



Rev. Karen Buck

Intentional Interim Pastor
Tx-La Gulf Coast Synod

This year, I am celebrating the 25th year of my ordination into ministry! It is a career and a call that I never imagined for myself as a young girl growing up, mostly because I had never met a female pastor or even knew that being one was even a possibility. I grew up in the Church, attending Sunday School, taking thorough notes in Confirmation class, and attending church camp every summer until I was old enough to be a counselor-in-training. At Texas A&M, I found United Campus Ministry which consisted mostly of young adults from the Disciples of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Church of Christ. It was a student pastor at my home church who was the first to ask me, "Have you ever considered becoming a pastor?"

There were those who laughed at the idea of a female pastor. There were those who supported me in that endeavor. And...there were those who sent hate mail when I went to seminary.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Education Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M, Class of 1991. (Whoop!) I have an M.Div. from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. I was ordained as a Pastor and Teacher in the United Church of Christ in 1995. I have four units of Clinical Pastoral Education. I discerned a call to Intentional Interim Ministry 18 years ago and received my training through the Interim Ministry Network in 2002.

My career has been a diverse one. I have been a called/settled pastor; a chaplain resident, a hospital chaplain, a hospice chaplain, and served as the intentional interim pastor in over 10 congregations. It was after serving as an interim pastor in ELCA congregations for about 10 years that I discerned a call to move my ordination standing from the United Church of Christ to the ELCA.

I currently serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Zionsville, just outside of Brenham. I have two sons - one attends Texas A&M (Class of '22!) and the other attends Brenham Junior High.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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