic, deep and meaningful Christian experience, both within the walls of the church and in the wider world. Making disciples for Jesus Christ includes both empowering discipleship for those of us already in the church, and welcoming hospitality to those who are not yet part of a church community. I and my family hope to find a church, and a place, that can truly be "home".

## Passion for Ministry

The church has a vital message and mission in our increasingly secular society. The 21st century has seen the rise of increasing social isolation, division, and dehumanization of others. The church offers an alternative—a connection to Creator and Creation, engaged community with others, a pattern of service and call for justice. The vision of hope and embracing love of God that we offer as Christians has never been more relevant.

## Vision of the Church

The Church is the voice, hands and feet of God in the world. As Christian disciples, we grow our commitment through shared worship, study and service—while modeling transformative and joyous hospitality. We are called as the body of Christ to make disciples for the transformation of the world: continuously striving to embody God for those in the church and beyond.

## 2024 Appointment

Ely UMC  
Ely, Minnesota



Introducing  
Rev Kay Carter



Lanette Plambeck, Resident Bishop  
Laurie Kantonen, Aurora Sky Conference Superintendent

## Family

- Married to Ian Ritchie since 2022
- Four children between us from previous marriages:
  - Petra (22 yo) living in Akron, OH
  - Corwin (20 yo) living at home with us
  - Sophia (19 yo) living in Richmond, VA
  - Lela (17 yo) living in Richmond, VA

## Education

- B.A., Johns Hopkins University, 1992; International Studies–National Security Issues, Russian Minor
- M.Div., Claremont School of Theology, 1996

## Appointment/Ministry Experience

- 1996-1997: Pastor, Montclair UMC, Montclair CA
- 1997-2002: Assc. Pastor, Aldersgate UMC, Tustin CA
- 2002-2009: Pastor, St. Paul's UMC, Tarzana, CA
- 2009-2011: Senior Pastor, Santee UMC, Santee CA
- 2012-2017: Assc. Pastor, Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA
- 2023-2025: Pastor, Woodland UMC, Windsor, VA

## Continuing Education and Training

- Walk to Emmaus Spiritual Team
- Family Systems Theory Training
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Strengths Based Leadership Training
- Deepening Your Effectiveness
- Messy Church

## Service and Community Involvement

- William & Mary Welsey Board of Directors
- Master Naturalist Program
- Lots of Knitting groups

## Call to Ministry

I was raised mostly in the Lutheran church, ELCA, attending a variety of churches due to frequent moves, as both parents were career military officers. I was a seeker, yet by my late teens I had come to define myself as “agnostic”. Soon after I started college, I had a conversion experience

and heard God calling me to worship and church. Three years later, in my senior year, I realized that call was specifically to ordained ministry—and chose the United Methodist Church as my spiritual home.

## Leadership Style

Ordained ministry as a role of facilitation, a calling to help other Christian to discover their own God-given call in the world. I strive to equip, inspire, and mentor laypersons for their personal journeys of discipleship. I am a Myers-Briggs ENFP—warm and touchy-feely in personal communications, and prefer open discussion and consensus for collective decision making. My core values include integrity, authenticity, and kindness.

## Theological Perspective

I center my theology in the United Methodist Wesleyan tradition, using the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to engage with Scripture and culture alike. My theology is also strongly influenced by modern process theology, emphasizing our interconnectedness with all of God's creation.

## Spiritual Disciplines and Study

Having regular spiritual practice is essential to keeping myself emotionally and spiritually healthy. I begin each day with coffee and scripture reading, using the lectionary as a guide, and then focus on prayer for the world, community, and individuals by name. I finish with daily gratitude journaling. My evening practice is more meditative—using centering prayer, lectio divina, and other spiritual listening modalities as a way to center myself down into the rest of God.

I read a lot—nonfiction history—particularly ancient Near Eastern and medieval European history, fiction, poetry, popular science—especially bioecology and physics, theology and sociology, and a lot of genre mystery novels.

November 2024